

Catoctin Courier

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Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) tests are quickly approaching for grades 3 through 5. Here are a few tips to help ease any test anxieties and to prepare your student for the test:

- Help your child develop good study habits long before test time so he/she can feel comfortable and confident about the material.
- Encourage your child with lots of positive reinforcement; replace any negative thoughts with positive ones.
- Make sure your child is rested and well fed at test time.
- Help your child develop a strategy for the test so he/she will feel a sense of control.
- Remind your child to ignore the other students.
- Encourage your child to shake off the test once finished. They need a break.
- Help your child learn from mistakes on the test and build on successes.
- Most importantly, let your child know you're behind him/her all the way!

Don't forget to visit the Student Resources page on Catoctin's website for online SOL resources.

May SOL Testing Dates

3rd Grade

Reading Day 1 - 5/13
Reading Day 2 - 5/14
Math Day 1 - 5/27
Math Day 2 - 5/28

4th Grade

Reading - 5/11
VA Studies - 5/15
Math Day 1 - 5/20
Math Day 2 - 5/21

5th Grade

Reading - 5/12
Math Day 1 - 5/18
Math Day 2 - 5/19
Science - 5/26

Throughout April:
3/30- 4-3: Spring Break

*4/6: Student Holiday
Teachers Workday*

*4/7: Follows Monday
Schedules*

*4/8: Loudoun Educa-
tion Alliance of Parents
(LEAP) 7:00pm - Admin
Bldg.; Special Education
Advisory committee
(SEAC) 7:00pm- Admin
Bldg*

*4/15: Minority Student
Achievement Advisory
Committee (MSSAC)
7:00pm - Admin Bldg*

*4/18: MSAAC 3rd Annu-
al Academic Fair
11:00am-3:00pm
Tuscarora High School*

*4/23: Loudoun Educa-
tion Foundation
8:00am - Admin Bldg*



Music - Worth News From Ms. Olejer



The Standards of Learning for music education are varied and great. Our students work on accomplishing these standards throughout the year through many activities. Our composer of the month for April is Carole King. All students will be learning about her life and music in music class, as well as listening to and performing music composed by her. 1st grade is writing their own songs and performing them on glockenspiels. 2nd grade is learning about brass instruments and rhythm instruments. 3rd grade is writing their own songs and performing them on glockenspiels. 4th grade is learning about musical direction symbols. 5th grade is learning about the instruments of the orchestra. Everyone will be playing orff instruments in class. All grade levels will continue to learn about notes and rhythms, which they practice every day.



All County CHORUS NEWS!



On April 17 and 18, several students will represent Catoctin at Loudoun County's All-County Chorus at Rock Ridge High School. The students who were chosen rehearsed on their own, and with Mrs. Olejer, to learn several challenging songs to sing under the direction of an outstanding guest conductor, Lynnel Joy Jenkins. The students chosen for this opportunity were fifth grade students: Kieran Fensterwald, Emma Healy and Sara Fedor. Come out and support your school and these students by seeing their concert. It will be Saturday, April 18, 2015 at 1:30 pm at Rock Ridge High School. Congratulations to these students and hope to see you there!!!

MR. SHANNON - MRS. MOATS

In the library, we will be wrapping up our the digital literacy education through Common Sense Media. We will be moving on to title and subject searches on our Alexandria library software and using online resources to research topics of interest.



SEARCH



Fat and Skinny Questions

Why do some questions make students think more deeply and more critically than others? Maybe it's what we ask and the way we ask it! We all know those questions that get no real answers from our children: "How was school today? (okay) What did you do? (nothing)" If you want to be able to initiate a real conversation, try asking questions in a different way.

Skinny questions require only a one-word answer (usually yes or no). Fat questions, on the other hand, require thought before answering. Too often we want children to know facts, so we ask skinny questions:

"What is 12 times 12?"

"Who was the first President of the United States?"

Certainly children must know facts, but it is more important to lead them toward thinking in depth about those facts and helping them develop critical thinking skills. Asking the right kind of questions can help your child not only display knowledge, but encourage your child to think about what those facts actually mean and how they can be applied.

