



Bobcat Bulletin

October 2019

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Principal's Message

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 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.

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 and that there is a new WCBOE attendance policy. 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 5 days of unexcused absences for the year, a parent must complete an Attendance Intervention Plan to avoid their child failing for the marking term. If a student exceeds 10 days of unexcused absences, the school will seek court action against the parent.



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 car rider circle at the end of the day. Please include the name of the adult that is picking them up as ID must be shown.

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 to the vestibule and they are not put on the bus. If a note is sent into school, you will not need to sign out your child in the office. This will be very helpful on busy days.

Family Vacation

At times throughout the year, parents have notified the school that they are planning a family vacation during the school year. Although it is our hope that vacations are taken during the summer months, the new WCBOE Attendance Policy permits school administrators to excuse up to 3 days per year for this purpose as long as sufficient notices is provided. Please follow the steps below when requesting vacation approval.

1. Complete the Parent Request for Non-Emergency Absence Form. Forms are available in the office.
2. Submit the form to the office at least 10 days prior to the vacation.
3. Approval for 3 days of excused absence will be granted if student has no other unexcused absences at the time of the request.
4. Additional vacation days beyond 3 will be coded as unexcused. To avoid grading consequences after 5 days of unexcused absences, the parent will need to complete an Attendance Intervention Plan with the school. The intervention plan could require the student to complete all make-up work within a specified time, complete a vacation journal activity, make up lost time after school, etc.

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 2019-2020 SGA for Delmar

3rd Grade – Maciayah Ford, Ryen Senkbeil, Connor Scholl, Masyn McIntyre, Sophia Jones, Alanna Solis, and McKenna White.

4th Grade – Briana Blackburn, Caleb Melvin, Emily Owens, Marifer Rodriguez-Perez, Mason Niblett, Zeny Hatton, Cody Senhauser, Grady Smith, Olivia Church, Joslyn Gates, Yaretzi Pascual Roblero, Peyton Neudeck, and Trenton Smart

Reading Incentive

This school year we will continue to encourage our children to grow as readers. Teachers will use 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 Oct.-March) and a charm at each quarterly Honor Day ceremony.

Students who participate at least 5 out of 7 months will be invited to a Sock Hop toward in May. 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.

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 steady beat, basic rhythms and how these rhythms are organized into measures and performed on various classroom instruments. We will also work on listening skills and identifying various 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 forms should have already made their way home and will be ordered on Monday, October 7th so please make sure that money is turned in to Mrs. Rush by Wednesday, October 2nd, 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) and have no referrals. For October we will be meeting on the following days (during school):

Wednesday, Oct. 2nd

Tuesday, Oct. 8th

Wednesday, Oct. 16th

Friday, Oct. 25th

Tuesday, Oct. 29th



Upcoming Casual Days

October 4, 11, 25

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.

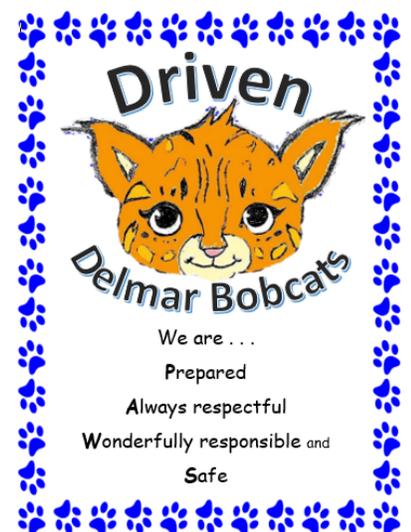
Again, this year, students may earn "Bobcat of the Month". They will receive a certificate and their name will be read on the morning announcements. They will be chosen by their teachers for showing the character theme of the month (see below).

2019-2020 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.





Back to School Healthy Habits

Welcome back! Hopefully this finds you and your child settling into healthy routines for the start of the school year. Usually the first couple of days of school I see children who complain of stomach aches or headaches. When a student comes to me with these kinds of complaints early in the morning, the first thing I do is take their temperature. If there's no fever, I then ask them if they ate breakfast. You'd be surprised at how many students tell me no. I then pursue the topic a little further and ask why. The reply I get a lot of is 'we were running late at home'. While raising two children of my own and working full time, I understand the 'beat the clock' philosophy. However, I can't stress enough to you to encourage your children to eat a healthy breakfast. If I see a lot in my room, I wonder how many students are sitting in the classrooms with empty stomachs that won't come to see me. This is where I use my car example. If a car has no gas, it won't run. If we don't give our bodies nourishment, they putter out on us as well. If you are running late on a particular morning, please encourage your child to stop by the cafeteria before class and pick up something to eat there.

One of the other healthy habits I'm hoping you've fallen into is encouraging your child to go to bed early. I read in an article recently that teenagers actually require as much sleep as an infant. It's due to the growth spurts they're going thru just like an infant does. And, even if your child is still pre-adolescent, they still need the proper rest. It should be no less than 8 hours of sleep a night. Without proper rest and nutrition, students are going to putter out by early morning. Students who start the day out tired and sleepy have little to no energy left by the 2pm. So, again, please help with this and encourage your children to get to bed early and eat healthy meals at least three times a day. Please be sure that this includes eating a healthy lunch. A lot of students like to snack on chips and high sugar foods at lunch. Neither of these selections has protein in them and won't carry them long at all.

