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Dates to remember:

- Nov. 2-4—CogAt Testing (Grade 2)
- Nov. 8-10—ITBS Testing (Grade 2)
- Nov. 10—Palmetto's Finest Award Visit
- Nov. 11—3rd Grade Veterans' Day Program
- Nov. 14—PTA Board Mtg. (All Are Welcome)
- Nov. 14-17—Fall Book Fair
- Nov. 15—Skate Night
- Nov. 15-16—Bring A Buddy to Breakfast
- Nov. 22—K5 Thanksgiving Play
- Nov. 23-25—No School
- Nov. 28—Progress Reports
- Nov. 30-Dec. 9—Holiday Boutique

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

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PTA Co-Presidents: Angela Murphy & Abbie Standridge

Editor: Julie Paré

SC PTA website: scpta.org
National PTA website: pta.org

The Bulldog Bulletin



A Salute to Our Veterans:

Third Grade Veterans' Day Program

Friday, November 11

9:00 am in the cafeteria

Veterans, parents and grandparents are invited.



Bring a
Buddy to
Breakfast



All students at Brushy Creek are invited to pick out one adult who is important to them--Dad, Mom, Grandpa, Aunt, Friend, etc.--and bring that person to breakfast at Brushy Creek.

Breakfast will be served beginning at 7:30 AM, and is free for you and your guest!

November 15: Last Names A-O

November 16: Last Names P-Z

The Principal's Corner

Fall is such an exciting time at Brushy Creek! We are so thankful for the opportunity to enjoy our fall carnival, which is such a wonderful community event! The PTA, the school staff, and I would like to thank everyone for their help and support which resulted in an amazing night of food and fun.

We are especially grateful to all of our parents who have helped us to maintain a safe flow of traffic at all times by responding to our requests for help. Thank you for using parking spaces when you visit our campus. We also appreciate your use of your family number in the car line, helping us to keep students safe during dismissal. Additionally, thank you for using our car line rather than dropping off or picking up students in unauthorized locations. Finally, we would like to remind our car traffic that our car line is a "no cell-phone" zone. Working together, we can do a better job of ensuring student safety, which is our top priority.

We are proud to announce that our school has qualified for an initial visit on our quest to receive the prestigious Palmetto's Finest Award! Our visit will take place on November 10, with two committee members here with us all day, observing every aspect of our school program. We are hopeful that this visit will go well, and that we will move on the next level of the competition, which is to be named a finalist school. Ultimately, only 4 schools in the state are named as Palmetto's Finest schools: two elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. We will keep you posted on our progress!

We would like to invite our entire school community to join us for our Veterans' Day program, which will be presented by our third graders on November 11, at 9 am. We are so proud of our American heroes, and we honor them on Veterans' Day and every day. We also hope you will plan to join us for our Night of the Arts with the art show and chorus concert on Monday, December 12, beginning at 6:30 pm. All of our students are excited to have the opportunity to have their artwork showcased, and our amazing chorus is also looking forward to dazzling us with another wonderful display of their talents!

We are rapidly approaching the holidays, and our staff and students have worked so hard. I wish for all of you a wonderful Thanksgiving with food, family, and fun!

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

Halloween has come and gone, the air has a bite to it and the days are getting shorter. The winter holidays are just around the corner. Wondering what to get your student for your holiday celebration? Most elementary students love to play games. Some good family board games are Apples to Apples, Jr., Scrabble, Jr., Yahtzee, Jr., Clue, Jr., Chutes and Ladders, Candyland and card games. Have you thought about Go Fish, Old Maid, Skip-Bo, and Uno as having a place in your game drawer or closet? For those of you who have the Wii game unit, there are family games that go on the Wii—Clue and Life are two that our family enjoys playing. Electronic, board, and card games can be found at stores like Walmart, Target, and ToyRUs but we have found several at the thrift stores.

Has your family established a game night as part of your monthly routine? Think about setting aside one particular Friday or Saturday night each month where your family gets together and has popcorn and special drinks (soda, tea, lemonade, juice) and plays games. Your students learn so many skills during this family time. Taking turns and learning to lose are really important life skills that are taught through playing games.

JOIN PTA TODAY!