It's necessary for a child to know the facts about the first president, but to broaden his/her thinking, ask more in depth questions—"fat" questions:

"What would have happened if George Washington had decided he didn't want to be president?"

"Why do you think George Washington wouldn't accept a third term as president?"

"What have you read that makes you think that?"

Even in the elementary grades, it's important to help children realize that knowledge doesn't consist of just learning facts, but in understanding what came before, what causes and effects were involved, and why those events were important. Even the young child can understand, for instance, that nobody on the playground gets to be the boss forever. Washington, likewise, thought it was time for him to retire after two terms. You might then discuss with your child how he/she might use what he/she learned about George Washington when making his/her own decisions.

As you talk with your child, try asking the kind of questions that lead to conversation. If your child read a story, don't just ask who the characters were or what happened. Ask your child if he/she thought the ending was good. That's a skinny question and will probably elicit a "yes" or "no." Follow it up with a fat question: Tell me how it could have ended if everything had happened in exactly the opposite way. Or what would have happened if the story had taken place in another country or another time period? Try to formulate questions that make your child think! Try asking more "why" questions. Ask "what would happen if..." questions and "what do you think caused..." questions.

These questioning techniques can be as helpful at home as they are in school. Try one, and see if you can get a good conversation going with your child!



ART NEWS FROM MS. BENNETT

Happy April! April brings so many colors, outside in nature and in the art room. This month we will be working on color theory. Each grade level is working on a color wheel of varying complexity. Understanding how the three primary colors, red, yellow, and blue make all the other colors is fundamental to understanding how colors interact with each other. After the initial color wheel we will continue our exploration of color with painting lessons. Fifth graders will work on complimentary colors, fourth graders will work on analogous colors, third grade will work on tints and shades, second grade will work on warm and cool colors, and first grade will continue to explore primary color mixing.

I also wanted to share a new app I have discovered. It is called "Paper 53." It is a drawing app and it has two of my favorite things, Art and FREE. If you have the ability, check it out. I am hoping to incorporate it into the art room on some of Catoctin's new ipad minis.

Thank you for all of the condiment squeeze bottles and paper rolls that people have been sending in. The kids are getting a kick out of red paint being in a ketchup bottle. Then when I tell them it is Earth Friendly recycling, they like it even better.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER - MR. LOTZ

New Counseling Groups for April!

The third round of counseling groups for the 2014-15 school year is scheduled to begin this month! If you completed a blue small group counseling interest form at the beginning of the school year – and your student did not participate in a group in the fall or winter – you will be contacted soon.

Counseling groups consist of four to eight students who meet with the counselor for 30 minutes once a week for approximately six weeks. A signed permission form is required for participation in all groups.

If you would like your student to participate in a counseling group, but have not yet returned an interest form, please contact Mr. Lotz at george.lotz@lcps.org or 571-252-2940. Information is also available on the School Counseling section of the Catoctin website (<http://www.loudoun.k12.va.us/Page/70275>).

Please feel free to contact Mr. Lotz if there is an immediate need you wish to discuss regarding your child or if you have any questions regarding small group counseling at Catoctin.



READING NEWS-SABETTO AND MARTINO



The Keys for Reading program began on March 2. We hope many students have been able to participate in this great program by simply reading three books appropriate for their particular reading level. The free Frederick Keys game they can attend are during the weekend of April 10 – 12. Each book title will need to be recorded on the official Keys for Reading bookmark that was sent home. This bookmark is the ticket voucher and must be kept. Instructions on how to redeem the students' free tickets and how to purchase family tickets are on the bookmark as well. On Friday, April 10 there will be fireworks after the game. On Sunday, April 12, students can meet the players prior to the game. If you need a new bookmark, please let us know!

Check out this book review when students are looking for a new book to read: <http://abookandahug.com/>. It allows students to search by category, age, reading level, gender, etc. They can take a "superhero" quiz to help them determine what books they may like best. Students can also submit their own personal reviews.

Happy spring reading!

Emily Sabetto
Krista Martino

FITNESS MATTERS

Field Day is June 12th and we are still looking for volunteers.
Thank you.



