Throughout March:

3/4: Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) 7:00pm - Admin Bldg; Minority Student Achievement Advisory Committee (MSAAC) 7:00pm - Admin Bldg

3/9: Loudoun County Regional Spelling Bee, 6:30pm - Stone Bridge HS

3/10: PTA Bob Evans Spirit Day, 10a - 9p

3/11 - 3/12: Used Book Sale, Catoctin Library; PTA General Mtg, 6:30p; Loudoun Education Alliance of Parents (LEAP) 7:00pm - Admin Bldg

3/16: Tornado Drill, 10a

3/17: Kindergarten Registration, 8:30am - 2:00pm

3/18: Minority Student Achievement Advisory Committee (MSAAC) 7:00pm - Admin Bldg

3/24: Spring Choral Concert, 6pm

3/26: 3rd Gr FT to Natural History Museum

3/27: 4th Gr. Extended Day FT to Richmond; Mrs. Fausett’s Adapted Field Day; 5th Gr. Spring Celebration

3/30 - 4/3: Spring Break

4/6: Student Holiday/ Teacher Workday

Spring PTA After School Enrichment clubs will start this month. Due to the weather cancelling school so often, the due date to turn in the request forms has been extended to Friday, March 6th.

For more information or to have questions answered, contact Steffany Fedor

Message From The Principal

Oh good GRIEF! How much more of winter is Mother Nature going to bring? Just when we get a sunny day with above-freezing temperatures, we learn that this is simply just a teaser. The inconsistent school schedules are as frustrating for us as they are for parents. There are online resources that you can use with your student that will continue to keep their skills sharp. In our house, we visit Raz Kids, Dreambox, XtraMath, and abcya.com. We have found that visiting any of the libraries is also a good way to settle the brain and body, while also digging into some new books. Hopefully, as the first day of spring approaches, the winter weather will cease!

WE NEED YOUR HELP! The safety of our students and staff has been compromised within our Kiss and Ride area. The procedures are created to keep everyone safe. Being in a hurry in the mornings does not give reason to put others at risk of being hit. You may notice that our friends with the Leesburg Police Dept have visited over the last few weeks to monitor safety and provide guidance to parents. Should parents continue to behave hastily, putting others at risk, it is possible that the officers will act upon those violations. Slow down and respect the directives of the school staff. The safety of our students and staff are worth it!

Many, many congratulations to our five Odyssey of the Mind teams who competed in the Regional Tournament in February. I am always impressed and amazed at the unique problem solving skills of our youth. We had the Duct Tape Dudes & Dudettes place 2nd, and the Pandora’s Box team place 1st; Pandora’s Box will attend the state tournament on 4/18 in Lorton, VA.

Bring on warmer temperatures!

Mrs. Rueckert
In the library, we are continuing with the digital literacy education through Common Sense Media. The cross-curricular units that will be taught in classes spiral to address digital literacy and citizenship topics in an age-appropriate way. Some of the topics that we will cover in the curriculum are Internet safety, privacy and security, relationships and communication, cyber-bullying, digital footprint and reputation, self-image and identity, information literacy, creative credit and copyright. To learn more about the Common Sense Media Digital Literacy Program, please visit [http://www.commonsensemedia.org](http://www.commonsensemedia.org)

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**Fitness Matters**

Wow! It almost seems impossible that February is almost over. We are motivated and dedicated in Physical Education. This year we have covered a lot of great things with your wonderful students. In these coming weeks, we will be covering soccer, muscles, football, basketball, etc. We also will continue incorporating muscles, nutrition, and the pacer/pacing in our curriculum. Once again, we are very excited and enthused about Physical Education.

We hope students will bring some of the activities and knowledge of healthy practices home with them to share with their families. If you have any questions/concerns or are interested in helping out at Field Day feel free to call or email. As always, thank you for all of your support, time, and effort. It is always appreciated!