PTA still needs over 200 memberships in order to reach our 100% PTA Membership Goal. Won't you please consider joining today? The cost is only \$5.50 and you will receive a coupon for a free Chick Fil A Sandwich when you join. Helping the school and getting free chicken - you can't beat that - It's a win-win situation! Join today by sending in a check today for \$5.50 made payable to BCES PTA. Make sure you include your child's name and teacher's name on the envelope. We still have several classes that have not reached their 100% Goal. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Julie Pringle at jpringle@bestbeef.net or Sarah Uber at wesleysarahandautumn@juno.com.

PTA®

We're writing this letter a few days after Spike's Spooktacular Fall Carnival. The event was a huge success. All the bills aren't in yet, but we think we raised about \$8,000 for our school. If you worked at the carnival, we want you to know how much we appreciate you. We needed every volunteer we had this year-- we truly couldn't have done it without you!

We also couldn't have done it without our carnival chair, Becky Musgrove. She worked many hours in the weeks before the carnival, and was responsible for all the fun new prizes we had this year. Becky was assisted by Allison Stevenson, Terese Watson, and Shannon Schecter as the carnival kitchen team. Cammie Lee worked tirelessly (as she always does) to bring in donations, and we are so grateful for the more people than we can name who helped in many ways big and small before and after the event.

Our coupon book sale is over. We'd like to thank Anne Marie Serinowski for heading that up. It was a new product for us this year, and we'd like to thank everyone who purchased a book. We hope you save lots of money over the next year!

As always, if you have any questions or comments, please let us know at brushycreekpta@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
Abbie Standridge & Angela Murphy

Send in those Box Tops! The class in each grade who brings in the most Box Tops by January 2nd will win a special treat!



Nov. 30 -Dec. 8
Brushy Creek Holiday
Boutique (Formerly Secret Santa Shop)



This is always one of the students' favorite school events! Students have the opportunity to shop for inexpensive gifts for friends and family. Items are priced from \$.50 to \$10. PTA has done all the shopping this year, & we hope you will love the improved selection of gift items. If you would like to volunteer to help during the shopping days, please email Anne Marie Serwinowski at serwinowskim@bellsouth.net. More information and shopping envelopes will come home soon.

Thanks to the following businesses who supported Spike's Spooktacular this year:

Carnival Sponsor

Sloan Construction
Crockett Pediatric
Dentistry



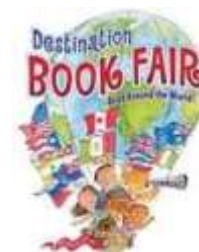
Donations

Iced Cupcakes
Texas Roadhouse
Hudson Corners Bi-Lo

Game Sponsors

Club Tabby
Upstate Pediatric Dentistry
Charter Communications
Texas Roadhouse
Master Kim's Tae Kwon Do

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to Brushy Creek, Nov. 14-17. Select good books for your fall and holiday reading. There will be a great selection of titles for everyone.



THE ENTERTAINMENT BOOK SALE IS OVER. PLEASE RETURN EITHER THE BOOK OR \$30.00 TOMORROW! PRIZES HAVE BEEN ORDERED & WILL BE DISTRIBUTED SOON.



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Mrs. Alice Upchurch & Mrs. Nicola McGinty

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akirby@greenville.k12.sc.us

nmcginty@greenville.k12.sc.us

Thanks to Stacie Wilk and Carolyn Jenkins for organizing our Red Ribbon Week this year! They did an outstanding job.



November 14-18



Who has the MOST team spirit? Let's find out! Join the Clemson/Carolina Challenge November 14-18 as we see who can collect the most nonperishable food items- CLEMSON or USC fans. The guidance department and the Student Council are partnering together to collect canned goods to donate to the Greenville County School District's food pantry. Let's see which team's fans show the MOST team spirit!

BRUSHY CREEK COMMISSIONATE KIDS HOLIDAY PROJECT

December 5-14

This year our holiday tree will be decorated with origami ornaments made by the students in grades 3-5 during classroom guidance. We would like to collect travel size personal toilet articles to place under the tree. All the items we collect will be donated to Safe Harbor, a local agency that helps victims of domestic violence. If you would like to help us, please send your items in a Ziploc® bag to school. Items may include: deodorant, shampoo, cream rinse, tooth brushes, toothpaste, dental floss, mouthwash and soap.