PBIS

March Cardinals of the Week

Every student at Catoctin is expected to be **Respectful, Responsible and Ready** at all times. When teachers notice students demonstrating the 3 R's, they may reward that student with a red *Cardinal Cash* ticket!



Every week, one student per class who has earned a *Cardinal Cash* ticket is selected to be the **Cardinal of the Week!**

Cardinals of the Week are recognized during the morning announcements, receive a certificate & wristband, and have their names added to the PBIS display located between Pods 2 & 3.

DUE TO THE NUMBER OF HOLIDAYS / SNOW DAYS IN MARCH, NOT ALL CLASSES WERE ABLE PRESENT AN AWARD EACH WEEK.

Congratulations to all of the students who were selected during the month of March!

Kindergarten

Colin Fensterwald
Corban Backus
Finn McGee
Jadon Jenczewski
James Nicholson
Kayden Taylor
Liam Sheppard
Syed Mondragon
Yadiel Cervantes

First Grade

Anna Buer
Arina Buer
Ella Worley
Emily Perez
Emma Hawkins
Jane Garvey
Joseph Alayachew
Nathanael Harvey
Nic Maloney
Olivia Leatherman
Raegan Creppon
Randal Thompson
Reagan Sutton
Sean Morrison
Sophie Hudziak
Spencer Rahim
Victor Fuentes
Victoria Becker
Zachary Johansen

Second Grade

Alyce Snead
Brooklyn Benedicto
Carrie Fuchs
Ederson Orellana Gonzalez
Gio Martinez
Kahlel Gomes
Lauren Cleveland
Layla Rethy
Lydia Becker
Maya Segura
Quan Luu
Quin Miller
Sean Timberlake Navarro
Taylor Keys
Tony Barahona

Third Grade

Abby Chinn
Aidan Bokel
AnaGrace Russell
Annie Cassidy
Ashley Conner
Ayden Clawson
Bennett Schwarting
Brianna Martinez
Britney Santander
Christian Cioni
Christopher Baly
David Alfaro Cordero
Doreon Dade Novatni

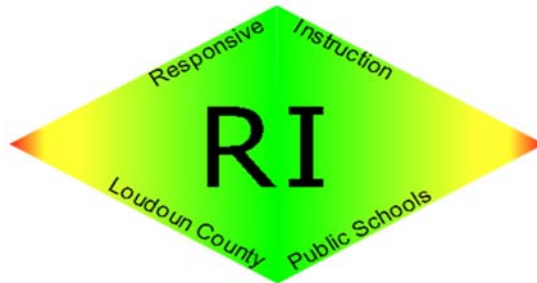
Faith Fanning
Jackson Daynard
Jacob Calmet
Jordan Penney
Olivia Ramey
Thompson Brock

Fourth Grade

Alexis Cuatcual
Basmala Al-Swaity
Carlin Lacques
David Rios
Gavin O'Malley
Jack Senger
Jasmin Villeda
Noelle Mosher

Fifth Grade

Alejandro Morant
Byron Van Epps
Gerardo Resendiz-Rosas
Jamie Kaine
Jonathan Huff
Josh Dacus
Kian Zahiri
Maren Pallozzi



Catoctin's "**Power Up**" is going strong, despite all the winter storms this year! Thank you to Catoctin's faculty and staff that have helped make "**Power Up**" a success.

To help keep reading and math fun try some of these FREE websites:

<http://pbskids.org/games/reading/>

<http://www.abcya.com/>

<http://www.starfall.com/>

<http://www.coolmath-games.com/>

<http://www.funbrain.com/>

Ask your child's teacher for more information on how to access **Dreambox** from home.

The final Spring Universal Screening for the 2014-2015 school year will be held April 27th and 28th.



FROM THE DESK OF THE ATTENDANCE SECRETARY

AN IMPORTANT REMINDER

If your child is going to be absent please remember to call the absentee line, 571-252-2941, to report their absence.

When taking your child to the doctor/dentist, please don't forget to get a doctor's note.



Students must be in their classrooms by 7:50 ready to learn. Otherwise, they will be marked "tardy." Excessive tardies will be referred to the Attendance Officer.

