March 2019
Message from Mr. Freeman

We are going to kick off the month of March by celebrating National Literacy Month. It is a great time to remind ourselves of the importance of MAKING THE TIME to read to, and with, our children. We want them to have a love of reading and be successful at it; it’s important to remember it starts with them being read to REGULARLY. The theme for the month is “Hats off to Reading!” Our amazing staff will dress up as book characters on March 18. The entire school will “Drop Everything and Read” the afternoon of March 21 and that evening we will celebrate Literacy Night. The book fair will also be open the evening of March 21 to provide our families and their children an opportunity to add to your personal library. We look forward to seeing you at Literacy Night!

Our Ferry Farm families enjoyed the PTA Family Bingo Night last month. Lots of families came out to have “Farm Family” fun and play for a chance to win a gift card to local establishments. For those who were there, I apologize for the computer glitches this year and I want to thank you for being so understanding. With the excitement and camaraderie that comes with our PTA community events, it is always appropriate to be mindful of the whole reason behind it: to bring us all together as a school community. Together we work for the well-being of our children and students. A special thank you to the entire PTA for their support.

Upcoming events in March include the annual St. Patrick’s Day dance on Friday, March 15. The PTA Book Fair will be open that evening. Students will have the opportunity to purchase books March 18-22. The Fine Arts Festival is March 30 and 31 at Brooke Point High School. Many great pieces of our students’ artwork and our outstanding music program will be featured. Join us in the BPHS auditorium, on the March 30, at 11:30, for the third grade music festival, and 1:00 for our FFES Super Singers. We hope you can join us and check out the fantastic artwork and music performances of our eagles!

The safety and security of your children is a top priority for us. While it is not a new procedure, we are enforcing ID checks consistently per Stafford County Public Schools. We would like to remind all visitors to please use the front main entrance when visiting our school and be prepared to present identification before entering. You will be asked to retrieve your identification if you do not have it. Once inside, we will issue a visitor’s pass that must be worn at all times. Your child’s safety is a priority. Thank you for your understanding.

Thank you for your continued support, and know that WE ARE THANKFUL to be the ones educating your children every day!

Bob Freeman
Science Fair Winners

Fourth Grade

Mrs. Byers
1st Bryan W.
2nd Joseph B.
3rd Hailey B.
HM Raeghan P.

Mrs. Covert
1st Olivia D.
2nd Timothy M.
3rd Aaron K.
HM Garrett M.

Ms. Dodd
1st Cristina S.
2nd Jasmine M.
3rd Paden H.
HM Jacob M.

Mrs. Newton
1st Madelyn D.
2nd Michael L.
3rd Andrew R.
HM Clara B.

Mrs. Velardi
1st Adriana C.
2nd Hannah F.
3rd Layla W.
HM Lucia J.

Fifth Grade

Mr. Bodnarchuk
1st Sade B.
2nd Mark H.
3rd Abigail T.
HM Kieralee D.

Mrs. Roberts
1st Jaiyanna C.
2nd Adaleigh K.
3rd Ryan F.
HM Jason M.

Mrs. Sloan
1st London J.
2nd Hunter H.
3rd James K.
HM Leola C.

Mrs. Valera
1st Ryan W.
2nd Isabell H.
3rd Marilyn P.
HM Nathan M.

SOL Testing
Grades Third, Fourth, & Fifth
May 22 – June 6

Please schedule appointments around these dates.
Parents Remember When Your Child is Absent

*Call 373-7366 to report his/her absence by 10:00 AM

* Upon return, send in a note to your child’s teacher explaining why he/she wasn’t in school.

*No note, absence is unexcused

Library News

Magnificent Magnet Creations! During February’s C5W Stations in Library Class, students rose to the challenge of creating settings with magnetic materials.

Green Day
Friday, March 15

Everyone Wear Green!

