



Bobcat Bulletin

October 1, 2018

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Mr. Kirby Bryson, Principal
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Principal's Corner

We are so glad to be back in full swing this school year! We have had a great school opening. We truly appreciate the families that were in attendance during our Pre-K and K Orientation, School-wide Open House, and PTA Back to School Night. Time is fleeting by as we are approaching the midpoint of the first marking term. On October 3rd, progress report for students in grades 1 through 4 will be sent home. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns regarding this report.

Please know that we have many events planned for families in our school this year. We hope that you will mark these dates on your calendar and plan to join us. We welcome the opportunity to get to know you and your child better. It is our desire to build a partnership that will support your child's academic growth throughout their elementary school years. At the end of every Bobcat Bulletin you will find a list of events to assist you with the planning process. We welcome your active participation in your child's education and look forward to working with our families.

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Homework:

"I do not have any homework tonight" is a statement that is false 99% of the time. Your student should have homework most nights. Each teacher has a variety of assignments that students are responsible for completing each night or week. The assignments can be found in students' agenda books or on the whiteboard in every classroom. Even if there was nothing assigned that day, they probably have a story that can be reread or a math test to study for. Each student should, at a minimum, read for 20 minutes every night. I encourage you to ask to see your child's agenda daily to see if they took the time to write down the assignments. It is their responsibility to do so each day.

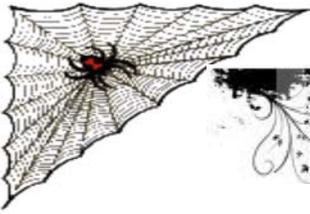
Daily Attendance

By now, we are all aware that attending school is mandatory. We are also aware of the direct correlation between school attendance and student performance. The reason I am addressing this issue is to encourage your child to attend school every day, on time, and ready to learn. Teachers teach something new every day.

If a child is absent due to an illness, death in the family, etc., we encourage parents to contact the school for make-up work. When the request comes in, the teacher will put together a packet of make-up work. This will give the student written work to complete during the night. This will help keep the student on track for the next day. Unfortunately, we cannot duplicate the rich classroom discussions, questions, and answers that are generated through the teaching process. For this reason, we ask that you only keep your child home for legitimate or medical reasons.



As a reminder, when absent, we require that a note be sent to school describing why the student was absent. When no note is received, the absence is marked as "unexcused". When a student reaches 10 days of unexcused absences for the year, a conference must be held with an administrator. If a student exceeds 15 days of unexcused absences, the school will seek court action against the parent and/or child.



Student Pick Up Clarification

We have had a few questions regarding students being picked up from friends or family members at the end of the day.

Our policy has always been that students will only be dismissed to a non-custodial parent or relative/friend if a note is sent into school by the custodial parent. Phone call requests are not accepted.

Students will not be dismissed to “**emergency contacts**” listed on the Personal Data Form at the end of the day if no note is produced. Adults listed as “emergency contacts” are only contacted in the event that a student is sick or injured during the school day and parents cannot be contacted.



Car Rider Notes

If your child is not a regular car rider but you wish to pick them up on a particular day, please send in a note to your child’s teacher and they will be dismissed to the cafeteria at the end of the day.

If you forget and need to sign out your child in the office, please make every attempt to do so by 2:30 PM so your child’s name is called and they are not put on the bus. If a note is sent in to school, you will not need to sign out your child in the office. This will be very helpful on busy days.



Family Vacations

At times throughout the year, parents have notified the school that they are planning a family vacation during the school year. Although the Code of Maryland Regulations states that absences due to trips or vacations are considered “**unexcused**” absences, the new Wicomico County Attendance Policy allows schools to consider excusing up to 5 days per year for this purpose depending on the child’s current and past attendance history.

If you are planning a vacation while school is in session, please see Mrs. Long in the office for a “**Parent Request for Non-Emergency Absence Form**”. This form must be returned to the office for approval prior to the trip. If approval is given by the administration, students will be asked to complete a “Vacation Journal” during the trip in order to summarize activities done on each day. Once the journal is returned to the office following the trip, the days will be converted to “excused”.

Please note that teachers are not required to supply work during this absence but in most instances, they will work with you to give you guidelines on what topics will be covered. Because instructional plans change daily, teachers may not be able to give you worksheets, exact homework pages, etc.