"Success means having the courage, the determination, and the will to become the PERSON YOU BELIEVE YOU WERE MEANT TO BE."
— George Sheehan

Chick-fil-A Core Essentials

STAR STUDENTS FOR SEPTEMBER - 2011

KNOWLEDGE
Discovering something new
so you can be better at
whatever you do



Kindergarten

Mrs. Auten – Grady Roman & Christina Nguyen
Mrs. Hart – Kanye Ridgill & Rocco Bonadies
Mrs. Hutcheson – Sydney Johnston & David Peden
Mrs. Krawczyk – Miguel Cuesta & Evan Flowers
Mrs. McGahee – Zach Schoon & Lola Kale

1st Grade

Mrs. Birkbickler – Nissi Bik & Mahi Dalia
Mrs. Cash – Catalina Schlein & Emma Wright
Mr. Gilliland – Cody Williams & Caroline Hill
Mrs. Kelly – Chloe Lee & Adam Weaver
Mrs. J. Rogers – Kezziah Ferguson & Cannon Sightler
Mrs. Wright – Braden Anderson & Tinsley Reynolds

2nd Grade

Mrs. Hawkins – Logan Atkison & Saray Galloo
Mrs. E. Lewis – Hayes Brown & Kyle Weiber
Ms. Martin – Raymond He & Anna Lewczyk
Ms. Mitchell – Jimmy Nguyen

Mrs. Moran/Bunnell – Emma Knous & Gunnar Davis
Mrs. Placko – Emma Marcus & Braeden Lee
Mrs. Smith – Tanvi Giridhar & Harrison McCullough
Mrs. Wallen – Drew Voorhees & Avery Thomas

3rd Grade

Mrs. Brice – Jay Bhatia & Micah Dowden
Mrs. Cook – Allena Flowers & Nick Arboscello
Mrs. Forrester – Madison Peteren & Tarun Giridhar
Ms. Mitchell – Michael McComish
Mrs. Thompson – Shriya Jaggi & Alex Clark
Mrs. Wiggs – Keanu Ridgill & Susan Kim
Mrs. Wickline – Vernie Plumbley

4th Grade

Mrs. Chapman – Hayden Spradling & Madison Hinson
Mrs. Leland – Kerry Connors & Grace Stanley
Mrs. K. Lewis – Ahman Jackson & Megan Carrick
Mrs. T. Rogers – Jordan Stanridge & Masen Dowden
Mrs. Shafer – Logan Sham

5th Grade

Mrs. Causey – Ashley Bui & Victoria Buckley
Mrs. Farmer – Adia Slaughter & Andrew Young
Mrs. Frans – Aubrey Plourde & Jack Sprague
Mrs. V. Lewis – Ben Bradham & Jack Francis
Mrs. Winchester – Charlie Wright & Kyrsten Pringle

GRADE LEVEL UPDATES

Kindergarten..."Gobble, Gobble, Gobble! Who said that? Big old turkey, big and fat!" Yes! Our annual Thanksgiving play is happening this month! This is a play that you will never forget! In addition to the play, we are busy developing and expanding our reading strategies! We will explore cause and effect, make predictions, explore the sequence of events and summarize texts! Thanksgiving will be our focus and we will discover Native Americans and how life today differs from life "back then". Continue to practice those high frequency words and read with your child as much as possible! We are thrilled to see such eager and prepared children! We, as teachers, are thankful for all you do to extend our discoveries during the school day to your home! Have a wonderful November! See you at the play on November 22!

First Grade Fun...Our students have been very busy this month! We love using our writing notebooks as we learn about the writing process. We have written acrostic poems about fall and friendly letters to our family. Come by and check out these amazing pieces! We are continuing to practice our skills using informational text features in reading. We enjoy reading our TIME for Kids magazines where we focus on all the parts of the page including photo captions, headings and subheadings. In math, we play partner games to help us with addition. We have learned different strategies such as using a number line and counting on to add. We are becoming fast mathematicians! In health, we have learned about physical fitness and why it is important to take care of your **body**. **We can't wait to learn about nutrition and the food groups!**

Second grade...Fall is in full swing and we have been busy bees in second grade! Students have learned all about the characteristics of the six animal groups during our science unit in October. They have also learned songs about mammals and insects and done many hands on art activities in class with the various animal groups. We have immersed ourselves in letter writing and have written friendly and persuasive letters. In October all second grade went on their first field trip of the year to Roper Mountain Science Center. All 7 classes got to experience some hands-on science in programs about animals and/or matter. Our Halloween Reading Counts party was also a success!! Great Job to all of our star readers who once again reached the goal of 10 points for the month!



