



January 2015



Soaring to New Heights!

Up Coming events for January 2015:

- 1/5 - Students Return
- 1/5 - Six Flags Reading
Incentive Cont.
- 1/10 - Skate Night
- 1/13 - Spelling
Bee/Restaurant
Night
- 1/14 - PTA @ 7:30 AM
- 1/19 - Martin Luther
King Jr. Day - No
School
- 1/22 - Putt Putt Night
- 1/23 - End of Grading
Period and
- 1/26 - Moveable
Student Holiday

A Message from the Principal... Mrs. Jennifer Rule

Happy New Year! It is great to have everyone back from the winter break. As we begin a new year, I resolve to continue leading our staff in strengthening instruction for our students at Potowmack Elementary as well as building community connections with our families.

As a reminder, that in the event of early closing of school due to weather or other causes, each student **must** have specific instructions for getting home or to the day care provider. Please go over your plan with your child(ren). School personnel **cannot** call parents nor should parents call the school as the phone lines need to be kept open for emergencies and instructions from the central office. Reviewing your family's plan will also alleviate confusion and stress that typically come from school closings.

I wanted to send a huge thank you to all who contributed to the PTA sponsored Walk-A-Thon. All the funds raised by this event has afforded the PTA to purchase 52 Chromebooks and two carts to hold these devices. Teachers will be provided staff development in using this technology for administering tests online as well as instructing students.

Another thank you goes to the Loudoun Education Foundation for \$2,000.00 in grants that were awarded to Potowmack Elementary. All grants were made possible due to Apple Federal Credit Union and Orbital Sciences Education Foundation in

support of the LEF Teacher "Classroom" Grants Program. Thank you for supporting innovative and creative educational programs.

Regards,

Jennifer Rule, Principal



Potowmack Elementary

46465 Esterbrook Cir.
Sterling, VA 20165

Phone:
(571)434-3270

Absentee Line:
(571)434-3271

Fax:
(703)444-7526

E-mail:
Jennifer.rule@lcps.org

If, due to a disability, you need assistance to enable you to participate meaningfully in any of our school programs, please contact Jennifer Rule, principal at 571-434-3270 at least five working days prior to the activity.

We're on the Web! <http://www.lcps.org/potowmack>

Follow us on Twitter at Potowmack_ES

Potowmack Elementary School



Office 571-434-3270
Absence Line 571-434-3271
www.loudoun.k12.va.us

Pursuit of Excellence—

Known for their strength in flight, bald eagles soar above the rest as one of the most majestic creatures in the sky. With power and balance they fly miles above the earth, catching warm air currents to lift them thousands of feet into the air. Keen vision gives the eagles the ability to see far-off challenges, soaring through each pursuit with great success. With you we soar to new heights.



PBIS News - Ms. Peterson

For the month of January, the cafeteria incentive will be game day. If a class earns the incentive, students will be able to bring card games to lunch and play cards at lunch.

All classes made the cafeteria incentive for December. Mrs. Donovan's class was the December Café Class of the month. Mrs. Hazlett had the highest number of purple tickets and has Regal the Eagle visiting for January.

I encourage parents to check our outstanding citizens' bulletin board by the computer lab for our outstanding citizens.

Every Friday we pick 6 students names randomly from our collection of purple student tickets and those students are

in the soaring club that week and they spin our incentive wheel for a prize.



Library News - Dr. Copeland

The Six Flags Reading Incentive continues through January. If your child is interested in earning a free ticket to Six Flags this summer, please have your child complete the Six Flags reading log that was sent home in December. Students who read for six hours and return their completed reading log to the library by February 13th will receive a free child's admission ticket in May to be used in the summer of 2015. If you have any questions or need another copy of the reading log, please send an email to Michele.rzewskicopeland@lcps.org.

Attention 4th grade parents - students who are interested in participating in a Skype session with author Suzanne Selfours are invited to join our winter book club. Interested students will be provided with a copy of the 240 page Sasquatch Escape. Students will read the book outside of school and will participate in book club activities during FLEX during the first week of February. Participating students can bring their lunches to the library on Friday February 6th to Skype with the author about the book. Copies of the book will be provided by the school but quantities are limited, so sign up today!

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Follow us on [Twitter](#) at Potowmack_ES



Soaring Ahead....