Medications

If your child will need to take medications during school this year, please stop by and pick up a blank copy of the medication order form your child's primary care provider will need to fill out. **All medications, including over the counter ones like Tylenol and cough drops must have a doctor's order form filled out first before it can be administered here at school.** Any medication administered here at school **must be brought in by an adult.** If your child shows up to school with unauthorized medications in their possession, it will be confiscated and held here in our office until an adult can pick up the medication. They can also be suspended according to the Wicomico County Board of Education drug policy.

Emergency Numbers

Please keep me informed of any telephone numbers that change during the course of the school year.

Contacting Me:

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me here at school or e-mail me at swaldman@wcboc.org

Doctor's Notes

If your child is excluded from gym for any type of injury, please understand that they will not be permitted to participate in recess either. They will be allowed to stand outside and talk but running around and using the equipment will not be permitted until your child is cleared to participate in all activities. This is to help prevent your child from injuring themselves worse while on school property. If your child is put on crutches or is wearing a sling, we **must receive a note from the doctor that permits your child to be here in school with those items. Your child will not be allowed to attend school until we have a note in our permission stating they may attend school on the crutches or with a sling on. This goes to say that anyone having a cast on will need the same type of note from their doctor.**

Spare Clothes

Please put a spare set of clothes in a zip lock bag and place them in your child's backpack. Students have many accidents during school hours. They can stem from anything like falling in a mud puddle to spilling milk or juice on them while in the cafeteria. If your child has a spare set of clothing in their backpack, they can come in here and change and get right back to class. This avoids us having to call you and the inconvenience of you having to leave work to bring a spare set of clothes to your child. So, if you haven't done so already, please pack a spare set of clothes in your child's backpack.

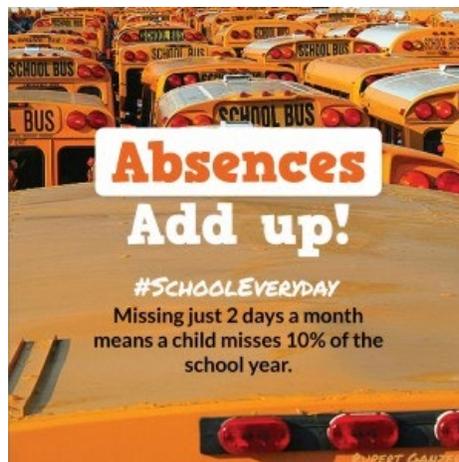
Cupcakes/Birthday Treats:

Because of severe allergies within the school, **ALL cupcakes/birthday treats must be store bought so that we can review the ingredients listed prior to the celebration. Please gives us at least a 24-hour warning if you're planning on bringing in a treat to the lunchroom for your child's birthday.** This allows us to contact parents of students with allergy problems so they may send in an alternative snack for their child. We do not wish for any to feel left out of the celebration. The health office is VERY busy. Please try to have the treat here by 9am of the day you're planning on bringing them to school to give me ample time to review the ingredients. Your cooperation in this matter is MUCH appreciated!

Flu Season:

Tips from the CDC on how to prevent the spread of flu are as follows:

- 1) Wash hands with soap frequently or use alcohol-based hand sanitizers, especially after you cough, sneeze or touch your face.
- 2) Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue and dispose of the tissue immediately. If a tissue is not available, cough or sneeze into your inner elbow. Droplets from a sneeze can travel up to six feet.
- 3) Stay home when sick!!!! Do not return to work/school until 24 hours fever free without Tylenol or Advil in your system.



Picture Day—October 11th --- (this is a casual day)

Our county has contracted Lifetouch Photography as our official photographer for the 2019-2020 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.

Clothing Drive—Old School Uniforms

Now that cooler weather is approaching, it is time to transition from shorts and t-shirts to pants, long sleeves, and jackets. As you clean out closets, if you have any slightly used school uniforms that you wish to donate, please feel free to drop them off at our school. One of our Faith Based Partners, Renovate Church in Delmar, will be housing clothing for us. If any of our students need clothes, shoes, or jackets, you can contact Pastor Searcey at 443-359-5846 or our school to arrange a time to stop by the church. Renovate Church is located at 800 E. East Street, Delmar, MD. All items will be free of charge. All that we ask is just a simple “thank you”.

Developmental Asset of the Month

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.

From the Media Center...