Third grade ... How do you hide a message in a pen? How do you do a dance twirl or write a kickin' rap song? Ask a 3rd grader! We've just completed our Practical How-To feature articles modeled after "real-world" feature articles from children's magazines such as American Girl and Highlights. We've been reading and writing nonfiction text and learning the important features of nonfiction text. We're gearing up to bless and thank our Veterans on November 11th at 9 am. All are invited to enjoy the festivities as we honor our Veterans with song and much pomp and circumstance. We're laying a great foundation in math as we memorize those multiplication math facts!



We're earning a tasty ice cream sundae as we go! Check out our sundae posters at the end of the 3rd grade hall. Each class is keeping track of how well we do! Students are also coloring their individual ice cream sundaes to keep up with personal goals. We're a multiplying machine! Finally, some of us are the proud parents of newly germinated "fast plants" and "bean seedlings." We've been observing our plants and learning about interesting plant adaptations. Do you know what phototropism is? Ask a third grader!

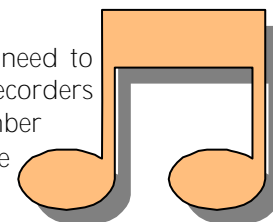


Music...K5 students have been working on Pitch in music and also enjoyed playing rhythm sticks.

1st and 2nd grade students have been learning how to read music with Freddie the Frog. If they would like to review what they have learned in music with some fun activities and games, have them visit www.freddiethefrog.com!

3rd grade students have been preparing for our Veteran's Day program on Friday, November 11 at 9:00 AM in the cafeteria.

4th and 5th grade students need to continue bringing their recorders through the month of November and December. They are sounding great so far:)



GRADE LEVEL UPDATES

Fourth grade...The fourth graders have been as busy as bees learning how to get out of pickle, and understanding idioms is no longer like chasing rainbows. We are on top of them with great clarity, and are now using them in our daily writing and conversations.

Fifth grade...November, turkey month, and also a month to get lots accomplished in 5th grade! In Math students are working on algebraic expressions, variables, function tables and order of operations. Students will read Letters from Rifka this month, which correlates to what they learned in Social Studies about immigration, and also incorporate that information into their immigration scrapbook projects they will be completing in Social Studies and writing. Start preparing now to dress-up for your immigration scrapbook presentation. In Science students are studying characteristics of ecosystems more in-depth. Students will surely be busy and working hard this month as we wrap up several units.

Mrs. Shafer's class ...We visited Roper Mountain Science Center along with Mrs. Wickline, Ms. Mitchell and Mrs. Welsh's classes on October 20. Mrs. Shafer's class attended Animal Habitats and Seashore Adaptations sessions. These classes provided hands on lessons in South Carolina animal habitats and how animals protect themselves in the ocean. The students enjoyed seeing the animals, touching the animals and learning more about the animal kingdom. Favorite animals seen included a beaver, fish, frogs, sting rays and crabs. A lunch from Chick Fil A topped off a perfect fall day at Roper Mountain Science Center.



BCES WRITING SAMPLES

K5

By Justice Davis

Mrs. Hart and Mrs. C's K5

"I like Xbox. You put games in it!"

First Grade

By Boone Davis

Mrs. Birckbichler's Class

Apples come at the orchard

Up in the sky leaves fall

Tons of buds fall

Under the tree kids play

Many animals get ready for winter

No animals like it when the weather changes



Second Grade

Acrostic Poem

By Carson Sheppard

Mrs. Wallen's 2nd Grade Class

Second grade

Cool new people

High swings

Our mascot is Spike

Our principal Dr. Washington

Lovely field trips

Special Education

By Najawuan

Mrs. Welsh's Class

I am a sphere.

I have life.

I am the 3rd planet from the sun.

I have 1 moon.

I am green and blue

I am closer to the sun than mars.

WHAT PLANET AM I?

EARTH

Third Grade

"I The Time I Thought I Was Going to Die"

--A Memoir by Tyeisha Gist, Mrs. Forrester's Class

Have you ever thought you were going to die before? **I was over at my grandmother's house, and my mom told me to get the hair bucket out of the car.** The hair bucket has all the stuff we use to do our hair like gel, combs, bows, beads, brushes, and a flat iron. When I was getting it, I slammed my finger in the car door. I ran in the house and dropped the bucket. Then I ran in the kitchen and started screaming! My dad came down and looked at my finger. He got ice then I went to the hospital. Grandma took me. Also, my sister and my cousin came. I felt like I was going to die. My heart was beating so fast I felt like I was going to blow up. My finger hurt a lot.