Running Club

Tuesday and Thursday’s
April 2 – May 2
Look for information coming home soon

Register now for the Great Train Race

Literacy Night
March 21
5:30-7:00 PM

Shop the Book Fair
Reading Tents
Book Walk
Ozobots
Fortune Telling

March 1
Ferry Farm has lots of fun events planned for Dr. Seuss’s birthday.
SCOLIOSIS FACTS FOR PARENTS

In accordance with Virginia State law, parents of students in grades five through ten will receive this yearly information sheet containing important facts about Scoliosis and Scoliosis screening.

Scoliosis is an abnormal curvature or turning of the spine. It affects 2-3% of the population or an estimated 600,000 people in the United States. If left untreated, scoliosis can progress to a serious problem, causing back pain and degenerative arthritis of the spine. It may lead to disk disease or sciatica. It can also threaten the psychological well-being of a young adult when there is an obvious deformity.

Although scoliosis may result from an injury, a birth defect, or a crippling disease, 90% of cases are from unknown causes. It may run in families and affects girls seven times more often than boys. It most frequently develops during the growth spurt between ages 10 and 15, but can also develop or progress later in life. Early detection and intervention may prevent further structural deformity and resulting secondary problems.

Scoliosis screening is an observation of the student’s spine while standing as well as performing a forward bend. A scoliometer, a device for measuring the amount of abnormal curvature in the spine, may also be used during screening. Treatment of scoliosis varies between no treatments needed, bracing of the spine, to spinal fusion surgery.

Since the development of scoliosis is gradual and usually painless, scoliosis may develop without the parent or child being aware. It is important for parents to monitor their child’s development during these growing years and to have students checked by the family physician routinely. The signs of scoliosis may include uneven shoulders, a shoulder blade that appears more prominent than the other, uneven waistline creases, one hip higher than the other, and/or a leaning to one side.

If you have concerns about your child’s spinal health, contact your family health care provider or school nurse for follow up. If you do not have a primary care physician, with your written permission, the school nurse can provide an initial screening. Should further evaluation be necessary she can direct you to other health care resources.

Thank You!

Fourth and Fifth Graders

Raised $3,681

American Heart Association
Healthy Heart Challenge
Fifth Grade

Fifth grade is learning algebraic equations and function tables in math! Soon we will be reviewing all aspects of measurement. Any baking, building, or shopping with measurement that you can do with your child will help review the units and give a better idea of lengths, weights, and capacities. Discussions that cause your child to have to infer (take the facts and bring them together into a conclusion) will be helpful as we move into that area of reading comprehension.

Want spring break ideas for day or longer trips that match our social studies and science curriculum: Baltimore Aquarium, Museum of Natural History (rocks and minerals section), Museum of American History, American Indian Museum, Boston, Massachusetts and all the Revolutionary War sites, Fort McHenry, George Washington's Ferry Farm, White Oak Museum (Civil War). There are many more that can enhance your child's learning, of course!

Art News

Fifth graders ROCK painting their geodes & crystals using analogous colors!

Focus

Fifth-grade students are looking forward to their upcoming field trip to Ford's Theatre on March 19. They will learn about Abraham Lincoln’s assassination and its lasting impact on our nation.

In additional news, students in grades 2-5 are working hard on their Independent Study projects. We are looking forward to 3-5 grade presentations at the Focus Festival on April 11.
Book Fair Hours
March 15  8:30-3:30
          6:00-8:00
March 19  8:30-3:30
March 20  8:30-1:00
March 21  8:30-3:30
          6:00-7:30
March 22  8:30-10:00

PE Student of the Month

Second
Jeremiah B.
Kovin D.
Owen M.
Brooke A.
Dupree A.
Holly D.

Third
Daniel C.
Cohen R.
Sahra S.
Caleb L.
Amelia M.
Madelaine P.

Fourth
Jackson B.
Sam R.
Drew R.
Michael L.
Ashby S.
Rachael C.
Tonikah S.