Our Scholastic Book Fair is scheduled for October 9th– 16th. Everyone at Delmar Elementary School is invited to participate in this celebration of reading. Not only does this event raise money for our library, 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 9 th	4th	7:45-8:15 am
Thursday	October 10 th	3rd	7:45-8:15 am
Friday	October 11 th	2nd	7:45-8:15 am
Monday	October 14 th	1st	7:45-8:15 am
Tuesday	October 15 th	Kindergarten	7:45-8:15 am
Wednesday	October 16 th	All Grades	7:45-8:15 am
Any Day	October 9-16 th	Pre-Kindergarten	with assistant

A special Family Night will be held Tuesday, October 10th. 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 Elementary School**

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 4	Casual Day
October 9-16	Book Fair
October 10	Book Fair open from 4:30-7:00 PM
October 7-11	Fire Prevention Week Activities
October 11	Picture Day—Casual Day
October 18	Teacher's Convention—School Closed for Students
October 25	Casual Day



Pre-K

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 your support in helping your child adjust to the new year and our Kindergarten expectations.

As we welcome our new Kindergartners to Delmar, we have been working on familiarizing students with our classroom and school rules/routines. In Reading, students have heard stories about the alphabet, numbers and colors! While listening to the stories, we have been working on identifying letters, counting to 20, identifying colors and focusing on comprehension skills! In Math, we have been 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! Be on the lookout for a permission slip for our trip to the pumpkin patch at the end of October!

Grade 1

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. We have been reading books about school and counting, and in writing workshop, students have been able to sketch and write stories about people, places, and things they love.

In math, we have been focusing on 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. Be on the lookout for a letter coming home soon with more information.

Grade 2

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 interactive read aloud books as well as reading many of our teacher's favorite start of the year stories. These stories have enabled our students to have great discussions about the importance of friendship, what qualities make a good friend and the expectations we have in our classrooms. Please continue to support your child in reading at home with their monthly reading incentive that will begin this month.

We're also practicing great writing skills daily during Writer's Workshop lessons. Students are given the opportunity to explore the writing process on each day. Our students are enjoying being able to write about topics of importance to them. They enjoy having the power to choose what they write about and it is reflecting in their writing progress.

In math, we have been getting our “math brains” in gear by practicing fact fluency, using the number line and counting coins. We are asking that you continue to encourage your child to practice their math facts and counting strategies at home.

Thank you to all the families that attended our Back to School Open House. We were pleased to see so many of you eager to make your child’s transition to second grade a success. We are also very appreciative for all the supplies that you have so kindly donated to our classrooms.

We look forward to having a very successful and rewarding year in second grade!

Grade 3

What a great start to third grade! Our classes are full of students that are eager and ready to learn. In reading, we are exploring family traditions. Your child will be exposed to many stories that go along with this theme. Look for some family traditions work to be coming home for you to do with your child so they can learn about some of their own family traditions. In phonics, we have been reviewing consonant clusters, onsets and rimes. We are learning our routines in writing and have written many moments in our journals. We are preparing to begin writing our personal narratives.

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. We are telling time to the nearest minute to help us find elapsed time. 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 an introduction to STEM, followed by our first unit 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. Our reading goal for October will be 200 minutes. Happy reading!

Grade 4

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

In reading, we are finishing up our first novel of the year, Shiloh. They are learning to use their listening skills to support their thoughts with specific details from the text.

We are continuing with 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. Students have published their first writing piece of the year and will be participating in a writing celebration.

Our Reading Incentive begins this month. Students are to read 300 minutes for the month of October. Please keep track of their minutes using reading incentive paper that was sent home. 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 17th Permission slips and money needs to be returned by October 11th.

We are looking forward to a great year! If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child’s teacher.



Thank you to all those who made Back to School Night a success! Thank you also to Sweet Frog and Outback Steakhouse for joining us. During the meeting, we introduced this year's officers: Ashley Hearn, President; Christine Brumbley, 1st Vice President; Tina Hollaway, 2nd Vice President; Olesya Taylor, Treasurer; and Betsy Jackson, Secretary. We also approved a budget for the year and discussed planned events and fundraisers for this year.

Joe Corbi's Fundraiser is back this year by popular demand and will be held in January. This year we are very excited to be able to offer up to \$100 reimbursement of classroom supplies for each of our teacher PTA members! Also, new this year is a quarterly raffle fundraiser for a Car Rider VIP Spot. As the winner of this VIP pass, you can skip the car rider line for an entire school term! In December, we will be introducing the Penguin Patch Shoppers Fair that will allow students to shop for gifts for friends and family and an Angel Tree to collect donations for those in need within our own community.

As of September 13th, we have 111 members and we hope to see more. Your membership is important to our goal of providing support to our students and teachers. Your membership dues are split with a portion going to the State and National PTA for the support they provide to us and the remainder going straight to these events and programs we plan each year. In addition to individual memberships, you can also become a family or corporate sponsor which includes ad space in the yearbook for your corporate logo, photos or personalized messages! Contact us for more details on how to be a sponsor and the perks that go along with it.

October events

1-14 - Spirit Wear available for order. ORDERS ARE DUE OCTOBER 14TH.

17 - 3rd Day Power assembly (brought to us by 3CUSA) Anti-Bully Assembly

25 - Costume Movie Night w/brief PTA meeting - 6pm, Snacks, Prizes, Movie TB