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Dates to remember:

- Feb. 6 – Palmetto's Finest Visit
- Feb. 7 – Skate Night, 5-7 p.m.
- Feb. 8 -- SIC Mtg., 9 a.m.
- Feb. 10 – Swim Night, 6-7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 13 – PTA Board Mtg., 9 a.m.
- Feb. 14 – Classroom Valentine's Parties
- Feb. 15 – Progress Reports
- Feb. 15-17 – 4K Registration for 2012-13
- Feb. 20 – No School
- Feb. 24 – BINGO Night
- Feb. 29 – Spring Pictures

The Bulldog Bulletin is published monthly by the Brushy Creek PTA.

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The Bulldog Bulletin



It's time for BINGO Night at Brushy Creek!!!

Friday, February 24th

6:30—7:30 Pizza Dinner

7:00—9:00 Bingo

Pizza \$1 Per Slice While It Lasts!

Drinks & Baked Goods Also Available

Bingo cards: 25¢ each

Raffle tickets will also
be sold during
BINGO Night!



The Principal's Corner

Welcome to another busy and exciting month at Brushy Creek! Thank you so much for your participation in our annual Clay Night, hosted by our School Improvement Council. It was another special evening filled with creativity, fun, and togetherness as a school family. We have two additional evenings of learning **and fun in the coming weeks.** **Brushy Creek's annual BINGO Night** will be held on Friday, February 24. This is a huge fundraiser for our school PTA, and another fun night for the entire family. Additionally, our 4th Annual Family Fun/Fabulous Fair Night is scheduled for Monday, March 19. Our science fair projects will be on display, and our spring book fair will be open.

Please remember that Monday, February 20 is a **school holiday as we observe President's Day.** Interim progress reports will be sent to you on Wednesday, February 15.

All students in grades 1 – 5 continue to prepare for spring MAP testing, which will begin on March 5. We have been talking with our students about reaching their individual goals. Please continue to encourage your child(ren) to work as hard as they can every day. We want their MAP and PASS scores to be a true reflection of their outstanding capabilities as Brushy Creek students.

As we move through the winter season, I continue to give thanks for our school and extended community. As you know, we were so grateful to have been named a **finalist in the Palmetto's Finest Awards process.** We are now hard at work preparing for our next visit, which is scheduled for Monday, February 6. We will learn our final status in this exciting process at an awards ceremony on March 27!

Thank you for your continued support this year. Please let me know if I can be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

DeeDee Washington



Coach's Corner

Susan Florence,
Instructional Coach

The annual Brushy Creek National Geographic Geography Bee was held on Friday, January 27 at 1:30 in the school cafeteria. With an audience of parents, staff members, and students, fourth and fifth grade classroom winners vied for the **"National Geographic Geography Bee School Winner" title.** **Aubrey Plourde from Mrs. Fran's fifth grade class** walked away with the honors. **Karl Schlein from Mrs. Leland's homeroom** finished in second place.

This is the second year that Aubrey has won the Brushy Creek Geography Bee. It is also the first time in ten years that a contestant has completed the Bee without missing a single question. **WAY TO GO AUBREY!**

Classroom winners were:

Fourth Grade

Mrs. Lewis' Homeroom—Joshua Hutson
Mrs. Rogers' Homeroom—Owen Murphy
Mrs. Leland's Homeroom—Karl Schlein
Mrs. Chapman's Homeroom—Hayden Spradling

Fifth Grade

Mrs. Winchester's Homeroom—Carrie Lee
Mrs. Frans' Homeroom—Aubrey Plourde
Mrs. Lewis' Homeroom—Ben Bradham
Mrs. Farmer's Homeroom—Jacob May
Mrs. Causey's Homeroom—Hunter Taylor

Aubrey will take the State Qualifying Bee test on Wednesday, January 30. Her results will be sent to Washington, D.C. to be scored. The National Geographic Society will contact her if her score qualifies her for the South Carolina National Geographic Geography Bee.



