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Dates to remember:

- October 3-17— Entertainment Book Sale
- October 6— Fall Picture Day
- October 13 & 14— No School
- October 21— Fall Carnival
- Spike's Spooktacular**
- October 31— 1st Quarter Report Cards Issued
- November 23-25— Thanksgiving Holidays— No School
- November 28— 2nd Quarter Progress Reports Issued

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

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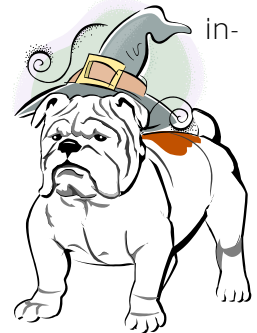
SC PTA website: [scpta.org](http://scpta.org)  
National PTA website: [pta.org](http://pta.org)

# The Bulldog Bulletin



## Top 10 Reasons to Come to Spike's Spooktacular At Brushy Creek Elementary School:

10. Your mom & dad are volunteering!!
9. You love Papa John's Pizza for dinner!
8. You must have lots & lots of prizes, including tattoos, toys, and candy!
7. You want to get a cool hair feather!
6. You can't wait to challenge your friends in our Silly Strings Wars!
5. You aren't scared of anything!! (Test yourself in the spookiest Haunted Hallway ever.)
4. Your friends really can't sing so you put them in Karaoke Jail!!
3. You have fun playing games, jumping on inflatables, and riding mechanical rides!
2. You want to win a pet fish!
1. YOU REALLY LOVE TO HAVE FUN!!



Join us Friday, October 21st from 4:30-8:30!

**It'll be a SPOOKTACULAR** good time!

This year we will be accepting credit or debit cards the night of the carnival.

## The Principal's Corner

Fall is in the air, and it is difficult to believe that we will end the first grading period soon! Our students have worked hard on MAP and other assessments to help us establish a benchmark for our work with them this year. I would like to take this opportunity to share our school goals for the 2011—12 school year.

Goal #1: Raise the academic challenge and performance of each student. Specific objectives:

1. Improve student math performance across all grade levels. Specific objective:
  - Maintain the percentage of students scoring at or above their MAP target RIT score at 50 %.
  - Maintain the percentage of students meeting standard on PASS at 91.7 %.
2. Improve student performance in English/ Language Arts across all grade levels. Specific objective:
  - Maintain the percentage of students scoring at or above their MAP target RIT score at 50 %.
  - Maintain the percentage of students meeting standard on PASS at 91.7 %.

We will continue to use specific strategies to help us accomplish these goals. We look forward to developing a partnership with you as we do our best for every child, every day.

Please note that Oct. 13 & 14 are teacher workdays and student holidays. You will have the opportunity to **schedule a conference with your child's teacher to discuss student achievement data and progress thus far.** We also look forward to celebrating the arrival of fall **with Spike's Spooktacular, our annual fall event.** We hope to see you all here on Oct. 21 for an evening of fun, food, and fundraising for our school.

It is my privilege to have the opportunity to work with you and your children every day. Please let me know if there are questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

*DeeDee Washington*



## Coach's Corner

Susan Florence, Instructional Coach

The air is beginning to feel a bit nippy in the morning and the leaves are beginning to turn their beautiful fall colors so...**the time for report cards will be here soon. Report cards!!!** What do I do when my child is not performing as well as I think they should? Who do I call? What kind of help is out there? Should I worry yet?

Report card time is a very anxious time in many homes. **What to do when "THE REPORT CARD" comes home.....** first of all take a deep breath and know that your student is probably as anxious as you are. Most students want to do well in school and want to make their families proud of them.

**Secondly, look at the whole report card...that's right....attendance, tardies, grade percentages.** Start asking yourself some questions. Is your child coming to school regularly and on time? If not, what is the first subject taught each morning? (It is usually math.) Does your child read each night for at least 15 minutes? Does your student study for tests before the night before the test? Do you sign your **student's planner and check to see that he/she is bringing home their homework?** Do you look at his/her graded papers and discuss those items that your student has missed? If you are **concerned about your student's grades, have you contacted the teacher with your concerns?**

**Remember that your student's school experience is a team effort between the parent and teacher.** When both work together the student always comes out the winner!

Notes from  
the Nurse ...



