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The Bulldog Bulletin



Dates to remember:

- Jan. 13 & 16 – No School
- Jan. 13 – End of 2nd Quarter
- Jan. 18-20 – K5 & 1st Grade Registration for 2012-13
- Jan. 19 – 2nd Quarter Report Cards Issued
- Jan. 30 – Family Clay Night
- Feb. 20 – No School
- Feb. 24 – BINGO Night
- Feb. 29 – Spring Pictures

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

Principal: DeeDee Washington
PTA Co-Presidents: Angela Murphy & Abbie Standridge
Editor: Julie Paré

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

Brushy Creek's 10th Annual SIC Family Clay Night



A family event filled with fun and creativity. Create a family memory to last a lifetime!

Due to the overwhelming response to Family Clay Night

PLEASE NOTE:

Only one (1) sculpture per person can be turned in for firing.

WHEN: Monday – January 30, 2012

WHERE: Brushy Creek Cafeteria and Gym

DINNER SERVED: 5:30 – 6:30 pm

CLAY SCULPTING: 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Note: This is a family activity, and all children must be accompanied by an adult. Children must remain under adult supervision at all times.

All reservations must be received by Friday, January 20, 2012.
All payments must be in advance so clay can be ordered.
See order form included in this newsletter.

The Principal's Corner

Welcome back to the remainder of the 2012 school year! I hope you had a wonderful, restful winter break. We are excited to have the students back in school, and we have much to look forward to in the coming months.

We would like to remind you about early registration for students who will be new to our school as kindergarteners or first graders next year. This registration will be held January 18-20, 2012. If your child turns five years old (for K5) or six years old (for 1st grade) on or before September 1, 2012, please come by the school to register. This early registration is most helpful to us as we decide how many teachers we need for each grade level for the coming year.

What to Bring:

- **State-issued Birth Certificate**
- **Immunization Certificate or Religious Objector's Statement**
- **2 Proofs of Residence (Example – a current power bill)**

We would like to remind everyone that students will have no school on Friday, January 13, which is a staff workday. Additionally, there will be no school on Monday, January 16, as it is a holiday to celebrate **Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday**. Additionally, please be on the look-out for report cards, which will be sent home on Thursday, January 19. Finally, we are looking forward to our annual Clay Night event, to be held here on Monday, January 30.

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

Sincerely,

DeeDee Washington

Chick-fil-A Core Essentials

STAR STUDENTS FOR November, 2011

Gratitude: Letting others know you see how they've helped you.

Kindergarten

Mrs. Auten – Alek Fields, Renad Serdah
 Mrs. Doherty – Yushan Zhang, Carla Romero-Esteban
 Mrs. Hart – John Sheppard, Ella Bukacek
 Mrs. Hutcheson – Gabe Redding, Benjamin Roberts
 Mrs. Krawczyk – Tyler Grubbs
 Mrs. McGahee – Ethan Lewandowski, Haylei Barlow

1st Grade

Mrs. Birkbickler – Bella Linck, Boone Davis
 Mrs. Cash – Savannah Smith, Josie Bagwell
 Mr. Gilliland – Selena Iwanski, Madison Blakely-Fuller
 Mrs. Kelly – Kimberly Lopez-Marroquin, Jaylen Boyd
 Ms. J. Rogers – Julie Rabon, Marcellus Smith
 Mrs. Wright – Dalton Carroll, Paul Rouse

2nd Grade

Mrs. Hawkins – Emily Boltenko, Layne Serdah
 Mrs. E. Lewis – Sara Kate Florence, Tajayni Hill
 Ms. Martin – Rebecca Morgan, Jacob Barnette
 Ms. Mitchell – Jessica Ryder
 Mrs. Moran/Bunnell – Lizzi Head, Colby Lindsey
 Mrs. Placko – Gabe Ellison, Dayleah Taylor
 Mrs. Smith – Emily Staples, Micah Davis
 Mrs. Wallen – Brittney Faldrowicz, Kaleb Williams
 Mrs. Wickline – Nico Sola

3rd Grade

Mrs. Brice – Sydney Benson, Georgina Vega-Rubio
 Mrs. Cook – John Schieke, Dyrion Jones
 Mrs. Forrester – Max Ferguson, Katelyn Orr
 Ms. Mitchell – Jessica Campbell
 Mrs. Thompson – Lily Bagwell, Aaron Quiros
 Mrs. Welsh – Cecilia Henriquez
 Mrs. Wiggs – Jennyson Rodriquez, Collin Sargent

