

Loudoun County Public Schools

CATOCTIN NEWS

Guidelines, Headlines, Bylines for February



Noteworthy Dates:

- 2/14:** Valentine's Day
- 2/15:** Mobile Dentist Day; MSAAC Mtg, 7:00pm - Admin Bldg
- 2/16:** PTA Family Fun Night@**PUMP IT UP**- Choose your time, 4:00p - 5:30p or 5:30p- 7:00p
- 2/17:** Raffle Basket Donations Due; 2nd Grade Chinese New Year Celebration, 12:30p
- 2/20:** Holiday - Presidents Day; PTA Spirit Day@ Chuck E Cheese, 11am - 9:00pm
- 2/23:** 5th Grade Course Selection Forms DUE
- 2/24:** Spirit Day; PTA Spaghetti Dinner, 5:30pm - 7:30pm
- 2/27:** Odyssey of the Mind Spontaneous Problem Night, 6pm (Open to ALL)
- 2/28:** Kirby Kangaroo Day
- 2/29:** Interims go home

Dear Families~

Happy February! Although, with the 60 degree temperatures, I feel like I should be saying, "Happy Spring!"

During the month we will be acknowledging multiple events over such a short 29 days. Each grade level will be studying SOLs related to Black History Month. Puxatawney Phil will offer some insight into our winter's future, and we will be celebrating our 100 day of school on Tuesday, February 7th. Of course, Valentine's Day is February 14th. As classrooms are permitted three parties per year, some have decided to use this day as one of their parties, and some have not. If your child will be exchanging Valentine's Day cards, the administrative offices for LCPS have asked that each school provide this notice to families: *"In keeping with current practices designed to protect the health and safety of all children, elementary students in Loudoun County Public Schools are not permitted to distribute candy or other food items to classmates. As Valentine's Day approaches, it is important for parents to understand that candy brought to school by students, including candy attached to Valentine's Day cards, will be returned to the parent."* I thank each of you for your wonderfulness in keeping our children safe and healthy!

Have a "sweet" month!

Another reminder to parents of 5th grade students:

On February 10th, your child will bring home his/her Course Selection Form to begin the registration process for middle school. On this form, your child's teachers will have made recommendations on the appropriate academic level of language arts, science, and history that your child should take as a 6th grader. Later in the month, the results of the Iowa Algebra Aptitude Test (IAAT) testing will be released. The results of that test will assist you and your child's teacher in the appropriate level of math instruction your child should take as a 6th grader. We will pass those recommendations on to Mr. Runfola, Simpson's principal once those decisions have been made.

*On the Course Selection Form, you will also need to determine a music choice for your child: chorus, music lab, or band. If your child wishes to play an instrument, then he/she MUST also attend a Band Clinic at Simpson. The first, scheduled for students last names A-M, will be **February 16th** at 7 p.m. The second, scheduled for students N-Z, will be **February 21st** at 7 p.m. Ms. Paquette, Simpson's band director, has indicated that parents and students are more than welcome to attend either session.*

The Middle School Program of Studies, referred to in Dr. Martin's letter, is only available online at this link:

<http://www.loudoun.k12.va.us/cms/lib4/VA01000195/Centricity/Domain/1/MSPprogramofStudy2012.pdf> Paper copies will not be provided. However, if your family does not have online access, and will need assistance with making these determinations, please feel free to contact the school at 571-252-2940.

All Course Selection Forms with Band Info are due to your child's teacher by **February 22nd**. We must return all forms to the middle school by **Friday, February 24th**.

This is a very exciting and anxious time for both parents and students. If you have any questions about this process, please feel free to contact the school at any time. We would be happy to help your family sort out the details.

Let your voice be heard!
Please complete this quick online survey!

http://www.research.net/s/CAT_Parent_201112





News From the Library



We hope that Spring is just around the corner..... And so is the annual Used Book Sale at the Library! We will start collecting gently used books for this sale on Monday, February 27th and we will continue collecting through Monday, March 12th. Please remember that students receive shopping credit for every 10 items donated to the sale. We also encourage you to come and shop with us on Wednesday, March 14th and Thursday, March 15th. The chart below will help you in sorting the items to bring for donation. Thanks so much for your help!!