When we got there we were the only ones there. We had to register. Then the doctor called my name. They looked at my finger, and finally the doctor came to get my slammed, purple-nurple finger to get x-rayed. I thought **we took pictures all night. But we didn't. We only took 4 or 5 pictures.** I was in a wheel chair there and back. I looked like a broke-leg person. We went back to the room. They took a long time looking at papers. I saw a boy with a **broke leg. Then they came and said my finger wasn't broken.** They took a long time to get Motrin—like 60 minutes! They finally gave me the Motrin in a little white cup. Then **they gave me a big 'ol bag of ice. It was almost as tall as my face!**

I learned never to try to open a car when it is on a steep hill. When I was leaving I felt a little bit better, but it still hurt. My finger also had a heart beat—like thump, thump, and a lot more thumps. Then I went home.

Fourth Grade

"Where I Am From "

By Owen Murphy

I am from the Dell computer, Silly Soap, and the Xbox.

I am from the back yard and the big green garden.

I am from the daisies and the roses that my mom planted beside the house.

I am from waking people up on Christmas and a tall four member family.

From Brian Murphy, Angela Gray, and Anne Meadors

I am from the Murphy family that likes to play music and watch baseball.

I am from "Rumble Bugs" and "Chicken-Lafay".

I am a Christian born at Greenville Hospital, crabs, and corndogs.

I am from the time my dad cut his foot at the waterslide, the time my mom stepped on a knife, and my brother being attacked by a dog.

I am from the photo album in the living room.

Fifth Grade

A Month of Exhaustion By: Ashley Bui

Bang! As I was hammering the last spike that I had in my hand down for the Central Pacific Railroad track in Nevada, someone yelled, **"I found gold! I'm going to be rich, rich I tell ya!"** The next day he went to the nearest bank at midnight and came back with a handful of money. Faster than I could blink, everybody tried to find gold every second of their break time. But unfortunately, no one did.

The last thing I saw yesterday was when everything became pitch black. I woke up to the sound of dynamite outside the medical tent. The doctor said that I passed out because of heat stroke and stayed in bed for 16 hours straight. The doctor went outside and told my brother that I was **awake. Steven came in and asked, "Will, are you alright?"** I opened my eyes and looked outside. It was so dusty from all the rocks and dirt that blew off the mountain that it looked like a tornado just passed by. When the doctor came back, she helped me off the bed, stuck a hat on my head to protect me from the sun, and led me out the tent.

In my surprise, no one was gone while I was out. No one had left because of finding gold, homesickness, or even accidents. The next thing you know, my friend, Owen, **yelled, "The mail's here, the mail's here everybody!"** Everyone rushed over to the big rock where the letters were. I **knew that I wouldn't get a letter because my mom and dad wouldn't have enough time and money to write and send me a letter.** I felt very homesick when I thought about that. I rested before I went to work. I thought about what my dad, mom, and Kate would be doing at the time. **"Will, get back to work and stop daydreaming!"** snapped Mr. Hollow. Without answering, I picked up my axe, and went straight back to work. **"Hey, mama's boy!"** Joe teased while we were tunneling through the mountain. **"Stop saying that!"** I yelled back to him. **"What! You have your mama's blue eyes, light tan skin, and her blonde hair! I saw her in the picture you have with you for good luck."** Joe argued. I tried to ignore Joe as he talked and talked. Suddenly, I hit something hard. I dug it out and grabbed and held it in my hand. It appeared that I had just found gold. I ran straight to Steven and showed him my discovery. Soon, everybody was looking into the palm of my hands where the gold nugget was. Owen suggested that **I should go cash it to the bank sometime today, and that's what I did.** Steven and I went to the nearest bank at dawn and cashed the gold nugget in. Steven almost fainted when **the banker told us that we would receive \$50 in return.** **"Will, get ready to go back home."**

The sweet smell of Pennsylvania filled up my nose. **"Are you ready?"** I asked Steven. **"Ready as a bear about to eat his dinner."** Steven joked. I opened the door of our parent's house, and out came the soothing smell of my mother's homemade soup. **"Bye-bye hardbread,"** I whispered to myself. **"Who is it?"** my mom yelled from the kitchen. As soon as she saw us in the doorway, she burst into tears. My dad ran into the living room thinking that mom got hurt, but instead, he saw us standing in the doorway. He came to us and hugged us tightly that it seemed like forever. After a few minutes of mixed emotions, our parents led us into the family room where I saw Kate, our newborn baby sister, for the very first time.