4th Grade

Mrs. Chapman – Kristian Center, Brooks Davis
 Mrs. Leland – Kyra Fernandez, Jared Lamb
 Mrs. K. Lewis – Deonte Carter, Madison Jones
 Mrs. T. Rogers – Brandon Kavo, Quame Warnex
 Mrs. Shafer – Luis Cortez

5th Grade

Mrs. Causey – Mia Rondon, Ronald Reyes
 Mrs. Farmer – Jacob May, Julie Jeong
 Mrs. Frans – McKenzie Gallman, Devin Modrynski
 Mrs. V. Lewis – Talia Samard, Karleigh Gossett
 Mrs. Winchester – Beverly Marroquin, Scotty Bryant



Coach's Corner

Susan Florence,
Instructional Coach

Did you know that your PTA purchases subscriptions to websites for the Brushy Creek staff and students? These websites require a login and password in order to access the entire website. We encourage you to use these websites to help your student at home. The DISCUS website is provided by the South Carolina State Library to all South Carolina public schools.

Compass Odyssey—www.greenville.k12.sc.us/bcreek

Click on the compass on the left hand side. Your student was given their login and password to access their individual learning activities.

MathStories—www.mathstories.com

Login—brushycreek

Password—spike

Provides math word problem practice for kindergarten through high school level; some activities are done online and some will need to be printed.

Tumblebooks ---www.tumblebooks.com

Login—brushycreek

Password—books

Provides online books, quizzes, and activities; website can read books to the student

DISCUS ---www.greenville.k12.sc.us/bcreek

Click on the Media Center blue tab at the top of the page. Scroll down the page and click on DISCUS Kids; provides access to online research information as well as activities through the Know It All link.

Remember to ALWAYS check a website before allowing a child to use it. Some websites have advertisements that may not be appropriate for your child even though the website content is fine. You can never be too cautious when allowing your student to use the Internet.



Welcome back Brushy Creek families! The first half of the year was busy, busy, busy for the PTA, with fundraisers and two of our biggest events of the year-Spike's Spooktacular and the Holiday Boutique. We hope that you enjoyed all of your gifts--we can assure you they were chosen with much love and care. Becky Musgrove and Anne Marie Serwinowski worked hard all year to stock the boutique with gifts for the whole family. We are so lucky to have parents that are willing to invest so much time and effort into making their child's school the best it can possibly be.

In the Spring we look forward to Clay Night, Bingo Night, and Fabulous Fair Night. We also will be having our last "selling" fundraiser this month-World's Finest Chocolate. We hope you will consider participating in this with us.

And if your New Year's Resolution happens to be "Get more involved in the PTA!" get in touch with us at brushycreekpta@gmail.com. We'd love to have you!

Your PTA Co-Presidents,
Angela Murphy & Abbie Standridge





COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Mrs. Alice Upchurch & Mrs. Nicola McGinty

akirby@greenville.k12.sc.us
nmcginty@greenville.k12.sc.us

The Terrific Kids Program will be held on Monday, Jan. 23, 2012, at 8:15 am in the cafeteria.



Calling all students ESPECIALLY **girls!**

Please plan to attend this outstanding program.

February 16, 2012

Young Ladies Night

Joan Cronan,
Women's Athletic Director,
 University of Tennessee, Knoxville

IMPORTANCE OF SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

One of the most important things your child can do to achieve academic success is also one of the most basic: going to school every day AND being on time. In fact, research has shown that your child's attendance record may be the biggest factor influencing her/his academic success. By attending class regularly, your child is more likely to keep up with the daily lessons and assignments, and take quizzes and tests on time. Your commitment to school attendance will also send a message to your child that education is a priority for your family. Going to school every day is a critical part of educational success.

HAPPY NEW YEAR



This edition of the Bulldog Bulletin sponsored by:



SIGN UP FOR SPRING YOUTH LACROSSE!

REGISTRATION:

December 1, 2011 - January 31, 2012

SEASON DATES:

February 20, 2012 - mid-May 2012

PRACTICE (2 LOCATIONS):

Pavilion (off East North Street) - Boys & Girls
Mondays & Thursdays 6:30pm - 8:00pm

Woodside Park (in Fountain Inn) - Boys
Tuesdays & Wednesdays 6:30pm - 8:00pm

GAMES:

All games are on Saturdays at the Pavilion

REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS:

Registration Fee is \$55 plus cost of uniform (\$85).
Players are responsible for their own equipment.