We have had a very busy start to the school year in the Health Room. Please remember that students are not permitted to carry medications to school and that a Physician permission form and/or parent form are needed for any medication to be brought to school and administered. I will be starting hearing and vision screens next week for K4, K5, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 5th grades and can test students in 4th grade by parent request. If I can help you with anything, please don't hesitate to call me at 355-5407. — Nurse Davies



Our fall fundraiser is finally behind us! Woo-Hoo! We really appreciate all of your support. It looks like we made about \$14,000 for our school. That's quite a bit less than last year, but still a good amount. For a few weeks, the fall fundraiser is pretty much a full time job, so if you see Anne Marie Serwinowski and Becky Musgrove around, be sure to thank them for working so hard on behalf of our kids.

We are also looking for new sources of revenue this year. We will be accepting a small number of advertisements in the Bulldog Bulletin (monthly) and Bulldog Blast (weekly email.) Ads start at just \$25 a week. We also will be renting space on our fences for banners. Both Old Spartanburg and Brushy Creek roads get a lot of traffic. If you would be interested in learning more, let us know at [brushycreekpta@gmail.com](mailto:brushycreekpta@gmail.com).

Entertainment books are here! We are NOT selling cookie dough this year. Instead, we are offering the Entertainment Book, which we hope will be a win-win fundraiser. If you just use the four Bi-Lo Coupons in the front, you will make a profit on the book. You make money and the school makes money!

Finally, our carnival is just around the corner. This is most everyone's favorite event at Brushy Creek. We are always in need of volunteers for the night. Please don't think that you can't volunteer because of your children. Your kids can help you. Think of it like this: if they are collecting tickets with you, they won't be spending your money on rides and games! Plus, the kids will think its kind of fun to help out. We ask that all of our families give us just one hour of time that night. If you haven't already signed up, email Becky Musgrove at [rebeccamusgrove@rocketmail.com](mailto:rebeccamusgrove@rocketmail.com). She'll be so glad to hear from you!

Thanks for all of your support so far this year!

Your PTA Co-Presidents,  
Angela Murphy and Abbie Standridge



## Spike's Spooktacular

It's not too late to help out at Spike's Spooktacular on Oct. 21! Please contact Becky Musgrove at [rebeccamusgrove@rocketmail.com](mailto:rebeccamusgrove@rocketmail.com) for information on the following opportunities or to volunteer to help:

- 1 - Help with the Haunted Hallway (2 Hour Shifts)
- 2 - Help with a Game (contact Becky Musgrove to sign up to help)
- 3 - Donate a cake for cakewalk (contact Abbie Standridge at [abbiestandridge@gmail.com](mailto:abbiestandridge@gmail.com))

4 - Have your business sponsor a game or ride by making a monetary donation. We will acknowledge your business with a thank you sign at the activity you sponsor.



### Tutors Needed!

Several BCES students could benefit from extra help from volunteer tutors. Below are several opportunities:

- 2- 1st grade girls- any Monday- Thursday- 1:30-2:15- help in reading
- 2nd grade boy- any day- 8-8:30- help in all subjects
- 2- 2nd grade girls- Tuesdays or Thursdays- 8am- help in reading and math
- 2nd grade boy (EMD class)- Tuesdays, Thursdays or Fridays- 11:20-11:50- help in reading, math and writing
- 3rd grade girl (EMD class)- Tuesdays or Wednesdays- 9:05-9:50- help in reading and spelling
- 4th grade girl- Tuesdays 11am- help in reading and math
- 4th grade boy- Tuesdays 11am- help in reading and math
- 4th grade girl- Thursdays 10am- help in reading and math

Please contact Alise Brown at [alisetut@yahoo.com](mailto:alisetut@yahoo.com) or 268-2621 if you are interested in helping with any of these opportunities.





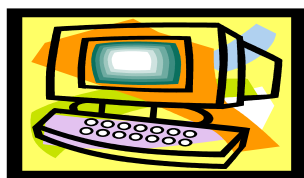
## Reading Counts

Lights, Camera, Action: Join Spike in Learning, Celebrating, and Achieving by participating in the BCES Scholastic Reading Counts Program. Student reading progress is encouraged at BCES. Stars make reading an entertaining fun habit! Student incentives and recognition are below:

- 25 Points Hollywood Star Bookmark
- 50 Points **Your very own Star on Readers' Wall of Fame**
- 75 Points Be a Star Reader Guest on Morning Show
- 100 Points Star Reader Ribbon
- 150 Points **Lunch with Star's Friend** or Star homework pass
- 200 points Ice Cream for the Star
- 250 points Star Lunch with Mrs. Washington