Will Shepard /Bob Curtis  
Physical Education Department  
Catoctin Cardinals
Many parents have already attended the LCPS Gifted Education Department's information sessions, and from those sessions they have learned about the process of screening and identification for gifted services in Loudoun County. If you were not able to attend one of the information sessions, you might want to view the power point presentation available on the Gifted Education website:

http://cmsweb1.lcps.org/Page/617

http://cmsweb1.lcps.org/Page/127733

“All children may demonstrate gifted behaviors on different levels and in different ways. It is a matter of the complexity, frequency and intensity of the demonstrative behaviors that determine whether students require the differentiated instruction of Gifted Education.” No matter what grade your child is in, you can find detailed information about the identification process on the LCPS Gifted Education website: It is the goal of the LCPS identification process to find those students who truly need gifted services.

To accomplish this, LCPS adheres to the best practices of identification as outlined by the National Association for Gifted Children: “Identification needs to occur over time, with multiple opportunities to exhibit gifts. One test at a specific point in time should not dictate whether someone is identified as gifted.” (http://www.nagc.org/resources-publications/gifted-education-practices/identification) For this reason, SEARCH teachers work with all students in the regular classroom during the first three quarters of the 3rd grade year on portfolio lessons. These lessons are used during the identification process in addition to test data from both 2nd and 3rd grade and teacher observations based on the first three quarters of 3rd grade. In these, as in all respects, LCPS endeavors to follow the best and most equitable practices current in gifted education.

If you have questions about gifted identification, please contact the SEARCH teacher at your child’s school.
Several lessons from February have not been finished because of all of the snow days. This isn’t deja vu, it happened again, so … we will be working to finish a few things from February during these first days of March.

We will also be working with paper creating 3d forms from 2d shapes. The empty paper rolls (small and large) that some of you send me really come in handy for these lessons. The cardboard cylinder creates a sturdy base. Some of the grades are also working on the fine art craft of quilling, rolling paper strips to create designs. The kids are always excited when I bring out a new material or technique they have never seen before. Some background on quilling, it was started back in the renaissance by monks. Monks were often the ones who transcribed books. When they had to trim a gilded page they would use those strips to create the quilling designs.

Happy March!!!

Ms. Bennett
Did you know there are different types of bullying?

Catoctin students have been learning about 3 types of bullying: physical bullying, social/emotional bullying and cyber bullying.

Social/emotional bullying is often referred to as **Relational Aggression**. Relational aggression is the covert use of relationships as weapons to inflict emotional pain. Relational aggression encompasses behaviors that harm others by damaging, threatening to damage or manipulating one's relationships with his/her peers, or by injuring one's feelings of social acceptance.

Examples of relational aggression include:

- rumor spreading
- secret-divulging
- alliance-building
- Backstabbing
- Ignoring
- excluding from social groups and activities
- verbally insulting
- using hostel body language (i.e., eye-rolling and smirking)
- making fun of someone’s clothes or appearance
- bumping into someone on purpose
- using social media to spread rumors about classmates over the Internet

Many of these behaviors are quite common in friendships (especially with girls), but when they occur repeatedly to one particular victim, they constitute **bullying**.

Studies show that relational and other nonphysical forms of aggression are just as harmful as physical bullying to a student's ability to learn, grow and succeed.

If your student reports relational aggression or any other type of bullying to you or if you have any other questions or concerns please contact Mr. Lotz at 571-252-2940 or George.Lotz@lcps.org.
The Standards of Learning for music education are varied and great. Our students work on accomplishing these standards throughout the year through many activities. March is also Music in Our Schools Month. It is a month in which we celebrate having music education in our schools and reflect on its importance to the growth and development of school children. Please take some time this month to do something musical with your child! Our composer of the month for March is Modest Mussorgsky. All students will be learning about his life and music in music class, as well as listening to music composed by his. 1st grade will be putting so and mi on the music staff and singing some songs about Australia. 2nd grade is learning about instruments in the orchestra and singing on pitch. 3rd grade is continuing learning how to read music on the treble clef staff and singing partner songs. 4th and 5th grades are composing their own songs on the recorder and performing them in class. All grade levels will continue to learn about notes and rhythms, which they practice every day.