Visit website for more info & to register:

GreenvilleGladiators.org
293-4412



Palmetto's Finest Update

As you know, our school is pursuing the Palmetto's Finest Award, the most prestigious award in our state for school programs. Our school received an initial site visit on November 10, and now we are anxiously waiting to hear if we will be moving on to the next stage in the competition, which includes being named a Finalist school. There are only five elementary schools across the entire state that will receive the honor of being named a Finalist school! **The Palmetto's Finest** committee will meet on January 12 and after that date, we will be notified if we are a Finalist school. If so, we will move on to the final stage of the competition, and we will receive a second visit. Of the five finalists, two elementary schools will be named a Palmetto's Finest Award winner for the 2012 school year. We are certain we will be one of them!

Tutors Needed!



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

- * 5th grade- 2 students- need tutoring in math- Tuesdays from 1:40-2:10 pm
- * 4th grade- 3 students- need tutoring in reading- anytime between 9:50-11:30 am
- * 4th grade- 2 students- need tutoring in math- anytime between 9:50-11:30 am

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

Chocolate Bar Sale



We will be kicking off our **World's Finest** chocolate bar sale on January 11. A case will include milk chocolate, crispy, and caramel flavored bars.

What Your PTA Dollars Did This Month

This month we purchased: Digital Camera, Web-Cam, USB Drive, Cursive Writing Books for 3rd Grade, K5 Thanksgiving Program Snacks, Pictures for 5th Grade Immigration Display, K5 Cash Register and Puzzles, Technology Updates and Subscriptions, Books, and much more!



Congratulations to Our Top Sellers for the Great American Fall Fundraiser:

Grand Prize: Elizabeth Davis 2nd Grade

Conner Fennell K5

Michaela Serwinowski 4th Grade

Nick Arboscello 3rd Grade

Ethan Grabiec K5

GRADE LEVEL UPDATES

Kindergarten ... The Kindergarten classes are ready to jump start the New Year with our unit on Winter. We will also enjoy spending time learning about a variety of polar animals and the polar lands, bears and hibernation, and fairy tales. The children are adjusting well to the new Literacy Centers, in which a form of writing is incorporated into each of the rotating learning centers. Writing and reading skills are progressing wonderfully. After reading a variety of stories about The Gingerbread Man and then baking and eating gingerbread cookies, Ethan Farquharson rewrote part of the story with "If I wr the Gingerbread Man, I wud run awa from a tigr. It haz sharp teth! "

First Grade Fun... First Grade is off to a great New Year! Students have been working hard in math by using a variety of strategies to subtract. Keep practicing those addition and subtraction facts at home! Students also learned about equal shares such as halves, thirds and fourths. We had fun using the fraction hamburgers to practice this concept! We have started a new unit on measurement and will use whole-inch units to measure the length of an object. In writing, students wrote "How To" paragraphs about winter activities, such as sledding, building a snowman and making hot chocolate. Look for these on the first grade hallway! First grade students are enjoying studying poetry and will begin writing shape poems and couplets to go on display. We can't wait to share these with you! In social studies, students studied "Cultures Around the World" and learned how people from various cultures are both similar to and different from one another. We are now learning about maps and how to read map symbols and use cardinal directions to describe a location. We look forward to learning about the sun and moon next in science! Finally, we are so proud of our students for their efforts in earning Reading Counts points for our monthly parties. Congrats on all of their hard work!



First Grade Writing ...

How to Make Hot Chocolate

By Jonathan Rhoades

First, you get a mug. Then get some hot water, chocolate, and marshmallows. Next, you put the chocolate in the mug. Then you pour the hot water into the mug. Put the marshmallows in the mug. Stir the hot chocolate. Now you have hot chocolate to drink!

Mrs. Wickline's 1-3 Grade Class ... The new year brings a lot of new and exciting lessons, units and extra-curricular activities! Our class will be attending a Peace Center Performance of "Henry and Mudge" in mid-January. We will also be studying Winter Weather in science! Brrrrrrr!!!!!! Several of our reading groups will be starting a new study on the short vowel sounds. The students have come so far with spelling words this year! We look forward to adding to our lists. Thank you for your continued support and help with homework!

A Crab Is Looking for His Perfect Shell

By Michael M.

My name is Noah and I am looking for my perfect shell. It is big, soft and very wide. I look all around in the ocean. I looked in the surf but I did not find my perfect shell. Then I looked way, way down in the deep ocean but I did not find my perfect shell. Then I went to a pet store and then looked on a tv and found my perfect shell sitting on the tv. I was bursting with joy. I am so glad that I found my perfect shell.