Upcoming Casual Days

October 5

October 12

October 26



School Messenger Phone System

Each week, you will receive phone calls from our administrators and/or teachers using our automated calling system. The technology used to make those calls is called School Messenger. School messenger is a web-based notification service used by the Board of Education to deliver messages in a matter of minutes. The type of messages that can be sent are endless but include absence notifications, reminders, fog delays, school closings, and other general information. This system is also in place to notify parents in the unfortunate event of an emergency or lock-down at the school.

In order to be included in the calls, we must have an updated primary phone number at school. If your phone number changes throughout the year, please send in a note to the office so we can update our records.



School Fundraiser

Thank you to all of our families who supported our recent school fundraiser. Preliminary totals show that we did very well again this year. We truly appreciate your support of our school and activities.

We anticipate that all items will be available for pick-up on October 22nd.



Parent Portal Now Open

Parent Portal is now available for use! All parents of students in grades 1-4 are now able to access "real time" information regarding their child's grades and attendance. In order for you to do so, you must first set up your login and password. Initial login is the students last name, followed by their first initial of their first name, followed by the last 4 digits of their social security number. The password is their 5 digit lunch number. For assistance, please contact the school office.



Perfect and On-time Attendance

Each month, we will salute students who have been in school every day and have not had any tardies or early dismissals. Students also meeting this criteria each marking term will be awarded an attendance charm at our quarterly honors day program. We look forward to sharing the names of students meeting this criteria for September in next month's Bobcat Bulletin.

Happy Fall!





SGA News

SGA is up and running again this year. We have already held our Student Government Association (SGA) elections in grades 3 and 4. Congratulations to all the students in 3rd and 4th grade that ran for the Student Government (SGA). There were some great speeches and awesome posters.

We want to congratulate the 2018-2019 SGA for Delmar . . .

3rd Grade – Jake Babcock, Ja’Niya Thelusma, Caleb Melvin, Natalya Brown, Aubrey Timmons, Ian Mitchell, and Sophia Brown.

4th grade – Noah Solis, Brent Lybarger, Kaden Marine, Zeb West, Averi Naugle, Annabelle Bostic, Naudia Patton, Blake Mills, Addison Throm, Ellie Figgs, Wyatt Otwell, Makena Hasbrouck, Neveah Ellis, and Ali Evans. We are looking forward to all the great things that will happen this year.

Reading Incentive News

This school year we will continue to encourage our children to grow as readers. We will have monthly calendars where students log the number of minutes they read and parents will sign. The students who meet their goal time will receive a Pizza Hut “Book It” certificate (monthly) and a charm at each quarterly Honor Day ceremony.

The students who reach 5 out of 7 months will be invited to a Sock Hop toward the end of the year. We are also hoping to have a special event for students who accomplish the goal of 7 out of 7 months! More to come on that later.

Mrs. Richardson will be keeping track of student times from their calendar who go above and beyond! She will have a special display of students’ names on the library window.

From the Reading Corner

Talk about the Story

As reading teachers, we talk about books all the time. But what is really important is for children to talk to their parents about books too. We will be sharing lots of reading information this year in this new section called “From the Reading Corner. . .” This month, we would just love for you to start talking to your child about the books they are reading. Just have a fun conversation about what the books are about, maybe who the characters are, how are you like one of the characters or what was your favorite part of the book and why. This is not meant to be “drilling” your child on the book but really enjoying the conversation.

One really easy way to read together is to read a book at bedtime. If your child can read, they can read a page to you too. Then talk about what was read. Maybe the setting – where it takes place – was interesting. How would that story be different if the setting was different? Let them pick out books that interest them. Remember all reading is good. That could mean a magazine, a flyer in the mail or even street signs and store names. Just show your child that reading is fun!!

From the Music Room

This month we will continue learning about basic rhythms and how these rhythms are used in music and played on different instruments. We will also work on listening skills and identifying sounds in music. Lower grades will experience rhythms aurally and physically, while upper grades will practice writing them and composing their own rhythm patterns to perform.

4th grade recorders will be ordered on Friday, October 5th so please make sure that money is turned in to Mrs. Rush by Wednesday, October 3rd if you wish to have her buy one (or two) for your student. The order form can be found on Dojo if it has been lost.

Singing Bobcats is underway, and we are off to a great start! As a reminder, students must remain academically eligible for this program (no D’s or E’s) For October we will be meeting on the following days (during school):

Wednesday, Oct. 3rd Thursday, Oct. 11th Tuesday, Oct. 16th Tuesday, Oct. 23rd Tuesday, Oct. 30th



Our Character Corner



Welcome Back!