February 2015

2 - Ground Hog
Day

3 - Bright Star
Assembly

4 - Report Cards
Go Home

11 - PTA 7:30 a.m.

13 - Six Flag
Reading Incentive
Ends and

14 - Valentine's
Day

16 - Holiday -
President's Day
- No School

25 - Interims Sent
Home/ Restaurant
Night

26 - Spring
Pictures/5th
Grade Musical

27 - PTA Winter
Carnival/Book Fair
Begins

PE News: Mrs. Thompson

Students will be using their underhand rolling skills in lifetime activities of bowling and bocce ball. They will also use their math skills in keeping their bowling scores. We will also be starting our "Eye/hand" coordination activities of juggling scarves and Speed Stack cup stacking. There will be another group order for Speed Stacks in January so your child can get the newest speed stacks to use during our Speed Stacking lessons. All students are working on exercises that strengthen their core. It would be awesome if you do these as a family physical activity. The 3 exercises are Plank, 6 inch leg lifts, and core balancing. We have gone over these exercises in class so your child should know them.

Keep Active,
Mrs. Thompson & Mr. Shockley, PMK PE

Lost and Found

The Lost and Found shelves are overflowing. If you get a chance during the month of January to check the table for missing items it would be greatly appreciated. The table is located on the hall near the cafeteria exit. These items if not claimed will be donated at the end of the month. Thank you for taking the time to reclaim these items.



Congrats to Geography Bee Winners at Potowmack Elementary

Congratulations to fourth grade student, Austin Copeland who medaled as the Potowmack Elementary School Champion in the National Geographic Bee. The Championship round took place on Thursday, December 11th with nine finalists competing for the school title. Finalists included: Sean Pandelides, Cole Hedden, Bhavya Guduru, Alex Gonzalez, Aryan Agrawal, Austin Copeland, Chinmay Vadrev, Hasita Ravula and Joseph Swarm. Austin will take a state test in order to determine eligibility for the state competition in the spring. Ms. Haidari is the school coordinator for the event. Thank you to our judges, Mrs. Askari, Ms. Mayfield and Mrs. Nodell.

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Citizenship Awards for December

*Congratulations to the following students who were recognized for outstanding citizenship for Respect,
Responsibility or Effort!*

Mrs. Shires

Rushil Khillarkar
Sharmake Abdullahi

Mrs. Mays

Riley McMahon
Victoria Vizthum
Jack Charlish
Ryan Hadeed
Aracely Lainez
Grant Segal

Ms. Carr

Kashifa Mirza
Sara Weltens
Koray Kaya
Jordan Mendoza
Brandon Thompson
Pyper Fleming