Second Grade Writing ... Are you aware of what your toys do at night? My iPod turns on and grows arms and legs. Then he pours poison on the bananas because the bananas are brown. Maybe he plays with my sisters iPod too. When he gets hot from being cut on, he takes off his blue case. After playing through the night, he gets tired and puts his case back on, goes back into the computer room, turns himself off, and falls back to sleep. By Dominic Cardone Second grade wrote about what they think their toys do at night, after reading the book Snowmen At Night.

Third Grade Writing ...

Native Americans in South Carolina

By Joelle Lynch

Native Americans were some interesting people. The Native American Indians lived long ago. Most of their houses looked kind of like an upside down basket. The three tribes we are going to talk about are the Cherokee, Catawba, and Yemassee. The first group we are going to tell about is the Cherokee.

The Cherokee people lived in the Northwestern part of South Carolina. They lived mostly in the mountains of the Blue Ridge and went into North Carolina. Most of the Cherokee men would hunt deer, bear, and turkey. They would also fish. Most of the Cherokee women would farm melons, squash, corn, and beans. Sequoyah was a famous leader because he invented a writing system. They also think he was born in 1763 and they know he died in 1843. Sequoyah believed that if Native Americans could read and write they would gain more respect. Wow, the Cherokee Indians live an amazing lifestyle.

Another amazing group of Native Americans were the Catawba. They have a few differences in their lifestyle. The Catawba group of Indians made their homes from young trees and bark. The Catawba houses were round or oval shaped. The Catawba group was the largest group to settle in the eastern part of South Carolina. The Catawba group of Indians **lived by the river and their name means "River People."** The Catawba men would hunt deer, bear, and fish. The Catawba men and women would farm corn, beans, and squash. The Catawba people are very interesting people who lived long ago.

The Yemassee group of Indians were a fascinating group of people in our South Carolina history. They built towns on the Savannah and Combahee rivers. The Yemassee people lived on the coast in the summer but in the winter they moved to inland villages. The Yemassee Indians were the only Indians to eat shellfish. The men and women homes homoes were round or oval with Palmetto fronds on them. Their homes were thicker in the inland villages in the winter **and in the summer the homes weren't so thick. Well the Yemassee Indians really were an interesting group of Native Americans.**

The Native American tribes were alike in many different ways. Because they all farmed, they all hunted, and they all had a government. They were different in many ways because they all spoke a different language. The Yemassee ate shellfish and they lived on the coast.

Third Grade ... Third grade teachers and students would like to wish you a very Happy New Year for 2012! We've been busy learning about many South Carolina heroes and heroines of the Revolutionary War during the month of January. Look for a Wax Museum of Revolutionary characters coming soon! We're visiting the Kings Mountain National Battlefield late in the month where we'll see musket demonstrations, walk the battlefield, and learn how the Patriots used clever battle tactics to defeat the British. In science, we're looking forward to rocks and minerals. Diamond Dell will visit us in February with his mobile gem-mining unit--the only time of year when the field trip comes to us! In math, we're multiplying larger numbers and measuring everything we can using both metric and customary units. Ask a third grader about the Measurement Projects we're completing! Some will measure their dogs; others will measure the family piano! Students will present these projects to the class. We're working on voice by analyzing figurative language in poetry and other texts in reading and writing. We'll also begin one of our favorite language arts units soon---folktales! Have you read a trickster tale or pourquoi tale lately? You may learn why the sky is blue or laugh at one of Anansi's clever tricks! Ask your third grader to share a favorite folktale. Winter is a great time for story-telling!

Fourth Grade ... 4th graders wrapped up our **fraction unit by writing "A Fraction of Me" poems.** We also studied our Earth's biomes and created power point presentations or shoebox dioramas.

A Fraction of Me—By Rachel

1/6 of me is a rodeo queen when I ride on Thunder the horse.

1/6 of me is shy when I am around strangers.

1/6 of me is a kind friend when I get to know someone.

1/6 of me is a pet lover. I love my new fish.

1/6 of me loves watching a good movie when it comes on TV.

1/6 of me is a lover of my family.

I am 6/6 me!

Fourth Grade Writing ...

A Fraction of Me—By Garrett

1/6 of me is a Gamecock because my parents went to college there.

1/6 of me is a Christian and how much I love my church.
1/6 of me is family. I have a mom, dad, two brothers and two sisters.

1/6 of me is playing outside with my friends.

1/6 of me is sports. I love playing flag football and soccer.

1/6 of me is a friend. I have so many that I can't pick a best.

I am 6/6 me!

Fifth Grade Writing ...