We are off to a great start here at Delmar Elementary, but the new school year isn't always a happy time for our students. Here are some good habits to start with your children to help with the chaos of a new school year. Start routines and follow through with them. Begin school days well-rested, arrive at school on time, eat a well balanced breakfast and communicate with your child each day after school.

How can the School Counselor help you?

Delmar's School Counselors have many roles and responsibilities, but it is important for you to know that, first and foremost, we are a resource here at school for you and your child. We provide individual counseling, group counseling, and weekly character education classroom lessons.

If your child needs support due to recent change, school anxiety, friendship issues, divorce, death, deployment, and/or financial stress please use us as a support. Additionally, please note that children often dealing with "stress" exhibit changes in appetite, behavior, sleep patterns, and/or interests. Working with a school counselor may be beneficial and help them learn how to express their feelings and manage their behaviors. Please feel free to call us at 410-677-5178 if you need any assistance.

What's new with P.B.I.S?

As in the past, students will earn Bobcat Bucks for following our PAWS expectations in all settings. Teachers & staff are passing out Bobcat Bucks for being prepared, always respectful, willingly responsible and safe. Students will be able to save and cash in their Bobcat Bucks for items and incentives from our School Store, for Spirit Days, Term Celebrations and/or the End of Year Raffle.

Again this year, students may earn "Bobcat of the Month". They will receive a certificate and their name will be read on the morning announcements. They will be chosen by their teachers for showing the character theme of the month (see below).

2018-2019 Character Themes

September: Respect
October: Responsibility
November: Kindness
December: Determination
January: Tolerance
February: Courage
March: Honesty
April: Perseverance
May: Fairness
June: Citizenship



RESPECT:

Showing high regard for authority, other people, self and country. Treating others as you would want to be treated. Understanding that all people have value as human beings.



Health Check

Health Tips for a great school year:

Exercise/Activity 60 minutes per day

Manage stress. Talk about your day.

Wash hands frequently

Eat a balanced diet of vegetables, fruit and protein

Have a morning & evening routine

Keep Me Home If:

- I'm vomiting
- I have had a fever in the past 24 hours
- I have lice
- I have a contagious rash
- I have an eye infection



When your child is sick:

1. Have a back-up child care plan
2. Let the school nurse know what is going on with your child.
ccase@wcboe.org/410-677-5180

ALL medicines at school must have a doctor's order and be brought to school by an adult

Kindergarten, Pre-K, and 1st grade will have vision and hearing testing this month by the Lion's Club.



Homework Helpers

The most you may hear about homework from your child is that he or she hates it, doesn't have any, or has too much of it the night before a test. But it's more likely that your child is actually lacking in some essential homework skills.

Judy Dodge, author of *The Study Skills Handbook* and a study-skills consultant, says young people need to incorporate three key skills to do homework well.

1. Organizational skills—Young people need to develop ways to ensure that homework can be worked on, such as finding a homework site, creating a homework filing system, and using visual organizers.

2. Time management skills—

Children should set a consistent time to study, eliminate distractions, get proper sleep, take needed breaks, and accurately project how long an assignment will take.

3. Study strategy skills—Children need to know and use a variety of learning strategies, such as rewriting, drawing, memorizing aloud, and making flash cards.

In addition, Dodge suggests young people create a daily homework checklist that includes:

- Carefully copying the homework assignment from the teacher's instructions.
- Bringing home all materials needed from school.
- Beginning to study at a set time.
- Putting all their effort into doing the homework well.



Picture Day—October 12th!!! (this is a casual day)

Our county has contracted Lifetouch Photography as our official photographer for the 2018-2019 school year. Lifetouch offers a variety of portrait packages and background styles for your selection. Each student will receive a picture day flyer with payment envelope approximately 1 week prior to picture day. If your child does not receive this flyer, additional copies will be made available in the school office. In the interest of security, check or money order is the payment type recommended. Parents preferring to pay with credit card may prepay online by visiting www.mylifetouch.com. Simply follow the online instructions for making credit card payments. If cash is your preferred method of payment, please include the exact amount in your payment envelope. Photographers will not be able to open payment envelopes to make change for cash customers.

ALL students will need to be photographed for administrative purposes, but only those submitting a completed order form to the photographer on picture day will receive a portrait package.

From the Media Center...

Our Scholastic Book Fair is scheduled for October 10th – 17th. Everyone at Delmar Elementary School is invited to this celebration of reading. Not only does this event raise money for our school, it encourages creativity, self-expression, and reading among our students. Good readers have larger vocabularies, a greater knowledge of the world, and higher academic achievement.