*SPIKE encourages Star Readers to earn 100 points by 100 days of school!*

The weekly e-blast (including the lunch menu) has been going out every Monday for a few weeks. If you want the e-blast and you haven't been getting one, please let us know at



[brushycreekpta@gmail.com](mailto:brushycreekpta@gmail.com)



## HELP SAVE PTAWOOD!

Congratulations to the following classes who reached 100% membership first for their grade level:

- K-5 – Ms. Hart & Ms. Krawczyk (tie)
- 2nd – Ms. Hawkins
- 3rd – Ms. Forrester
- 4th – Ms. Leland
- 5th – Ms. Farmer



These classes will be having a pizza party soon! Our PTA Membership Goal this year is 812!!! We currently have 572 Members! Please consider joining PTA today! Each class that reaches the 100% goal, including the winners for each grade level, will also receive a coin coupon to eat free at Texas Road House. Join today and help save PTA! Membership dues are only \$5.50. Please send in your dues in an envelope marked for PTA Membership with your child's name and their teacher's name. Thanks for your support!



## Your PTA Dollars At Work



- Reimbursed each teacher up to \$100 for classroom supplies
- Purchased supplies for the Health Room
- Welcome back to school breakfast and gift of colored copy paper
- Approved a grant for 1st grade Reading Counts parties

## ENTERTAINMENT BOOK FUNDRAISER

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Gift Wrap Fundraiser. Our next fundraiser will be the Entertainment Book. The sale will run from Oct. 3-17. The books cost \$30.00 each, and BCES will receive 50% profit from each book that we sell. The Entertainment Book contains four coupons good for 10% off when you spend \$100.00 or more on groceries at BiLo. Each child that sells one book by Oct. 10th will receive two scented pencils. Return the coupon that is located at the bottom of the parent letter to earn your pencils. Please return all money and orders by Oct. 17.



## Reflections



The deadline for the PTA Reflections contest has been moved to Oct. 19. So, Brushy Creek students have two more weeks to get creative! The contest categories are: Visual Art, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, Dance Choreography, and Videography. Entry forms are in the PTA room. Students will receive a free ticket to Spike's Spooktacular for each entry!



Mark  
your  
Calendar

NO SCHOOL

October

13 & 14

Brushy Creek Elementary School

STAR STUDENTS

for August, 2011

Chick-fil-A® Core Essentials



RESPONSIBILITY:

*Proving you can be trusted with what is expected of you*

### Kindergarten

Jeanette Delgado, Ethan Grabiec, Michele Rivera, Wade Uber, Gracie Becker, Eli Kerrigan, Daniel Ramirez, Keely Hong, Colin Drake, Mackenzie Shannon, Hannah La-Chapelle & Connor Fennell

### 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

Parker Dean, Alexis McGuire, Kai Black, Mariah Gallman, Soren Kalman, Markaiya Hairston, Sakari Brake, Spencer Boebel, Peyton Stevenson, Colin Hieronymus, Delaney Gladson & Keegan Pace

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

Alex Drake, Brandon Williams, Averi Brice, Aiden Harlow, **Jamie'ha Green, Derek Obando, Anthony Duncan,** Sungju Kang, Elizabeth Davis, Owen Fulcher, Hayden **Pare', T. J. Bellaire, Ahryon McBee, Aidan McCard &** Ella Moran

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

Joelle Lynch, Joey Sprague, Makai Blasingame, Morgan Hall, Parks Batson, Haylee Bock, Cyrus Sweeney, Kaitlyn **Brendle, Daim Weaver, Mary Katherine Nelson, O'Reil** Fisher & Joe Zambrano

### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Johnny Nguyen, Aneesa Weaver, Clayton Martino, Olivia **Plybon, Taylor Ann O'Connor, Will Denton,** Rallend Bradley, Maddie Schechter & Noah Haney

### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

Savannah McGuire, Evan Fulcher, Danny Gallego, Zoey Gladson, Jackson Braswell, Cassidy Smith, Sydney Kiger, Colin Shockley, Halle Layton, Brandon Lewis, Kate Beehler & Tyler Hausm

