

January Bulldog Express

Happy New Year!

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 5

JANUARY 2007

January Calendar of Events

Pennies for Patients Campaign Begins	8
PTO Meeting –7:00 PM in the library	11
Ident-a-Kid Here Lunch with the Principals	12
Martin Luther King Holiday NO SCHOOL	15
Market Day Pick-Up, 7:00PM	16
End of the second nine week grading period	19
Teacher Work Day– NO SCHOOL	22

- January 23—NO SCHOOL— Professional Development Day for teachers
- January 26—Day 0—Kindergarten Senses Day



Fifth Grade Spelling Bee Set For January!

The holidays have come and gone and we're settling in for a long winter (hopefully with a little snow!). We will be having our class and school spelling bees in January. The class spelling bees will begin shortly after returning from winter break and the school spelling bee (only for 5th grade) will take place on the afternoon of January 18th. This should be an exciting time for the students!

We will begin graphing, elapsed time, and possibly start fractions during the month of January in math. Elapsed time and fractions can be challenging concepts for fifth graders, and we ask for your help in practicing at home.

Science brings us plants, cells, and kingdoms. Look for some fun cell activities this month! We'll also be studying the Midwest and Southwest regions in social studies. We will be taking the county test for the second marking period. Please review the states and their relationship to each other with your child in preparation for this assessment.

We will continue to work on pronouns in English, start writing friendly and business letters, and begin adjectives. We appreciate your continued support this year and are looking forward to starting off the New Year on the right foot!



First Graders Learn Long Vowel Rules

Snowflakes, snowmen and icy cold weather! First graders are looking forward to January and hoping for lots of snow! During this frosty month, we will be learning about Martin Luther King, Jr.. Each first grader will learn why he is important to each of us.

In reading, we will continue to strengthen our use of short vowel sounds as we gradually introduce the long vowel words. Long vowel words can be tricky because there are so many new rules to learn. We will also be learning about contractions and compound words. Please continue to have your child read to you each night. This will help your child gain fluency. Remember to read to your child as well; as this is a great modeling tool for them. After reading have your child retell the story they just read. You can ask where the story takes place and also about the characters.

In math, we continue to strengthen addition facts as we add subtraction to our list of things to learn. Telling time to the hour and half hour will be taught throughout the month of January. There is lots of learning going on in first grade at AGR!

Busy Kindergarteners

December's focus was on holidays around the world. We learned about holiday traditions in different countries and cultures. We studied Israel - Hanukkah, England - Christmas, Norway - Santa Lucia, Mexico - Las Pasadas, India - Ramadan, and the African American holiday of Kwanzaa. We also learned lots of fun songs to sing and enjoyed singing for our parents. Our winter holiday's musical program was a great success thanks to all the parents who attended.

January's focus will be on learning about winter. Most of our students are beginning to read, so look for books coming home. The children have already learned many of the reading series sight words. Many of them have brought home sight words to practice or will be bringing home words to practice soon.

In math, we are busily working on counting skills. We are beginning to get ready for our

Hundred's Day celebration which should be sometime in early February. The date is always dependent upon weather conditions.

We are still a very busy group and if you have time to come and volunteer in your child's classroom it would be greatly appreciated!



Auditions Are Coming!

Auditions for the A.G.Richardson Musical will be held in January. All students in third, fourth and fifth grades will be involved in this musical, **101 Dalmatians**

Auditioning for a solo or speaking part is optional and will require extra time after school.

Auditions will be **January 9th for 3rd grade** students with their last names beginning with A-L. All **4th and 5th grade students will audition on January 11th** as well as the 3rd grade students with their last name beginning with M-Z.



Fall Book Fair A Huge Success

Thank you all for making our fall book fair a huge success. Our school profit translated into books and prizes for the children. We also purchased items from the Scholastic Book Fair Instructional catalog.

We celebrated Children's Book Week the week of November 13-19 and made book covers for our book cover contest. The children were illustrators, illustrating book covers of books that were read

to them. The books the children illustrated are as follows, Kindergarten, I'm a Caterpillar, First, I Am An Apple. Second, I Am A Leaf. Third, Where The Wild Things Are, Fourth, The Whingdingdilly and fifth illustrated The Wump World.

The children had a good time drawing and the judges had a hard time picking the winners. If your child comes home with a prize it means

that they won the contest! We are in the process of handing out the prizes now so a list of winners will be published in a later Bulldog News.

It is my wish that you all had a wonderful holiday season and remember to read with your children.



Second Graders Make New Year's Resolutions

"I promise not to tease my brother and sister anymore", "I promise not to talk back to my parents", "I promise not to throw a temper tantrum when things don't go my way." Promises, promises, promises... Who will keep the promises they've made for the New Year, and who will break them? Some of our second grade students have committed themselves to a New Year's resolution. Come by and view our hallway bulletin board and find out which behaviors they will be releasing in order to be happier and more successful during 2007.

The halfway mark for this school year will occur later this month (weather permitting). Mathemat-

ics continues to be a challenge for some of the children as we work with money, counting and comparing collections of coins and one-dollar bills. The students are also currently measuring line segments and the perimeter of polygons using centimeters and inches. Parents, please provide opportunities at home for your child to practice these skills and demonstrate what they know. It will also be a big help to your child if you occasionally drill him or her on the basic addition and subtraction facts.