Students will have the opportunity to visit the Fair during scheduled media time, Family Night, and in the morning according to the following schedule.

Day	Date	Grade Level	Time
Wednesday	October 10 th	4th	7:45-8:15 am
Thursday	October 11 th	3rd	7:45-8:15 am
Friday	October 12 th	2nd	7:45-8:15 am
Monday	October 15 th	1st	7:45-8:15 am
Tuesday	October 16 th	Kindergarten	7:45-8:15 am
Wednesday	October 17 th	All Grades	7:45-8:15 am
Any Day	October 10-17 th	Pre-Kindergarten	with assistant

A special Family Night will be held Tuesday, October 16th. The Book Fair will be open that evening from 4:30-7:00. Two \$25.00 gift cards towards books will be awarded to two lucky families that night. We encourage you to take time for this special event. We think you'll be happily surprised at the varied selection and reasonable prices.

We have attached a book list that previews a few of our books offered at the Book Fair. Please take time to choose books with your child. Our Book Fair accepts credit cards (Discover, Visa, MasterCard, and American Express) and debit cards (with MasterCard or Visa logos on them). Personal checks should be made payable to:

Delmar Bobcats PTA, Inc.

If you would like to volunteer to help at the Book Fair during one of the scheduled mornings or at the Family Night, please contact the school at 410-677-5178.

We are looking forward to your participation and support at the Book Fair.

Important October Dates

October 5	Casual Day
October 10-17	Book Fair
October 8-12	Fire Prevention Week Activities
October 12	Picture Day
October 12	Casual Day
October 16	Book Fair open from 4:30-7:00 PM
October 19	Teacher's Convention—School Closed for Students
October 22	Fundraiser Pick-up
October 26	Casual Day



Grade Levels At a Glance

Pre-Kindergarten

Our Pre-Kindergarten students are well on their way to success. This month we will visit Wright's Market Pumpkin Patch so please be on the lookout for permission slips and please turn them in promptly along with the money. Our new theme is, "Connecting with School and Friends". We will be learning about our senses, our friends, and how to be a good friend. In addition, we will continue to learn how to write our name, the letters of the alphabet, the sounds they make, and how to write them correctly. We will also practice retelling and discussing the text. For math, we will continue to learn about shapes and verbally counting to 10 with one-to-one correspondence.



Kindergarten

Our Kindergarten year has already gotten off to an exciting start! The Kindergarten team would like to thank all of you for making our Open House a great success.

As we welcome our new Kindergartners to Delmar, we will work on familiarizing students with our classroom and school rules/routines. In Reading, students will explore Unit 1 on "Feelings" and Unit 2 on "Learning and Playing Together: School". These units are full of stories and activities that help promote students' social and emotional development. In Math, we will begin introducing students to our daily Math Talk that encourages creative mathematical thinking.

Our Kindergarten teachers are looking forward to a fun and productive year with lots of learning!

First Grade

We are off to a great start this year in first grade! We have been busy getting to know each other, learning our new classroom routines, and reviewing our PAWS rules. First grade has been introduced to a new reading and writing curriculum. Students are enjoying interactive read alouds that promote creativity and questioning. Writing workshop is a highlight of the day when students have the opportunity to write about small moments.

In math, we have been focusing on efficient strategies for counting, such as recognizing patterns, skip-counting, or using a number line. Please reinforce these strategies at home when working with your child, as they will be very beneficial when we begin to solve addition and subtraction number stories.



Our First Grade Pumpkin Day is coming up at the end of October! This is always an exciting, fun-filled day of learning across all subject areas through exploration with pumpkins, and we will need your help to pull it off. We will also be going on a field trip to Adkins Arboretum where students will investigate how the parts of a tree work together. Be on the lookout for a letter coming home soon with more information about Pumpkin Day and the field trip.

Second Grade

Second Grade is off to a wonderful start! The first weeks of school found us busy establishing routines, procedures and expectations along with making new friends.

In reading, we have been enjoying our new interactive read aloud books focusing around the theme of friendship. These stories have enabled our students to have great discussions about the importance of friendship and what qualities make a good friend. Please continue to support your child in reading at home with their monthly reading incentive that will begin this month.



Grade Levels At a Glance continued...