## GRADE LEVEL UPDATES

K5...It's not a wonder that autumn is a season "FALL of fun" around here! We're discovering signs of this new season everywhere we turn. Ask your child their favorite sign of fall and see what their answer is. In language arts, we are beginning our two letters a week alphabet cycle **where we focus on each letter's sound and formation. Be sure to spend time with your child identifying and spelling the following "popcorn" words we have recently learned: see, my, blue, like, the, to, & play.** We have been patterning like crazy in math and now we have moved on to studying two and three-dimensional shapes. Your child should be able to tell you about the attributes of 2D shapes like a circle, square, rectangle, and triangle. We are also learning how to recognize and describe 3D shapes such as cylinder, cone, sphere, rectangular prism and cube. See if you can find examples of these shapes in your home. Be watching for information about conferences we will have with you in mid-October. Just think **of how much has soaked into your child's brain in these past thirty some-odd days of school!**

**First Grade Fun...**Our first graders are off to a great start! The students showed off their personal time lines at our PTA Open House. Please stop by to check out these astounding pieces. We wrapped up our unit on **Force and Motion with a field trip to Master Kim's Tae Kwon Do**, where our students put their knowledge to use with kicks and punches. In math, our first graders are busy collecting data as we interview our younger peers in K5 to find out their favorite colors during our Unit 2 math study: Digging into Data. These hard-working first graders are also learning about sentence structure. They can already identify subjects and verbs! Ask your child to show you how to frame a sentence. We celebrated Reading Counts participants with our first **monthly "Bookworm" party.** **This party was held for our incredible readers who earned five or more points during the month of September.**

"Mystery Readers" began in September as well! We look forward to continuing this creative approach to reading as outside volunteers surprise us with excellent books.



Second grade...Happy Fall! We have been busy bees in second grade. Students learned all about how the different systems in our body work and enjoyed several hands-on activities during our health unit in September. We have immersed ourselves in poetry and discovered wonderful authors in our class and in the library. We are preparing to start our unit on map skills. We will become very familiar with north, east, south, and west. Students will continue their review of addition and even begin some double digit problems. Congratulations to all of the second graders who reached the first goal of ten points for the Reading Counts celebration!

Third Grade...Our students have been very busy writing memoirs in Writing Workshop. We've read examples of the memoir genre by Cynthia Rylant, Jane Yolen, and others to help us focus on capturing a small moment in time. Whether students have written about the first time they lost a tooth or about that day they took their first roller coaster ride----"Ahhhhh", we've tried to write with voice! We've finished a unit on addition and addition properties in math and continue to practice our skills using information text features in reading. Quiz your child on ways to read information text: they will probably tell you to focus on all the parts of the page from diagrams, charts, and photo captions to the headings and subheadings. We're looking forward to using these skills as we enjoy SC Social Studies Weekly newspaper and Time for Kids magazine. We are privileged to have these resources. Did you know that millions of years ago the ocean covered about half of present day South Carolina? Yes! Geologists have found marine fossils in the Sandhills region of our state--the region where Columbia is today. We've learned that fact and many more interesting details about South Carolina geography as we've explored South Carolina's landform regions and river systems. South Carolina truly is a diverse state geographically from the mountains to the sea! What is a monadnock? (It's a word that is just plain fun to say!) Ask our third graders!

## GRADE LEVEL UPDATES

Fourth Grade...We are busy exploring outer space and the New World, wondering what the moon phases will mean about weather patterns, and if the moon will guide the explorers to a land of spices and gold. We are rapping our multiplication facts, and reasons for exploration. The talent is amazing!



Fifth graders...October is such a beautiful time of year! Leaves are changing, there is a chill in the air, and 5th grade students are hard at work! In Math students are working on mastering multiplication and division of decimals and whole numbers. Students will participate in a round of Literature Circles this month. They will enjoy reading and discussing a book of their choice with other classmates as well as presenting their book to the class through a final project. In Science students are studying ecosystems and in Social Studies students are wrapping up their study of Westward Expansion by creating their own Westward Expansion game. Students will continue to work on essential grammar skills and will be writing a memoir about life in the West. Students are working hard to make sure that they are prepared for what lies ahead!

## 5th Grade

### Music Minutes

#### 4th & 5th Grade Students

Tudor Recorders will go on sale Oct. 3-17 for all 4th and 5th graders. The recorders are only \$5.00! All 4th and 5th grade music classes will be playing recorders beginning Mon., Oct. 17. Please be sure to bring your recorders to music on your assigned day.