Most of our second graders have been eagerly anticipating the day when they will begin to use cursive writing. Cursive

writing instruction will be provided by each teacher in the coming weeks and months with all letters being taught by the end of the school year.

Disruptions to your child's schedule are predictable at this time of year due to the holiday break and inclement weather. Please keep your child on a regular sleep schedule as much as possible in order to minimize distractions. Also, keep in mind that schedules for tests and assignments often change when these disruptions occur. Be sure to check your child's homework folder nightly in order to avoid surprises.



2007 Promises to be "Exciting" for Third Graders

Happy New Year and a warm welcome back to our terrific third graders! Some exciting upcoming events to look forward to in 2007 include: Greek/Roman Day on February 16 and a field trip to the North Anna Nuclear Power Plant in Louisa County in March, which will be an excellent connection to our Energy studies in science.

Parents, if you have crafty fingers and are interested in sewing our students' togas or if you would like to participate in Greek/Roman Day festivities, feel free to let your child's teacher know. In social studies, we continue our study of ancient civilizations of Greece and Rome.

In math, as we continue to master our multiplication facts,

we will be exploring geometry and learning to problem solve. Parents, continue to work with your children to reinforce the learning that is taking place at school.

Don't forget to check and sign the homework folder every night so that you can see first hand how your child is doing. We appreciate all your help and support!

"Mastering those multiplication facts and exploring geometry makes class time fun!"

Reading Resource Tidbits

How We Learn:

We are likely to remember 10% of what we read...20% of what we hear...30% of what we see **BUT** 50% of what we **see** and **hear**. **What all this means is be involved with reading!** Read to your child and discuss what is happening in the story. Ask questions about the story and don't forget plot, setting **and** to discuss the characters. Have your child retell the story after you finish reading together. If they can retell it they know what is going on! **Things to remember when reading.....**When your beginner reader encounters a word in reading they do not know automatically remind them to look, think and get their mouth ready. Following that, remind them to *stretch* it out. When they stretch it out the children can hear the letter sound changes more clearly. If they encounter a word with a common rhyme like "ake" you can say "ake" says ...and if I add an f sound at the beginning I get "fake" and so on. Happy Reading!

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ART AND CRAFTS FUN ON A SNOWY DAY

We are kicking off the New Year with lots of new projects. Kindergarten is making Mixed Media Toucans, First will do paper plate weaving, Second will make tissue paper butterflies, Third will make Greek vases and mosaics, Fourth Grade will create Picasso faces, while Fifth creates Ocean Animal Batiks.

For those snowy days at home try the following art project at home with your child. The project was found on www.allcrafts.net/kids.htm.

Photo Frames from CD Boxes

YOU WILL NEED:

Empty CD boxes

Scissors and glue

Craft supplies and household bits and pieces

INSTRUCTIONS:

Open your CD box and remove the paper inserts and the molded plastic piece into which the CD itself fits.

Cut your photo just smaller than the box. You will be fitting it into the back of the box with the hinged edge at the top, so about 4 inches wide and 4 3/4 inches high is perfect, but don't worry too much! Fix the photo against the plastic with a few small pieces of sticky tape. Find a nice piece of cardboard, gift wrap or fun foam which will complement your design and cut this to fit snugly behind the photo and to the edges of the frame (4 3/4 inches wide, 5 1/4 inches high). Fix with glue or sticky tape with the pattern, if any, facing into the box. When your frame is finished you will open the box out to stand it up, so this this backing protects your photo.

Now all you need to do is draw a line of glue on the outside edges of the front of the CD box and start decorating! Use whatever you have on hand! You can build on the theme of the photo, the season or the particular interests of the recipient.



Fourth Grade Is On The Go!

Wow! Our second nine weeks are almost over. Before we know it, it will be time for report cards again! The fourth graders have been working very hard learning many different new things.

In math, we are learning to multiply larger numbers. Students who do not know their facts will have a difficult time with these problems. That is why it is so important for you to review math facts with your children and make sure that they know all facts 0-12. We will also be learning division, geometry, perimeter, and area this month. What a lot to work on!

In science, we are going to finish up ecosystems and move on to weather. The students will really enjoy learning about the clouds, different kinds of precipitation, and how to read a weather map. Who knows, we might be teaching out next group of meteorologists!

In social studies, our students will begin exploring information about Colonial Virginia. They will learn about how Virginia began and different colony life. Next month, the fourth grade will have a special day designated to colonial life. So, dust off those colonial dresses and hats! We will also need parent volunteers for that day. It should be very fun so, don't miss it!

At the end of this month, the fourth grade is going to take a field trip to Fauquier to see a play. We are very excited to go on our second field trip this year. Inquire about chaperones with your child's home room teacher.

Parents please keep working with your students at home. The benefit of parent involvement is important to your student's academic development. Remember to read and study vocabulary. Please look over your student's agenda each night. Sign the agenda ONLY if you have seen all homework completed. This will help us out tremendously.

By the way, SOL's are only five short months away!