This edition of the Bulldog Bulletin sponsored by:



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Ages 6-14 Registration Ends March 23, 2012

BINGO Donations Needed

BCES Bingo is fast approaching! We need donations for our Bingo prizes. Maybe you own a business, you know someone who owns a business, maybe you would like to make an individual donation, or maybe the company you work for would like to donate a prize. The prizes can be a product or a service. All donations are tax deductible. Contact Kim Branham at branham4@bellsouth.net or 864-346-9594 with any questions. Any donations are needed by Feb 13th. Thanks for your support!



PTA[®]

We're so excited to tell you about our new website, brushycreekpta.org. Check it out for a chance to win a \$25 gift card to Bi-Lo. **We'd like to thank Stephanie Braswell for creating the site.** We're sure it will be a great tool for communicating with you.

We know that many of you enjoyed Clay Night this year. That is not actually a PTA event, but is sponsored and run by the School Improvement Council, or SIC. Rick Arboscello chairs the SIC, and he did a great job organizing the event.

Our chocolate sale was successful again this year. Thanks to Anne Marie Serwinowki and Jennifer Williams for organizing it, and all the parents and kids who sold chocolate bars.

We are looking forward to Bingo Night on February 24. Kim Branham, Candace McCard, and Carolyn Jenkins are working hard to find awesome prizes for our bingo winners.

Lastly, we'd like to invite you to meet with State Senator Mike Fair on Monday, February 6, at Northwood Middle School at 12 noon. Most of the funding for our public schools comes from the state. If you are concerned about anything (for example: classroom sizes that grow every year) this is a great time to let him hear from you. Or even if you just show up and don't say anything, he'll know that you care about public education. Our state representatives really do want to hear from us! (And need to hear from us!) Let's have a big turnout from Brushy Creek!

Your PTA



Co-Presidents,
Angela Murphy
 & *Abbie*
Standridge





COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Mrs. Alice Upchurch & Mrs. Nicola McGinty

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INFORMATION FOR 6TH GRADE REGISTRATION 2012-2013

SRS (Student Registration System) for current 5th grade students

Beginning February 27-March 1, rising 6th grade students will be able to register on-line for their middle school electives (related arts courses) for the school year 2012-2013. Students will register for these courses during their computer class time at school.

If you applied for special permission for your child to attend another middle school and we have not yet received confirmation by these registration dates, your child must register for the school they are zoned to attend. Applying to another school does not guarantee that your child will be admitted.



Congratulations!

For receiving the most certificates for the highest percentage of attendance from August-December, the following classrooms earned and had either a pizza or ice cream party!

K-5 Mrs. Hutcheson
 1st Ms. Joy Rogers
 2nd Mrs. Smith
 3rd Mrs. Thompson
 4th Mrs. Welsh
 5th Mrs. Winchester

March 20 & 21 - PASS Test
 (Palmetto Assessment of State Standards)
 writing for 5th graders. Test Monitors are
 always needed, welcomed and appreciated!

If you can help, PLEASE call
 355-5404 or 355-5412.

Do You Have a Child with a Behavioral or Emotional Problem?

(ADHD, Bipolar, Anxiety Disorder, Obsessive/
Compulsive Disorder,
Oppositional Defiant Disorder, etc.)

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) will offer free Basics Classes beginning March 6th on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30-9:00pm for 3 weeks at St. Michael Lutheran Church in Greenville. The purpose of these classes is to help parents and caregivers find resources, feel understood and to become an advocate for their child. Please call Cindy Troyer @ 864.201.3598 for more information and to register.