Ms. Gaudens

Isabella Si
Lucas Hawley
Madelin Maldonado

Mrs. Galvan

Ethan Engley
Juliette Regan
Kristal Alvarenga-Barrera

Mrs. Kee

Robert Tyler
David Kim
Amir Miree

Mrs. DiCarlo

Wyatt Taylor
Anelisa Moncayo
Malak Ahmed

Mrs. McDermott

Abhay Velliyatt
Paige Walsh
Sharanya Jeksaani

Mrs. Elam

Jaiya Chandra
Aidan Huchler
Natalia Morales

Mrs. Arthur

Lucas Schumann
Brennan Hytten
Taylor Holson

Miss Rupard

Grayson Brennan
James Rogerson
Grace Figueras
Nicholas Williams

Miss Turman

Aleesha Askari
Nawwaf Hannan
Lucas Carreno-Valiente

Miss Stanford

Emma Ruiz
Ruhi Desai
Braylen Alley

Ms. Richardson

Anna Claire Campbell
Nadia Herritt
Alex Obsitnik

Miss Chrisman

Sofia LoPresti
Maddox Ingram
Eason Ma

Mr. Charlish

Omar Abushaban
Aneesa Chandra
Nadia Badreddine

Mrs. Donovan

Sean Stanley
Kevin Alvarado-Arias
Destiny Zeng

Mrs. Leibach

Tony Heurtas
LJ Kirkpatrick
Kyla Lee
Fredy Nieto Gonzalez

Mrs. Thunstrom

Julian Njamen
Samantha Jansen
Macie Hadeed

Mrs. Snow

Jack Bulmer
Hailey Pan
Kevin Melgar

Ms. Shultz

Gabe Renzoni
Riti Liu
Amaya Austin

Miss Phillips

TJ Wood
Martina Peralta
Liam Reaser

Mrs. King-Worner

Carolina Cruz Rojas
Charlie Ray
Maria Massana

Miss Murray

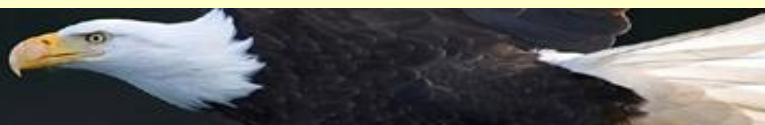
William Acevedo
Tami Altarace
Mehdiya Dewji

Mrs. Hazlett

Aryan Agarwal
Charlotte Stein
Noah Ulrich

Mr. Gall

Abagael Ibsen
Eleanor O'Connell
Jorge Torres



School Closing Information

Now that winter has settled in, please ensure that you have a plan and discuss it with your child in case the school closes early. The students should know where to go and who to contact if they are dismissed early. The classroom teacher will also have a copy of this information. If you wish to update or change the early dismissal plan please contact your child's classroom teacher.

Potowmack Elementary School

1 Hour Delay

Preschool 8:50 - 11:50

Kindergarten a.m. class 8:50 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.

PM class 11:35 a.m. - 2:35 p.m.

First - Fifth Grade - 8:50 a.m. - 2:35 p.m.

2 Hour Delay

Preschool 9:50 - 12:50

Kindergarten - a.m. class 9:50 a.m. to 11:50 p.m.

PM class 12:35 p.m. to 2:35 p.m.

First to Fifth Grade - 9:50 a.m. to 2:35 p.m.

1 Hour Early Closing

Students are dismissed at 1:35 p.m., lunch is served, and all after school activities are canceled

2 Hour Early Closing

Kindergarten - a.m. class is dismissed at 10:50 a.m.

** PM classes are canceled

Grade 1 - 5 - Dismissal is at 12:35 p.m., lunch is served early and all afternoon activities are canceled

Please stay tuned to local weather forecasts and news stations to get the most accurate information on school closings and delays.

Office Reminders The school day begins promptly at 7:50 a.m. Students MUST be in their classrooms at 7:50 a.m., arriving after that time results in an UNEXCUSED tardy, unless a doctor note is provided. Students coming in after 7:50 a.m. must be escorted by an adult. School dismisses at 2:35 p.m. Parents picking up students prior to dismissal are required to sign them out in the main office. All visitors to the building should begin their visit in the main office. Once in the office, you may sign in using the computer system located at the front counter. Any forgotten items should be brought to the office. This will cut down on interruptions to the class.

Absentee/Tardy Please call the Potowmack attendance line at **571-434-3271** or go to our web site and report the absence online if your child will be absent or late to school.

After School Plan Anytime your child has a change in his or her after school plan, please send a note in with your child in the morning. The office cannot redirect children after school on the basis of a phone call at the end of the day. An updated early dismissal form has been sent home for parents to complete. If an emergency necessitates a change during the school day, you may fax the instructions to us at (703) 444-7526.

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Teaching Technology: **DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP**

For January, we will look at *Stand up to Cyberbullying*.

According to www.stopbullying.gov, "Cyberbullying is **bullying** that takes place using electronic technology. Electronic technology includes devices and equipment such as cell phones, computers, and tablets as well as communication tools including social media sites, text messages, chat, and websites.

Examples of cyberbullying include mean text messages or emails, rumors sent by email or posted on social networking sites, and embarrassing pictures, videos, websites, or fake profiles."

Remember; bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time.

With the increased availability of digital devices, we are becoming more aware of this increased threat to our little ones.