Mrs. Olejer

On March 2, Catoctin Elementary will begin their celebration of Read Across America day by dressing up as their favorite storybook characters. Students may also be visited by local community leaders willing to share their favorite read aloud books.

The Keys for Reading program will also begin on March 2. During the month of March, students will be invited to participate in this great program by simply reading three books appropriate for their particular reading level. If they do so, they will be invited to attend a free Frederick Keys game during the weekend of April 10 – 12. Each book title will need to be recorded on the official Keys for Reading bookmark that will be 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 will be on the bookmark as well. More information will follow. Keep your eyes posted!

Emily Sabetto  Krista Martino
February 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 FEBRUARY, NOT ALL CLASSES WERE ABLE PRESENT AN AWARD EACH WEEK.

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

**Kindergarten**
- Ben Molloy
- Corban Backus
- Jack Stevens
- James Nicholson
- Jonathan Gonzalez Garcia
- Jordan Garland
- Mia Vierkorn
- Naomi Bates
- Reilly Castillo Martinez
- Ronan Guin Adkins
- Yadiel Cervantes

**First Grade**
- Aidan Armistead
- Amy Harrower
- Caden Thomas
- Hudson Longendyke
- Javier Perez-Jacobs
- Jordan Wilson
- Jordyn Meade
- Kalie Brown
- Kathia Gaitan-Montoya
- Keira O'Malley
- Kylie Walsh
- Patrick Scott
- Scarlett Wyatt
- Victoria Becker
- Vivian Bogusz

**Second Grade**
- Braden Jones
- Caroline VanEpps
- Ella Malloy
- Jonathan Perez Yanez
- Kylee Pett
- Lauren Cleveland
- Layla Dashour
- Lex Libby
- Liliana Robles
- Sadie Stevens
- Silas Bates
- Stephanie Hernandez

**Third Grade**
- Abby Rivas
- Bennett Schwarting
- Daphne Holt
- Dominic Custidero
- Grace Bukowinski
- Heidi Perez
- Jared Ruggles
- Joseph O'Connor
- Kensington Daigle
- Kira Schneider
- Manuel Bermejo
- Olivia Fox
- Ruthie Dickersheid
- Stephen huff
- Tate Drupa

**Fourth Grade**
- Abby Cole
- Aidan Boyd
- Alex Van Weezendonk
- Alexa Rojo Resendiz
- Allister Costello
- Ben Covert
- Ethan Weiss
- John Newton
- Randy White
- Skyelear Schreiner
- Sofia Shingledecker

**Fifth Grade**
- Alec Baly
- Andrew Titus
- Dennis Perez Yanes
- Jamison Maddox
- Jane Cassidy
- Joey Granata
- Lily Taylor
- Matthew Groves
- Nia Coates
- Riley Schwarting
- Steve Bukowinski
- William Keppel
RESPONSIVE INSTRUCTION: Power UP

What Can Parents do to promote Reading and Math Fluency at home?

READING:
Set aside reading practice time every day. Even five minutes of reading fluency practice will help develop your child’s reading fluency.
Review basic sight words with your child to make sure that he or she knows these words automatically. Knowing these common words on sight will help improve your child’s reading accuracy and rate. For lists of basic sight words and online sight word review games, visit the Learning Abilities Books website: [http://www.gate.net/~labooks/Dolchflash.html](http://www.gate.net/~labooks/Dolchflash.html)

MATH:
Engaging in mathematical games can encourage students to explore number combinations, place value, patterns, and other important mathematical concepts.

- Playing games encourages strategic mathematical thinking as students find different strategies for solving problems and it deepens their understanding of numbers.
- Games support students’ development of computational fluency.
- Games have the potential to develop familiarity with the number system and with “benchmark numbers” – such as 10s, 100s, and 1000s and provide engaging opportunities to practice computation, building a deeper understanding of operations.
- Games provide a school to home connection. Parents can learn about their children’s mathematical thinking by playing games with them at home.
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.

AN IMPORTANT REMINDER

If you 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 doctors note.