Fifth
Hayden N.
Alixandra F.
Amirah S.
Ryan W.
Sade B.
Music News

**Kindergarten** students have been playing the big bass xylophones. This is so exciting! They have learned technique while still practicing the steady beat. They have even played two part instrumentals and sang solos in class!

**First grade** students have begun a unit on the piano. We will study many facts, open the inside to see how it works and play it! They have learned songs with three part instrumentals!

**Second grade** students continue to learn songs using solfeg syllables for pitch, rhythm, and lyrics. We have begun to learn instrument families, focusing on the percussion family.

**Third grade** students have learned a new note G on their recorders! We have also spent time learning an Orff xylophone piece for an audition for the Fine Arts Festival musical.

**Fourth grade** students have almost completed their unit on Beethoven. They have learned about his life and music. They played his “Ode to Joy” on soprano recorder, alto recorder and bass xylophones!

**Fifth grade** students have performed a difficult song for recorder, temple blocks and drums. We have completed the brass family and are working on the woodwind family in preparation for middle school. They are beginning to compose their own music using unpitched percussion instruments.

**Super Singers and Instrumental Ensemble** have resumed rehearsals. We look forward to an exciting spring!

Destination Imagination

Destination Imagination is a project-based learning program designed to complement K-12 education. Students learn the creative process from imagination to innovation and the skills needed to thrive in school, their careers and beyond. Ferry Farm’s Destination Imagination team, The Nacho’s, chose to accept the service learning project. The team decided that an important need in our area is helping the homeless. They recently visited the Thurman Brisben Center to deliver much-needed supplies that our FFES families collected. Thanks to your generosity, The Nachos were able to deliver 47 bottles of shampoo, 31 cans of coffee, 19 packages of napkins, and 40 containers of sugar for those in need! We hope that you will consider coming out to support The Nachos at their DI competition on March 16 at North Stafford High.
What to Do When Winter Weather Strikes

Winter weather is on its way, and with it comes emergency closings. Division staff makes the decision to either close or delay schools by 5:30 a.m. Once the decision is made, the Office of Strategic Communication and Community Engagement begins to inform the community using a variety of media. Below is a list of the different channels of communication you can use to gather updates on closing information.

**ParentLink**

**Phone Call/Text/Email/Mobile App**
A phone call, text, email and mobile app notification are sent via ParentLink to all phone numbers and emails subscribed to emergency alerts. Phone calls can occur as early as 5:30 a.m. Contact your child’s school to update, add, or remove your contact information from the emergency alert system.

**Central Office Phone**
A voice message is placed on the Central Office line at (540) 658-6000 in the event of an emergency closing.

**Stafford Alert**
Stafford County offers a subscription-based emergency alert system. Options for notification include text, email, phone call, and TTY/TTD device. In addition to school updates, Stafford Alerts allows you to subscribe to updates on traffic, government closures, parks and recreation, public utilities, and more.

**School Websites**
An on-screen alert is posted on the division and school websites.
Visit www.staffordschools.net or the website of your child’s school. In the event of a school closing, an alert will appear on the screen and must be dismissed in order to access the site.

**Stafford Educational Television**
Check out the division’s public access channel for weather updates. SETV is available on Channel 18 for Comcast and Cox subscribers, and Channel 38 for Verizon subscribers.

**Social Media**
Closing updates are also available on the division’s social media pages. Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/staffordschools or on Twitter at www.twitter.com/scpschools.

**Local Media**
News media in the Fredericksburg, Richmond, and DC areas are notified of our closings, including:
- Free Lance-Star
- Washington Post
- WFLS 93.3, The Vibe 99.3, The Rock 96.9, WNTX 96.5
- WBQB 101.5, WFVA 1230 AM
- Thunder 104.5, WGRQ 95.9
- WTOP 103.5, 103.9, 107.7
- ABC 7 WJLA
- CBS 6 WTVR
- FiOS 1
- NBC 4 WRC
- NBC 12 WWBT
- FOX 5 WTTG
- CBS 9 WUSA