Third Grade

What a great start to third grade! Our classes are full of students that are eager and ready to learn. We have jumped into our new school year with a theme about relationships in reading. Children are learning that relationships are simply just connections that humans can have with other humans, as well as animals and objects. We are also exploring ways that relationships change from positive to negative and vice versa. We have launched our new writing series by setting up our writing workshop and getting students into the habit of writing daily. During math, we have used place-value understanding to add and subtract multidigit whole numbers, as well as round to the nearest ten and hundred. In unit two, we will learn to make sense of and solve many number stories and explore multiplication and division. Our first science focus has been on forces and motion. In social studies, we began the year by reviewing our PAWS Code before beginning our mini government unit as a follow up to Constitution Day.



Fourth Grade

Can you believe our fourth graders are halfway through marking period one?! Students have been establishing routines and expectations have been set.

In reading, students are exploring the theme of *Journeys*. In this unit, they are reading about the Iditarod race in Alaska, Robert Ballard's discovery of the Titanic, and other grade-level appropriate texts.

New this year, we are using the Lucy Calkins' writing curriculum. Students are writing daily and for longer stretches of time to build their writing stamina. They are encouraged to write at home.

Our reading incentive begins this month. Students are to read 300 minutes for the month of October. Please keep track of their minutes using the calendars found at the beginning of their agendas. Also, please be sure to sign each day they read.

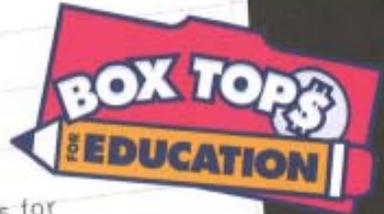
This year, in math, students will be adding and subtracting with larger numbers. Students will also be multiplying and dividing larger numbers. It is very important for students to know their multiplication facts fluently. Parents can help at home by practicing their facts daily. Again, this year, we will be using the Everyday Math series. Your child has been given a log-in that they can use from any computer. If your child is absent, they can log-in and check what lesson was taught that day.

Our students will also be going on their first field trip to Ocean City, Maryland, on October 18th Permission slips and money needs to be returned by October 10th.





DEAR PARENT/GUARDIAN,



Get Back to School with Box-Tops for Education! Box-Tops for Education plays an important part in helping our students succeed. You can help students find success with every clip this year with the Box-Tops Bonus App and the Buy 5, Earn 50 promotion at Walmart.

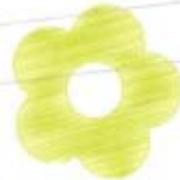
HELP EARN MORE BOX TOPS FOR OUR SCHOOL!

Thanks to General Mills and Walmart, when you buy five Box-Tops for Education products between 7/10/18 and 9/10/18 and scan your receipt with the Box-Tops Bonus App, you automatically earn 50 Box-Tops—that's \$5 for our school!

With your help, we can make a difference for our school.

Thanks for all your hard work and support!

Learn more at BoxTopsWM.com/Coordinators



BUY 5
PARTICIPATING PRODUCTS

SCAN 
YOUR RECEIPT WITH THE BOX TOPS APP

EARN 50
BONUS BOX TOPS

Only at Walmart 



PTA News

Welcome back Delmar Bobcat families! The Delmar Elementary PTA is excited to make the 2018—2019 school year memorable for our students, families and staff! We had a great time at the Back to School Night. Congratulations to all the prize winners! Prizes included t-shirts and backpacks. Thank you also to Sweet FROG and Outback Steakhouse for providing coupons for free and discounted menu items.

We have many fun events planned for this year including Family Movie Night, Pastries for Parents, and Spring Fling. For these events to occur, we need all the help we can get from our families and those in our community! Membership is the first step to making these memories begin. Membership forms were sent home with students. This year, PTA membership dues are \$10.00. We encourage all parents, family members, community members and staff to join the PTA to help Delmar Elementary School reach its membership goals. We are just over the halfway point to our goal of 250 members!!! Becoming a member of PTA also gives you a voice, and the right to vote on the budget and other matters.

If anyone is willing to volunteer for any upcoming events, please let an officer know that you are interested, email us at delmarbobcatspta@gmail.com or fill out the volunteer portion of the membership form when you become a member!

Thank you for assisting Delmar Bobcats PTA Inc in supporting our wonderful students!

Upcoming Events:

October 17th: Anti Bullying Assembly (for students)

November 1st: RSVP for PTA Dinner

November 11th: Art Fundraiser Month

November 12th: PTA Parent Appreciation Night (Dinner served; RSVP required)

November 16th: Family Movie Night

Sincerely,

Ashley Hearn, President

Erin Basch, 1st Vice President

Olesya Taylor, 2nd Vice President

Christine Brumbley, Treasurer

Betsy Jackson, Secretary

Stay in the know and  us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/DelmarBobcatsPTA