Congratulations to the following students for being selected as Terrific Kids for the Second Nine Weeks:

K-5: C.J. Reynolds, Tammy Le, Sarah Phillips, Christian Rogers, Sydney Johnston, Daniel Ramirez, Bryson Rupert, Isabella Rhoades, Zach Schoon, Lola Kale

3rd: Dylan Devlin, Micah Dowden, Mitchell Dowden, Morgan Hall, Haylee Bock, Hunter Wagner, Shad Abdeladi, Terrence Gist, Andrew Boatwright, Lizzy Duncan

1st: Drew Holcombe, Ellie Broadwell, Claudia Delgado, Drew Culpepper, Bryan Le, Sydney Thompson, Sakari Brake, DJ Dye, Brandon Romero-Esteban, Amber Bailey, Chase Grembecki, Delaney Gladson

4th: Danny Pham, Kate Culpepper, Logan Pettit, Kyra Fernandez, Ahmom Jackson, Destiny Mayer, Angela Meshreky, Masen Dowden, Mauricio Martinez, Logan Sham

2nd: Pharrell Boyogueno, Anna Schuetterle, Juliana Harris, Hayes Brown, Isabell Howard, Cayden Erwin, Elizabeth Davis, Dylan Grembecki, Lauren Hall, Braeden Lee, Tanvi Giridhar, Brett Martin, Will Hutson, Avery Thomas, Austin Russell, Bryan Bednez, Jessica Campbell

5th: Aquaya Clark, Connor Boehm, Danny Gallego, Bailey Cardone, Cassidy Smith, Jack Sprague, Alison Galvez, Nathan Booden, Charlie Wright, Kyrsten Pringle, Donovan Wofford, Brandon Lewis

GRADE LEVEL UPDATES

Kindergarten ... February is always an exciting month in Kindergarten! We will explore dental health, weather, national symbols, and community helpers. We are diving into the writing process and becoming independent writers. Research will be a wonderful learning opportunity for our February discoveries. We look forward to the ideas the CHILDREN will create when we introduce Presidents and Black History Month! In math, we will begin addition! Keep reading with your children at home! Together we can instill a lifelong love for learning!



K5 Writing Sample: "Penguins huddle together to stay warm. Penguins can swim 15 mph" Tate Davis



First Grade ... has fallen in LOVE with poetry! We recently completed our poetry unit after publishing some amazing couplets and shape poems. Stop by the cafeteria to see our work on display! Our first graders also toured the globe as we studied continents, cardinal directions, map keys, map symbols, and the purposes and uses of maps. Non-fiction texts and features continue to be an interest and study of our students. We can identify the table of contents, glossary, captions, headings, and special type with no problem! We also know how to measure in inches, determine temperature in Fahrenheit and Celsius, and weigh using a balance scale thanks to our Measurement Unit in math. We are currently reviewing addition and subtraction facts and strategies as we create fact families and discover related facts. Our most current goal includes a friendly competition with other grade levels in collecting quarters for our Relay for Life team.



First Grade Writing Sample:

If I Were One Inch Tall

by Kaiden Keitt, Ms. Rogers' Class

If I were one inch tall...

I would ride a mouse to school.

I would build a lego house.

An ant would be my pet.

It would take me a long time to write my name.

Second Grade ... We have been busy researchers learning about important people as we read a variety of biographies. All students chose an important person to read about and created a **biography poster to highlight this person's accomplishments**. We also read a short chapter book to start off the new year called Freckle Juice. We integrated reading, writing, and working with words skills during this unit. We used our imaginations to write our own recipes for freckle juice in writing. In math, we have been learning all about the world of measurement! Students were able to use many measurement tools in the classroom to strengthen their measuring skills! Science has been hands-on learning as we participated in many experiments using the scientific process skills. Color-changing gobstoppers and licking a tootsie roll were among the most popular activities! Students were true scientists as they made a hypothesis before each science experiment!

Second Grade Writing Sample: We researched an animal and wrote research reports.