ITEMS TO BRING	ITEMS NOT TO BRING
Children's hardcover books Children's paperback books Adult hardcover books Adult paperback books Book and tape sets Videos/DVDs	Coloring books Magazines Workbooks to write in Textbooks Encyclopedias Software Reader's Digest Condensed books Torn or damaged books



FROM THE P.E. DEPT



We are having a great year in Physical Education. We are halfway done with the year and have covered a lot with your wonderful students. This month we will be covering dance, step aerobics, yoga, and scoops games in our classes. We are still excited and enthused about PE. Fitness and running clubs are still going on and our last session of Sports club is in full effect. There will be one more Fab 5 for grades 1-2 this spring. Dates will be announced soon. If you have any questions/concerns or are interested in helping out at Field Day in June feel free to call or email. Thank you for all of your support, time, and effort. It is always appreciated!





Art News



So far creating snowman collages and printing snowflakes hasn't done anything to increase the snow production here in northern Virginia. No one can say that we didn't try, we've had snow on our minds, in our hearts, and in our artwork (sigh) maybe we should stop thinking about it and it will come. All of this means that in February we will be moving away from snow and working on a variety of other projects.

The fifth grade is working on some op art using complimentary colors. The color pairs create contrast and are used often in advertising and team colors. Purple and yellow seems to be popular with many college teams but red and orange is a close second. Ask your fifth grader why graphic designers might pick those colors for a team or school.

The fourth graders are working on drawing from real life. We have a still life set up in the classroom that they are using to draw from. They are doing a great job. Third graders are working on mosaics like the ones found in Ancient Pompeii. We are using real tile and they are turning out great.

The second graders are working on some paintings; we are focusing on proper brush usage along with composition. The first graders are reviewing primary colors to secondary colors. We are using Model Magic and creating beads with the new colors they have created. The beads will then be used to create symmetrical designs for necklaces.

We have fun in the art room, but we are always using our higher level thinking skills and problem solving skills. The best part is that the kids don't always realize they are working, they just think they are having fun!!!



SEARCH



FEBRUARY SEARCH NEWSLETTER: Encouraging Literacy in the Young Student

When we think of "literacy" at the early elementary level, we usually mean reading, but writing is also part of literacy. How can parents and teachers, working together, instill a love of reading AND writing in young children? While it's vitally important to give children the skills they need to sound out words and to know what words, that's only the first step on the journey toward being literate. Being able to read is the foundation, of course, but instilling a desire to move from being a consumer of information to being a producer of information is the ultimate goal. Why is this important? Let's look at Bloom's Taxonomy for an answer!

The famous Bloom's Taxonomy was revised in 2000 and now defines these as the steps in learning:



- Remembering: being able to recall and repeat information
- Understanding: being able to explain information that has been memorized
- Applying: being able to use that information in a similar task
- Analyzing: being able to understand how all the parts of information fit together in a relationship
- Evaluating: being able to explain why certain information is useful and other is not
- Creating: being able to produce new ideas or things by using everything that has been previously learned

Most young students develop the skills to read a story back to you (the parent) or to the teacher. It becomes a little more difficult for them to be able to summarize and explain what they have read. The next steps on Bloom's Taxonomy become more and more difficult until we reach the highest objective--creating. This is the level we hope the truly educated student/young adult reaches, but how do we start now to help our young students attain that goal?

The National Council for Teachers of English has some practical suggestions to help parents and children work together at home to encourage literacy. In a recent article on the NCTE website (<http://www.ncte.org/writing/aboutearlygrades>) some commonsense observations and activities were suggested:

"Young children possess knowledge about written language and a variety of forms of writing—stories, lists, signs—from an early age; quality instruction in the primary grades reflects children's experience and knowledge." Both at school and at home, encourage young children to notice all the print materials around them. Help them understand how vital it is to be able to read which way to go (road signs), what restaurants may be nearby (billboards), the names of buildings (school names, business names). Take pictures of these signs, print them out, and make a little "My Neighborhood" or "My Trip" booklet. Encourage your child to write a sentence underneath each picture to CREATE a memory book of a special trip or a record of the place where you live.

Continued on page 5



"All families engage with literacy or literacy-related experiences. Creating ways to bridge family and school writing experiences insures greater participation and success with school tasks." Take time every evening (or at least on a regular schedule every few days), to ask your child to write three things he has learned, why she thinks this information was important, and how he/she might use it in the future. Once your child has done this, you should write a response to your child's journal entry. Do you remember when you learned this when you were in school? How has it been useful to you? Keep an ongoing family journal which can be read over and over again in the future. You'll be surprised how motivating it can be for your child--and you!