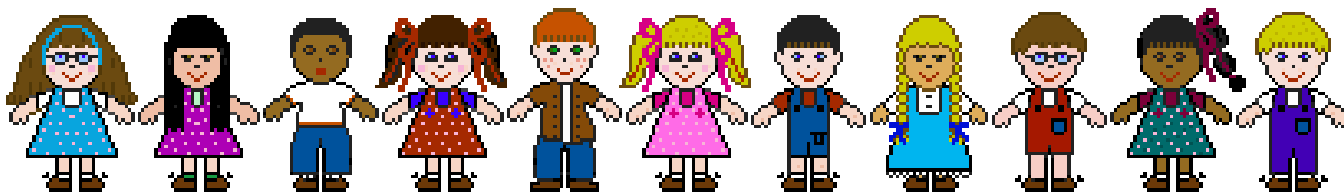
**Mrs. Mitchell's Class...**Our class had a wonderful start to the school year. There are some exciting events planned for October. On Oct. 20, our class is going to Roper Mountain Science Center. We are going to participate in two programs which are Fun on the Farm and Animal Habitats. Our class will spend



the entire day and will eat lunch there as well. In writing we are finishing up our caterpillar, hermit crab, and animal stories. Your child is going to make a clay figure to match his or her published writing. In writing we are focusing on going through the writing process to write a narrative. Our next writing assignments will be a biography for reading group 1 and reading group 2 will write a story about "A Day At School." In math we are focusing on math facts and fluency. In Social Studies we will begin our unit on the regions of South Carolina and Map Skills. In Science we will continue our unit on Matter and will begin our Health unit. In reading we are working on our comprehension skills and our phonics skills daily. We will read leveled readers daily. Also, Reading Counts books will be sent home in their baggie books. Please read each night with your child and review over the story. Your child will take a Reading Counts test on Fridays and will earn points if they pass the test. This will increase comprehension and fluency skills. Please read each night with your child. This really increases your child's fluency and their confidence with reading.

The Box Top Class Contest Has Begun! Classes who bring in 1000 or more Box Tops by Dec. 16 will win a special treat. The class who brings in the most wins a pizza party!





## The Counselor's Corner

Mrs. Alice Upchurch & Mrs. Nicola McGinty

(864) 355-5404 [akirby@greenville.k12.sc.us](mailto:akirby@greenville.k12.sc.us)

(864) 355-5412 [nmcginty@greenville.k12.sc.us](mailto:nmcginty@greenville.k12.sc.us)

### RED RIBBON WEEK

October 24-28



This year our Red Ribbon Week theme will be: **"Don't Monkey Around with Drugs"**. On Friday October 28, we will have a representative from **Master Kim's World Class Tae Kwon Do** come and speak to our students. Kindergarten -2nd grade students will meet in the cafeteria at 8:30am and grades 3-5 will meet at 9:10am. Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

### RED RIBBON WEEK: October 24-28

Our daily themes will be:

Monday – **"Sock it to Drugs!"** Students wear mismatched socks.

Tuesday – **"Team Up Against Drugs"** Students wear their favorite team sweat/tee shirts.

Wednesday – **"Drugs Can Turn You Inside Out!"** Students may wear their shirts inside out.

Thursday – **"Put a Cap on Drugs"** Students wear their favorite hat or decorate one

Friday – **"Color My World Drug Free"** Students & faculty wear red clothing.



It's nice to be important, but it's more important to be nice. ~Author Unknown

*Terrific Kids* will be recognized on Wed., Oct. 26 in the cafeteria. We will be recognizing 2 students from each class (grades 5K-5<sup>th</sup> grades) each 9 weeks! Invitations will be sent home in advance notifying parents when their child has been selected as a *Terrific Kid*.



### Testing for Second Grade Students only

CogAt (Cognitive Abilities Test) -

November 2, 3 & 4

I TBS (Iowa Tests of Basic Skills) -

November 8, 9 & 10

### Testing Tips!

- ♥ Get your child to school and on time each day. This is very important! Testing begins before 8:30am.
- ♥ Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep.
- ♥ On test days, give your child an energy boosting breakfast. Try to include both protein (eggs, yogurt, milk) and carbohydrates (fruit, oatmeal, toast).
- ♥ In the morning before coming to school, discuss only cheerful things with your child.
- ♥ Have your child dress in layers – kids do better on tests if they don't have to think about how hot or cold they are.
- ♥ Encourage your child to do his or her very best. You might say, "This test is important. I know you will try hard and you **can** do it!" Your confidence will be contagious.