Komodo Dragons By: Dylan Grembecki

The animal I researched is the komodo dragon. They live in Australia. Komodos are the largest lizards. Komodos are reptiles. Komodos are **endangered species**. Komodos don't have many enemies. Komodos eat together as a group. A komodo's life cycle starts with an egg to a young komodo, and finally an adult. Komodos have really sharp teeth to eat animals like deer. Some komodos live on Komodo Island. Komodos are wild animals. Komodo eggs are very soft. The komodo dragon was an interesting animal to research.

GRADE LEVEL UPDATES

Third Grade ... We recently completed a social studies unit on the Revolutionary War, which included a trip to King's Mountain Memorial Battlefield. We especially enjoyed the musket and rifle demonstrations! Did you know that the Patriots used rifles and the British Tories used muskets? We tried to imagine all the smoke that battle must have created. Also, did you know that there was only one British Red Coat in that famous battle? The Patriots fought and defeated Tory Loyalists from the area. Mrs. Forrester's and Mrs. Wiggs' classes enjoyed participating in a Revolutionary War Wax Museum as a culminating activity for the unit. Did you know we were privileged to have George Washington and many other famous heroes and heroines in the media center?

We're looking forward to a fantastic February as we study rocks and minerals in science and visit Diamond Del's Mobile Gem Mining activity right here at Brushy Creek. We're also busy completing our Science Fair projects! Working a little at a time will help students do a thorough job as Mrs. Selman checks each benchmark. Don't fall behind!

How do you measure using customary and metric units? What are nonstandard units? What standard conversions should we memorize for use in life? These are some of the questions we'll be uncovering in our measurement math unit.

February is the perfect month for poetry and figurative language. Ask your third grader to tell you about devices great poets use such as alliteration, similes, metaphors, and personification. We're tackling these terms and more as we read and analyze great poetry. Check out some of the writings of great African American poets such as Langston Hughes, Rita Dove, and Gwendolyn Brooks. Watch for a tribute to these poets on the third grade hallway. Happy Valentine's Day from all of us!

Third Grade Writing Sample:

Awesome Adaptations of Zebras by Marissa Porterfield

Zebras have a lot of adaptations! You can find Zebras in South Africa and on the Savannahs. They have many physical adaptations. One of these is that they have strong legs to kick high and scare away their prey. Zebras also have special teeth to eat their prey. These animals also have many behavioral adaptations too! Zebras have a great sense of smell so they will know when their prey might be sneaking up on them. If a Zebra is attacked the **zebra's family fights back for their safety**. These adaptations help zebras survive in their habitat, the wild!

Fifth grade ... Can you believe middle school registration is right around the corner? Watch for information to be sent home concerning registering your child for middle school classes. Our Barrier Island field trip is just days away, and the anticipation is growing. Our fifth graders are finishing the Grandpa's Mountain novel and will soon be ready to take the next unit reading skills test. We are in the midst of writing expository essays, and we will soon begin our poetry unit. Mastery of multiplication facts is necessary for students to successfully learn fraction skills. The Great Depression period is the focus of Social Studies at this time, while Pollution and Conservation of Earth Resources is our Science focus. Before we know it, we will be concerned with PASS testing and fifth grade graduation! Keep up the good work students and parents!

Fifth Grade Writing Sample:

My Favorite Season by Eithar

My favorite season is spring. When I wake up to the chirps of the birds, the sky is a cotton candy pink. The trees are a light green and the soil is as black as the night. The smell of ripe fruit is in the air, and there are pictures in the clouds. There are cries of kids having fun. When the day ends, there is a perfect orange in the sky.

Ms. Mitchell's class ... Our class has a wonderful time learning about the solar system. We have become experts on the moon and sun, and we are now exploring about the planets. In social studies, we are studying about the branches of government, and we are beginning to nominate candidates for president. Once we have our candidates, we will hold a mock election in February. Our class will elect a president and vice president. This is a wonderful way for the students to understand the election process. In math we are focusing on a unit about geometry. Please keep reviewing basic facts with your child daily. This really helps with fluency. Please read nightly with your child. Thank you for all of your support this year.