"The 'language arts' develop in concert. Drawing supports writing, writing supports reading; opportunity to use multiple expressions of language increases language ability." Drawing a picture is an easy introduction to telling a story. The very young child can begin to "write" stories by drawing sequential pictures. Before long, that child will be able to add a caption, and eventually will actually want to add more information by writing about the picture.

"Writing is a social activity; writing instruction should be embedded in social contexts. Through face-to-face interactions, children come to understand that writing serves many functions, that relationships exist between speaking and writing, and that writing is aimed at, and therefore must be sensitive to, an audience." Help your child do something with his/her writing. Send his story to a grandparent. Ask her to write a letter to a friend in another city. Show your child the many ways that sending a letter, writing a little note, making greeting cards, or just writing a story to read to a younger sibling can make life more interesting and fun.

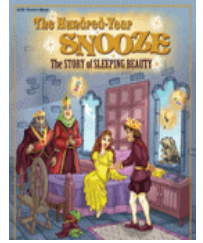
"Writing is effectively used as a tool for thinking and learning throughout the curriculum." No matter what the content, reading is essential, but writing, which is unfortunately viewed in isolation sometimes, is necessary in every subject, also. Even in math classes, students are expected to be able to explain clearly how they solved problems. Scientists working in research labs must eventually publish their work. The need for clear and effective writing never ends! As your child conquers new material, ask her to record in a journal the difficulties she encountered and how she overcame them. Ask your child to write down the steps he used to solve a problem so that, in the future, he can refer to his own information in order to apply it to new situations.

Using these NCTE strategies, you and your child can begin the new year "WRITE"!!!! (And by the way, introduce your child to puns. It's a fun way to get your child to think about words, spelling, meaning, and humor!)





A Note From Mrs. "B" (the music one!)



CONGRATULATIONS to our **Chorus**! These awesome singers presented a terrific **Winter Concert** to a full house on Friday, January 20. The audience was dazzled by the diverse repertoire of music presented as well as the blend of warm harmonic voices. Assisting were several fourth and fifth grade students who introduced each song. It was a great evening!

Chorus has formed for the second semester and has grown quite a bit!! Mrs. B. is very excited to have so many interested and talented students participating! They have already started rehearsing and the quality of sound is simply amazing!! You may want to mark **April 20, 2012**, (our **Spring Concert**) in your calendar.

Auditions for the **Loudoun County All-Elementary Chorus** were held recently for fifth grade students. Assisting with the auditions were Mrs. Miller, technology resource teacher, Mr. Lotz, guidance counselor, Mrs. Nevius, second grade teacher, and Mrs. Bennett, art teacher, Miss Krissy Smith, fifth grade teacher, Mrs. Caitlin Stratuik, fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Alaina Smith, third grade teacher, and Ms. Wright, kindergarten teacher, and Mrs. Bennett, music teacher. Fifteen brave fifth grade students auditioned for the prestigious honor to represent Catoctin at the All-Elementary Chorus in April. Selected to represent Catoctin are Smith Drupa, Megan Lewis, and Craig Tilghman. Congratulations!!

The **third grade students** are preparing for their upcoming musical scheduled for Friday, March 23. Mark your calendars and plan to join us for **The Hundred Year Snooze**, a fresh, new version of the fairy tale "Sleeping Beauty!"

CAN YOU HELP? Mrs. Bennett is looking for clothing items that can be used for **costumes for the upcoming Third Grade musical!** We are looking for anything that could be used for 'royalty'. If you have fancy dresses or skirts (think queen or princess), crowns, wands, Renaissance-style princess hats, jester costumes and hats, Renaissance peasant style skirts or shirts for boys, king/prince costumes, etc., PLEASE let Mrs. B know as soon as possible. You may contact her at school or email her at Kathy.Bennett@lcps.org.

Fifth grade students are reminded that February 16, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. (for students whose last name begins with A-M) and February 21, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. (for students whose last name begins with N-Z), are the **Simpson Middle School Instrumental Clinic Nights**. Any fifth grade student who will be attending Simpson Middle School and is interested in taking band next year **MUST** attend the clinic. **Attendance at the clinic is REQUIRED for students who wish to take band.**