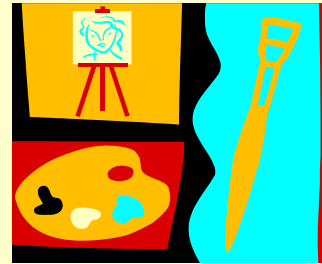
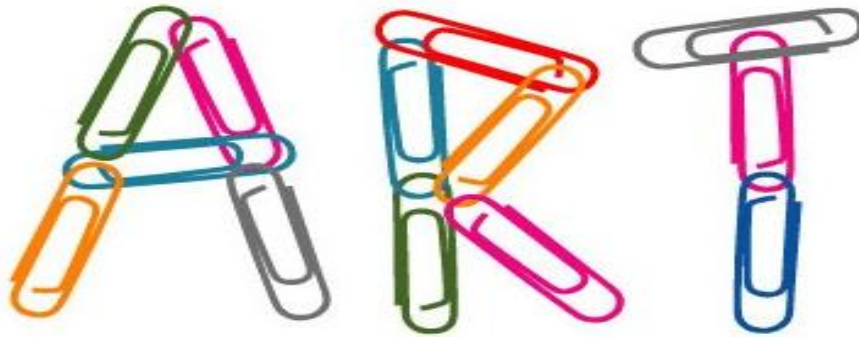
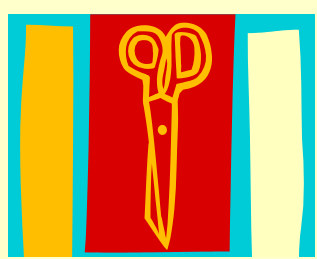
In school, we teach our students to stand up to "regular" bullies by telling them to "Stop, Walk, Talk & ENOUGH!". This is the same message that I gave students regarding cyberbullying.

The scary part of cyberbullying is that now bullies don't need to have a face, and can cower behind the face of technology. They no longer have to face their victim. Mean sentiments can be stated anonymously and from anywhere in the world. Not only can bullies do this, but it is extremely difficult to remove all comments, videos or photos once they go viral.

So what are parents to do? Simple steps such as:

- being aware of what websites your child is visiting can help deter them from visiting websites that expose them from websites with chat rooms or other areas that expose them to potential bullies.
- have a list of all passwords to sites your child visits. Making sure that your child knows that you will access their accounts when you feel the need to is a great guideline to set from the beginning.

Lastly, know what to do if your child IS being bullied online. [Stopbullying.gov](http://www.stopbullying.gov) outlines steps to take. Also know that each [state has guidelines](#) to follow.



First grade is finishing up their warm and cool colored paintings. Students learned about the warm and cool colors and created two watercolor paintings using each group of colors. We then cut up our paintings so we could weave the two together. Up next we will be jumping into clay. Students will be learning how to manipulate clay with their hands to turn it into a frog. We will learn how to create a pinch pot, coils, as well as creating a slab. Be sure to check out Artsonia for updated photos of our work.

The second graders are working on their oil pastel landscapes. Students are learning how to blend oil pastels to create a night time landscape scene. We talked about how to blend the colors together and how atmospheric perspective changes the appearance of colors in a piece. We will then be cutting our drawings up and turning them into a puzzle. Be sure to keep a look out for photos of these finished pieces!

Third grade is working finishing up their one line owl drawings. We learned how to use a sharpie to draw an image using one line and not lifting our marker up off of the page until we were finished. We are completing the piece by either color with crayons, markers or colored pencils or using watercolors. Be sure to check out Artsonia for updated images of student work. Up next we will be creating a watercolor landscape.

The fourth graders are finishing up their gargoyle pieces. They have all been fired and we are working on painting them to look like stone. When they are finished they will be displayed at school in the showcase outside the art room and photos will be taken of them and posted on Artsonia. Once these are finished we will continue to work on our abstract pumpkins, creating value with tempera paints.

Fifth grade is working on creating tessellations. We took a look at some of the first tessellations that were created and looked at works by M.C. Escher. Students got to see what tessellations are and how to create one of their own. We have just finished creating our stencil and students are currently working on finishing their piece with crayons, markers, colored pencils or paint. Be sure to check out our Artsonia page to see the finished works!

If your child is in 5th grade and would like to participate in the poster contest for the 5th grade play please have them grab an information sheet outside of the art room for further information.