New Years Eve

By: Jennifer

On New Year's Eve, I went to my mom's friend's house to celebrate. At that time I was only six, so I didn't know what was going on. I thought it was just a random party. We went inside their house it smelled of cooked chicken and dumplings. Suddenly, a pair of arms caught me and lifted me high above the ground. It was Alex, my cousin! Alex is very tall. Right now he is six feet, six inches tall! I cannot believe that I am related to him. So, I felt like I was about ten feet off of the ground. I squealed and he gently put me back on the ground. After fifteen minutes of greeting friends and family, Tiffany and I looked for something fun to do.

We found my cousin Matthew behind the sofa, and we asked him what he was doing. He said they were playing Hide and Seek and told us we could hide with him. Tiffany, Matthew, and I squished tight. When Samuel (the older brother of Matthew) finally found us, we were ready to get out. We stretched and sighed when Jessica (Alex's younger sister) suggested a game of UNO. We all said "yes", and we sat down to play. I was partners with Alex, and Tiffany was partners with Samuel. We played for two whole hours. The parents called us for dinner, so we sat down at the kitchen table. I hadn't realized how hungry I was until my stomach grumbled.

I gobbled all the food my mom put on my plate, crab, shrimp, oysters, everything! After the main course, they served dessert, Mango Pudding for the adults and Rocky Road ice cream for the kids. When dinner was finished, I felt sleepy, so my mom told me I could sleep on the couch. I drifted off for about an hour and woke up to everybody screaming, "Happy New Year!" Then suddenly, I realized it was a new year, the year of 2008.

Fifth Grade ... Happy New Year! Fifth graders are ringing in the New Year with resolutions of being better students, better readers, and all around good citizens! Our curriculum studies in reading skills will center around a new novel, Grandpa's Mountain which focuses around a family's struggle during the Great Depression. We will be moving into the 1920's and the Great Depression for social studies, so the book will be a perfect accompaniment to our studies. Students will be learning about constructive and destructive forces in science and will also be working hard on their science fair projects, a requirement for all fifth graders. 2012 will be filled with new concepts being mastered, field trips, and great memories of fifth grade to take us to middle school, which is just around the corner!

Music Writing ...

Dear Freddie,
Thank you for teaching me how to use rhythm pattern and a staff note. You helped me learn by using fun and stories. You're the best music teacher (besides Mrs. Wallace) in the world!
Your friend,
Avery

Dear Freddie,
Thank you for teaching me the treble clef staff. I really like how you taught me the rhythm of music. My favorite thing was the line and space notes of the staff.
Your friend,
Faith



Mark Your
Calendars!
BINGO Night
February 24



Brushy Creek's 10th Annual SIC Family Clay Night



A family event filled with fun and creativity. Create a family memory to last a lifetime!

Due to the overwhelming response to Family Clay Night

PLEASE NOTE:

Only one (1) sculpture per person can be turned in for firing.

WHEN: Monday – January 30, 2012

WHERE: Brushy Creek Cafeteria and Gym

DINNER SERVED: 5:30 – 6:30 pm

CLAY SCULPTING: 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Note: This is a family activity, and all children must be accompanied by an adult. Children must remain under adult supervision at all times.

Clay: \$2.00 per bag of Clay (1 per person)

We are proud to have Papa John's Pizza providing the following dinner items:

2 Slice Plate: 2 Pizza Slices (Just Cheese/Pepperoni/1 of Each) & Drink (Tea/Fruit Punch) **\$3.00**

1 Slice Plate: 1 Pizza Slice (Just Cheese/Pepperoni) & Drink (Tea/Fruit Punch) **\$2.00**

RSVP EARLY – Space is limited and all orders must be pre-paid (no refunds please)

RSVP FORM for Clay and Pizza (detach and return)

Child's Name _____ Child's Teacher _____ Grade _____

Number of Clay Bags (1 per person only) _____ x \$2.00 Each TOTAL \$ _____

Number of 2 Slice Plates _____ x \$3.00 Each TOTAL \$ _____

Number of 1 Slice Plates _____ x \$2.00 Each TOTAL \$ _____

Total Payment (checks made payable to Brushy Creek PTA) Grand Total \$ _____

All reservations must be received by Friday, January 20, 2012

All Payments must be in advance so clay can be ordered.



What is Relay for Life?

- Overnight relay-style event
- Teams of people camp out around a track
- Members of each team take turns walking around the track for the duration of the event
- Food, games and activities provide entertainment and fundraising opportunities
- Family-friendly environment for the entire community

Relay For Life is a life-changing event that helps communities across the globe celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and fight back against the disease.

The Brushy Creek team has been registered and we would love for you to participate. Join us on May 18th from 7pm-7am at JL Mann High School! All you have to do is show up and have a good time!