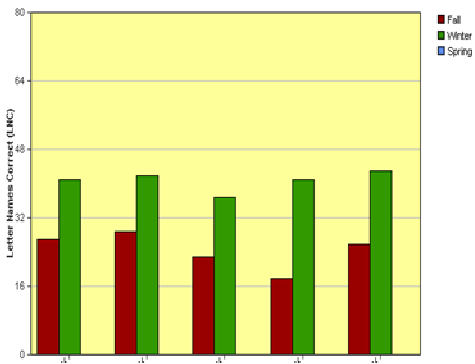


Responsive Instruction –Fall and Spring Universal Screening Results

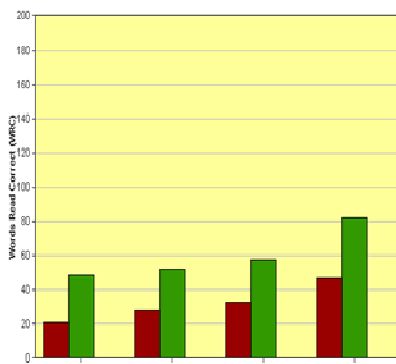
This is Catoctin Elementary’s 2nd year participating in Responsive Instruction. Our target skill is “reading fluency.” All students (K-5) were Universally Screened in reading fluency in September and again in January. Data was collected and “Power Up” groups were established based on the results of universal screening and teacher input. Power up groups use researched based activities to work on reading fluency. Those students reading at or above grade level are assigned to “Power Up” groups that are working on higher level

inferential comprehension based activities. Below are the results from the fall and winter screenings, by grade level. We are very proud of the instruction being provided by our staff and the progress being made in each grade levels. For more information on Responsive Instruction at Ca-toctin, please contact your child’s teacher or Mary Longerbeam, RI Coordinator.

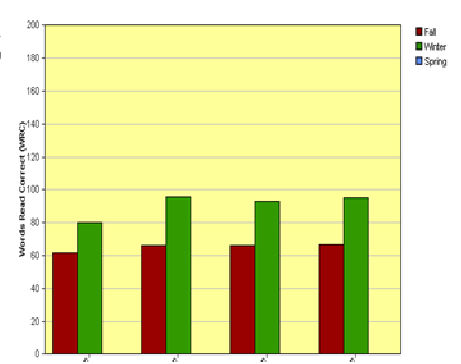
Kindergarten



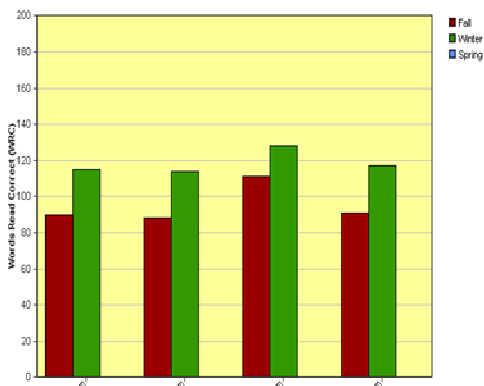
1st Grade



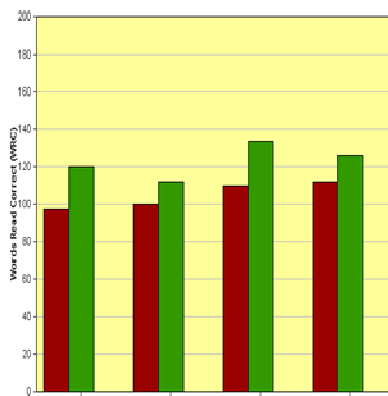
2nd Grade



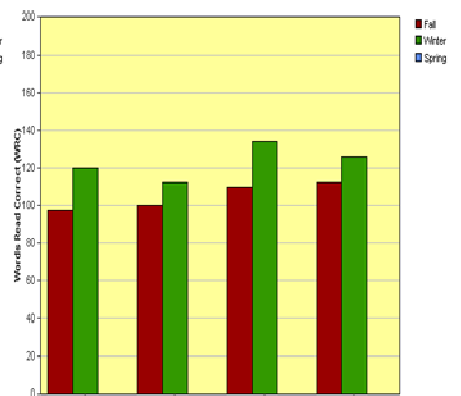
3rd Grade



4th Grade



5th Grade





Loudoun County Public Schools Parent Resource Center Winter/Spring 2012 Event Schedule

Autism Series: [The Message of Behavior](#)

Identifying and analyzing the communication function of behavior

Thursday, January 26 from 9-11 am (morning session)

Autism Series: [Promoting Independence](#)

For families of students who need to develop independent living/self help skills.

