

# Delmar Elementary Bobcat News

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Volume 1, Issue 3

NOVEMBER 2008

It is hard to imagine that we have come to the end of October, the close of first marking term and we will be setting our clocks back for Daylight Savings Time (DST) this coming weekend. What an exciting month it has been for the children and staff!

We began the month with Fire Prevention Week, focusing on this year's theme, "Prevent Home Fires". During the week, we had officials from the Delmar Fire Department visit with our children to speak with them about fire safety issues. The children had an opportunity to learn about the equipment a firefighter uses when battling a blaze and then to see some of the various trucks used and an opportunity to ride on the truck. For our older students the firemen shared information regarding Emergency Medical Technicians and various other roles in the field of Fire Safety. After the presentations, teachers reinforced safety issues with the children on what to do in the event of a fire. Please take some time to review fire safety procedures and the importance of having an escape plan just in case a situation ever arises.

Recently, our Prekindergarten and Kindergarten friends had the opportunity to visit Mr. Pepper's Pumpkin Patch for a fun filled day of learning. These trips were designed to support themes and concepts being studied in their class. Kindergarten has been studying math units that focused on size, shape and comparing objects. Our First Graders have had the opportunity to visit the Delmar Library and the Delmar Post Office. This unit coordinated very well with their Social Studies unit, Our Community. Our Third Grade has just returned from their trip to the National Aquarium in Baltimore, MD. This trip coincides with their upcoming reading theme on animal habits. During the month of November our Fourth Graders will be very busy visiting the Salisbury

Zoological and taking part in the LEAF (Local Ecology, Animal and Forest) Program. All fourth grade students in the county are provided with this opportunity to learn about local ecosystems and animal life on the Delmarva Peninsula. In addition, they will take part in the county sponsored Water Safety Program which is a part of our Physical Education curriculum. In Fifth grade our students had an opportunity to spend the day at our counties Beyond the Limits course. During this time the children worked on team building exercises which are an extension to our Character Education program.

Mark your calendar for November 17<sup>th</sup> through 21<sup>st</sup> and plan to celebrate **American Education Week** with us. This year's theme is Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility. The hours to visit will be from 8:30 AM until 2:30 PM daily. This will provide the school ample time to prepare the children for our 3:00 PM dismissal. More information regarding AEW week will be coming home in the near future.

**Finally, we want to share our good fortune with our families by receiving recognition for the following awards:**

- **Emerging State School of Character**
- **National Promising Practice Award for the Bobcat Bunch**
- **Exemplary School for PBIS/PAWS**
- **Mr. Mark Thomas for receiving the Teacher of the Month from WMDT/Channel 47.**



## ***SPECIAL NOTES***

**MEDICATION**– With the winter months approaching, we are beginning to see more sniffles, sneezes, and coughs. Remember that county policy states, all medications must be brought to school in their original container by an adult along with a physician's order. This policy also applies to all throat and cough lozenges. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Pase (410-677-5178), the school nurse, for more information.

**ATTENDANCE** -At this time we are asking parents for their support to see that their children are in school every day. Each month, our school keeps a record of the overall student attendance, which is reported to the state monthly as well as annually. Under the Federal mandate of No Child Left Behind, our school must obtain an annual attendance rate of 94% in order to meet the state's satisfactory level. In reviewing our current records, we presently have a yearly percentage rate of 96.57% which is great but we will need your assistance to keep this percentage from falling below the state mandate. Please help us by seeing that your child is in school every day so they can continue to grow academically. This is very important to our school and we appreciate your continued support and cooperation in this matter. Thanks

**No Homework Days** – In an effort to reduce office referrals, the Instructional Leadership Team implemented No Homework Day. Each month if the number of referrals is lower then the previous month a year ago, the school celebrates by giving no homework to the children. This month we have designated November 5<sup>th</sup> as no Homework Day and a note will be in your child's agenda letting you know if we met our goal.

**Delaware PreKindergarten** – This past summer the Wicomico County Board of Education and the Delmar Delaware Board of Education signed a new bi-state agreement. As part of the agreement, prekindergarten children from Delaware will be allowed to attend Delmar Elementary School as long as they meet the early childhood criteria established by the Maryland State Department of Education. The specifics regarding the criteria can be obtained by calling the school (410-677-5178).

**SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT** - This year Delmar Elementary continues to implement a Safe Learning Environment as a component of the school's Action Plan. In this document, we have identified particular areas of need that if worked upon, will enhance the school's overall atmosphere. The goal of our school plan is to provide a safe and orderly environment that is conducive to learning for all students. One facet of the plan focuses on the need to be prepared in the event of an emergency. Delmar Elementary School has developed a Crisis Intervention Plan which has been in place for the past few years. The plan outlines procedures the school will follow if an emergency situation arises. Throughout this year, teachers have been and will continue to work with the children on safety drills. These drills are designated by a color code to assist the staff and children in knowing which procedures are to be followed. Soon, we will be moving to school-wide drill simulations to help in coordinating our efforts to foster a safe school environment. We just want to assure all parents that the safety and well being of our students is of the utmost importance to the faculty and staff at Delmar Elementary School.

### **PTA News:**

On Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, the Delmar PTA held its second Annual Bobcat Open Golf Tournament at Nutter's Golf Course. The event was a huge success. We want to thank all our community partners for their sponsorships: Platinum / The Bank of Delmar and Spicer Brother Construction. Bronze / Wicomico Heating and A.C., Lifetime Masonry Co., Deaf Independent Living Assoc., Inc., Bayland Homes and Don Richardson, PA. We would also like to thank the following civic organizations for sponsoring teams: Gordy Tiger Mart, Malone Homes, Kiwanis of Delmar and Dailey's Construction/ Stone Tech. Huge thanks go to Mrs. Hall, Ms. Hicks, the PTA Executive Committee and a number of volunteers for their dedication and hours of service that went into coordinating this event. It truly was a wonderful day and plans are already underway to make next year's Bobcat Open more spectacular!!!

## ***SIMPLE STRATEGIES FOR CREATING A STRONG READER***

Without a doubt, reading with children spells SUCCESS for early literacy. Putting a few simple strategies into action will make a significant difference in helping children develop into good readers and writers.

Through reading aloud, providing printed materials, and promoting positive attitudes about reading and writing, you can have a powerful impact on children's literacy and learning.

- Invite your child to read with you every day.
- When reading a book where the print is large, point word by word as you read. This will help your child learn that reading goes from left to right and understand that the word you are saying is the word they are seeing.
- Read your child's favorite book over and over again.
- Read many stories with rhyming words and lines that repeat. Invite your child to join in on these parts. Point, word by word, as they read along with you.
- Discuss new words. For example, "This big house is called a palace. Who would live in a palace?"
- Stop and ask about pictures and about what is happening in the story. You can also have your child make predictions regarding the events in a story.
- Read from a variety of children's books, including fairy tales, songbooks, poems, and information books.

Reading well is at the heart of all learning. Children, who can't read well, can't learn. Help make a difference for your child.

(Ed Publications Center /U.S. Department of Education, June 2002)

**Asbestos Management Mandates** – In October 1986, the US Congress enacted the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA). Under the law, comprehensive regulations were developed to address problems in public and private elementary and secondary schools. These regulations required the Board of Education to inspect for friable and non-friable asbestos, develop asbestos management plans and address asbestos hazards in school buildings and to implement response actions in a timely manner.

These regulations assign schools many responsibilities. The Wicomico County Board of Education's program for fulfilling these responsibilities is outlined in the asbestos management plan for each school. The plan contains information on the school's inspection results, reinspections, and related material to meet the requirements of AHERA. Management plans can be reviewed at individual schools during normal school hours. The plans will also be available at the Board of Education for review.

Sept. 2007

## **VIB's (Very Important Bobcats) for the Month of October**

### **PreK - K**

Mrs. Tardiff – Andrew Taylor  
Mrs. Griffin – Francis Hawkins  
Dylan Rush

### **2nd Grade**

Miss McKenzie – Justin bell

### **3rd Grade**

Mrs. Lewis - Maddison Hensley-Hill  
Mrs. Smith - Jada Jackson  
Miss Switalski - Alton (Tommy) White

### **4th Grade**

Mrs. Mumford – Gabriel Terrones

**5th Grade**

Miss Wood – Matthew Tull

Mrs. Taylor – Andrew Knight

Mrs. Owens – Joshua St. Louis

Mrs. Rockwell – Autumn Moore