



Bulldog Bulletin

Brookneal Elementary School

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January 6, 2017 Issue 5

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Classroom News

Mark Your Calendars:

**Monday, January 9, 2017--Report
Cards Issued**

**Friday, January 13, 2017
and Monday, January 16, 2017—
Schools Closed for state and federal
holidays**

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Parents, thank you for reading with your child every night for the Book It program. We are talking about what is happening at the beginning, the middle, and the end of the story. We are also focusing on beginning sounds of words. In math, we are working on graphing and patterns. Please continue these skills at home.

KINDERGARTEN

Please continue reading with your children nightly. Practice identifying, writing, and counting sets to 20. Also, count by 1's, 5's, and 10's with your children. Please welcome **Ms. McLean**, who will be taking over for Mrs. Cook.

FIRST GRADE

The First grade will be doing the mid-year PALS assessment during the next 2 weeks. We continue to work hard on becoming better readers. Please have your student read to you each night and fill out the book it calendar. In math, we will be learning about patterns, graphing, and writing our own addition / subtraction word problems. The students will be practicing addition and subtraction facts up to 18. Extra practice at home of addition and subtraction facts would be very helpful to our students.

SECOND GRADE

Welcome back to a brand new year! 2017 is starting off well as we move into fun units involving magnets and fractions! Students will also be working more with nonfiction books, finding facts, and writing about what they learn. We are very proud of everything they have accomplished so far this year and we hope to continue growing stronger as we approach 3rd grade. Please continue to check homework folders nightly, read each night, and discuss what is read. **Fun Challenge:** teach your child to use different voices for each character as they read. This will help your kiddo to better understand what they read by increasing their expression, fluency, and understanding of character actions/words.

THIRD GRADE

Our students are reading and using strategies with non-fiction books, which will make factual books easier to understand. Students are asked to write in complete sentences while using correct punctuation, spacing, and grammar. In Social Studies, we are reviewing Ancient Egypt and Ancient China before going on to learn some interesting facts about Mali. In Science, students will be reviewing the water cycle and expanding on their knowledge of it. In Math, we are full steam ahead working with fractions. As always please read with your

child and review their weekly papers that come home and their multiplication facts. As you review word study, please ask your child what the “feature” is and why they group the words together. We are looking for the sounds/placement of sounds and not the letter itself. For example, we would want the student to say, “I hear the sound of **sh** in the beginning of shirt.” Thank you for your continued support.

FOURTH GRADE

We hope you had a great Christmas break! We are looking forward to a great second semester! Please make sure your child is studying his/her Hungry cards and study guides every night! With so much information being covered throughout the school year, it is important for your child to stay caught up with each topic we are covering. Also, please make sure your child is completing his/her reading and/or math homework each night.

We will be working on several new topics as we begin the second semester. In math, we will begin working with fractions with unlike denominators. Your child will continue to learn and strengthen his/her reading comprehension strategies while reading both fiction and nonfiction texts. In Virginia Studies, we will begin our unit on “America as A New Nation” and will prepare for our unit on the Civil War. We will be studying weather in science.

We hope to have information about our fourth grade field trip very soon. Be on the lookout for that information.

FIFTH GRADE

Let us start the New Year with renewed energy to begin reviewing our Reading, Math, and Science SOL tests that are coming up soon! Remember to review your math and science every night. You should also be doing a lot of reading, focusing on the skills we have been practicing to become a better reader!



Counselor's Corner



Family Life Education

Students in third, fourth and fifth grades will receive instruction in the sensitive objectives of the Family Life Education Curriculum during second semester. This curriculum is available for preview at the school. If, after viewing the curriculum, a parent does not wish for their child to participate in these classes, he/she may request to opt-out his/her child using the Campbell County Opt-Out Form, available at the school. This process must be repeated each year that the parent wants the child opted-out. Please contact the school counselor, Mrs. Puckette, for additional information, if needed.

Attendance Matters

Good Attendance will help your child do well in school, college and work.

- Your child may suffer academically if he misses even a day every few weeks.
- It doesn't matter if these absences are excused or unexcused. They all represent lost time in the classroom and a lost opportunity to learn.
- Attendance matters as early as prekindergarten. Studies show many children who miss too many days in pre-kindergarten – first grade struggle academically in later years. They often have trouble mastering reading by the end of second or third grade.
- Prekindergarten is a great time to start building a habit of good attendance. Studies show that poor attendance in

prekindergarten and kindergarten can predict absenteeism in later grades.

- By middle and high school, these chronic absences lead to student drop out.
- Too many absent students can affect the whole classroom and slow down instruction.

Families can make a difference.

- Families should avoid extended vacations that require a child to miss school. Try to line up vacations with the school's schedule. The same goes for doctor's appointments.
- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine. Make sure your child gets 9 to 11 hours of sleep. You can lay out clothes and backpacks the night before.
- Get to know the teachers and administrators. Keep in touch with the teacher throughout the year, to help you stay on top of academic progress.
- Above all, set an example for your child. Show him or her that attendance matters to you and that you won't allow an absence unless someone is truly sick. Don't ask older students to help with childcare and household errands during the school day.



Brookneal Elementary School is proud to welcome to our faculty two new teachers. **Haley McLean** is a 2016 Liberty University Graduate and will be teaching kindergarten. First grade is pleased to have **Michaela Swink**, who also graduated from Liberty University in 2016.

PTA News:

Save the Date!

PTA Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction

Saturday, March 4, 2017 @ Brookneal Volunteer Fire Department

5-7 pm



Mother/ Son Event

Saturday, January 28, 2017

LU SnowFlex

4-8 PM

**\$10/Couple (each additional child \$5)-
Includes Food and Entertainment.**

Add \$13 for 2 hours of tubing

**Reservations and money due to PTA by
Monday, January 23, 2017.**