Thursday, February 9 from 9-11 am (morning session)

Autism Series: [Fostering Friendships](#)

Thursday, March 8 at 7 pm

Life after High School Transition Fair: [When the Bus Stops Coming](#)

Saturday, March 24 from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm

Autism Series: [Keys to Successful Toileting](#)

Friday, March 30, 9-11 am (morning session)

[Legal Planning for Your Child's Future](#)

Guardianship, Wills, Special Needs Trust, Protecting Benefits

Thursday, April 26 at 7 pm

[Supporting Students with Asperger Syndrome](#)

Thursday, May 3 at 7 pm

[I'm Determined](#)

How to empower your child to be involved in planning their future

Thursday, May 10 at 7 pm

Autism Series: [Play Skills](#)

Designed for children who are just acquiring play skills or have not yet developed play skills

Thursday, May 24 from 9-11 am (morning session)

Events are held at the LCPS Administrative Building, 21000 Education Court, Ashburn, 20148

Pre-registration is requested. Call 571-252-2185 or go to www.lcps.org/prc

If, due to a disability, you need assistance or an interpreter, call 571-252-2185 7 days before an event.



Loudoun County Public Schools

Parent Resource Center

March 2012 Event Schedule

Autism Series: [Fostering Friendships](#)

Thursday, March 8 at 7 pm

Participants will discuss the complexity of social interactions and ways to promote friendships and social relationships with peers. Strategies for promoting social skill acquisition and enhancing social performance will be explored. The group will also look at matching play/leisure activities based on individual strengths and interests as well as identifying natural opportunities for social interaction.

Life after High School Transition Fair: [When the Bus Stops Coming](#)

Saturday, March 24 from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm

Planning for life after high school begins now!

For parents and caregivers of middle and high school youth with disabilities who will need ongoing short or long term support upon graduation. This is an opportunity to gather information on support services/options for transitioning youth and adults with disabilities.

Autism Series: [Keys to Successful Toileting](#)

Friday, March 30, 9-11 am (morning session)

Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders and other related developmental disabilities often experience difficulty with toilet training. This workshop provides information on determining readiness, developing a routine, habit training, overcoming fear, communicating the need to use the toilet, and modeling and pre-teaching to support success.

Events are held at the LCPS Administrative Building, 21000 Education Court, Ashburn, 20148

Pre-registration is requested. Call 571-252-2185 or go to www.lcps.org/prc

If, due to a disability, you need assistance or an interpreter,
call 571-252-2185 7 days before an event.

Centro de Recursos para Padres de las Escuelas Públicas del Condado de Loudoun
Horario de Eventos del 2012 para el Invierno/Primavera



Series de Autismo: [El Mensaje de Comportamiento](#)

Identificando y analizando la función de comunicación en el comportamiento

Jueves, 26 de enero de 9-11 am (sesión por la mañana)

Series de Autismos: [Promoviendo Independencia](#)

Para familiares de estudiantes quienes necesitan desarrollar una vida independiente/habilidades de auto-ayuda.

Jueves, 9 de febrero de 9-11 am (sesión por la mañana)

Series de Autismo: [Fomentando Amistades](#)

Jueves, 8 de marzo a las 7 pm

Feria de Transición a la Vida después de la Escuela Secundaria: [Cuando el bus deja de venir](#)

Sábado, 24 de marzo de las 8:30 am a las 12:30 pm

Series de Autismo: [Claves para el Éxito del Aseo](#)

Viernes, 30 de marzo, 9-11 am (sesión por la mañana)

[Planeación Legal para el Futuro de su Hijo](#)

Tutela, Testamentos, Fideicomisos para necesidades especiales, Beneficios de Protección

Jueves, 26 de abril a las 7 pm

[Apoyando a los Estudiantes con el Síndrome de Asperger](#)

Jueves, 3 de mayo a las 7 pm

[Estoy Decidido](#)

Como capacitar a su hijo a participar en la planificación de su futuro

Jueves, 10 de mayo a las 7 pm

Series de Autismo: [Habilidades de Juego](#)

Diseñado para niños quienes están adquiriendo las habilidades de juego o que todavía no las han desarrollado

Jueves, 24 de mayo de 9-11 am (sesión por la mañana)

Los eventos son ofrecidos en el Edificio Administrativo de "LCPS", 21000 Education Court, Ashburn, 20148

Se requiere pre-matricularse. Llamar al 571-252-2185 o ir a www.lcps.org/prc

Si, debido a una discapacidad, usted necesita ayuda o a un intérprete, llamar a 571-252-2185 7 días previo al evento.