Please keep a look out for information on the Original Works program from the PTA and check out our school art on the Artsonia website:

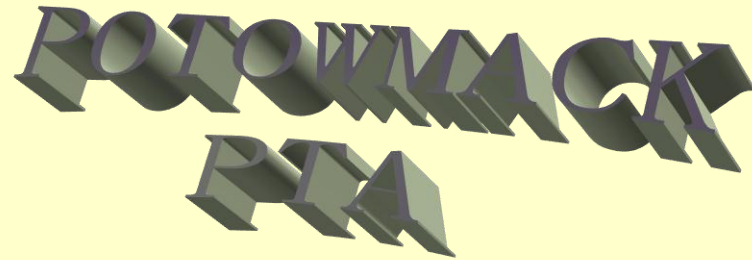
<http://www.artsonia.com/schools/school.asp?id=4128>

There is also another art contest for students to participate in. It is through David Ramadan: The contest rules state that artwork can be submitted to the art room no later than Tuesday January 6th. (I need to have the artwork turned in by January 7th). The other requirements are that the artwork be no more than 11 x 17 in size and have your name, grade and school of each student. The artwork will be returned at the end of March. If you are chosen as a winner, your artwork will be sent to the Capitol to be displayed and there will be a reception with invitations extended to parents.



Potowmack Elementary School

January 2015



We haven't seen you since last year.
HAPPY NEW YEAR!! We wish you much success for this year as you are refreshed from the winter break. As we reflect on the past few months, the PTA still have a lot to look forward to for our families. Skate night is coming, and don't forget the Winter Carnival. The winter ASP have a few new classes lined up. We look forward to seeing you at school.



Rennea Butler
PTA President

PARENTS SAY ...

A few parents have volunteered to teach new classes in the winter ASP. If you are interested in participating in our ASP Program, please contact Rennea.butler@outlook.com.

AMAZON Graciela Olivares

Did you know that Amazon gives back to schools between 4 and 6% of the total amount of your purchases? All you need to do is shop through the Amazon banner located on our PTA website

at [Amazon Potowmack Elementary!](#)
Bookmark it and share it with friends and family!! Continue to support our school and your students by shopping on Amazon.com. Click here [Amazon Potowmack Elementary](#).

PTA MEETINGS PTA Board

Guess what! The monthly PTA meetings will be held in the mornings only each month. We hope this will be more convenient for parents to attend and stay informed with the Potowmack family. The minutes of upcoming meetings are posted a few days in advance at [PTA Meeting Agenda](#). Future meeting dates are:

Jan 14
Feb 11
Mar 11
Apr 8
May 13
Jun 10

GROCERY STORE CARDS Graciela Olivares

Don't forget to link or relink your grocery card savings cards to Potowmack. This is FREE money for our school for all the shopping we do

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there anyway!!Giant: School Code 00003 Safeway: School Code Target Red Card Holders: School Code 1487Harris Teeter: School Code 7968 If you need additional information please see our PTA website with more detailed instructions on how to sign up or relink your cards online. If you have any questions, please contact Graciela Olivares at g.lucio@att.net

THE WINTER CARNIVAL

Cristina McGeehan

Come out and join us for a night of fun at our annual Winter Carnival on Friday, February 27th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

If you are interested in volunteering that evening, please contact us at wintercarnival2015@outlook.com

GREEN TEAM KIDS

Ines Perez

The Green Team presented a skit for the kindergarten class about recycle, reuse, reduce. The students were attentive and understood the concept. We look forward to the Green Team's upcoming campaign to promote energy conservation. The Green Team will accept plastic bags that you don't need. Look for drop off boxes at school soon.

PTA MEMBERSHIP

Brenda Ulrich

Membership registration remains open. Your membership dues of only \$10.00 helps to pay for video conferencing, assemblies, allotments for the staff to use in their classrooms at all levels, instructional supplies like novel sets, owl

pellets in fifth grade, embryology supplies for third grade, Scholastic newsletters and Time for Kids newspapers, fifth grade luncheon supplies, DARE supplies, butterfly supplies for second grade, art, music and p.e. supplies, field day, Doughnuts with Dad, PSO support, WATCH DOG supplies and hospitality events for the staff.

To join, just write your name, your child's name and teacher on paper. Put it in any envelope with either cash or a check made out to Potowmack PTA-label it Membership and send to school with your child. Dues are 10.00 for 1 parent or \$20 or both parents. Contact

brendaandglenn@comcast.net with any questions.

MATH INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Angie Ignazzitto

The new PTA sponsored math incentive program will be a fun, Internet-based, interactive program. The new iReady is in the works as a math incentive for the students. If you have any questions, please contact Angie Ignazzitto at Angie20165@yahoo.com or (703) 431-4860.





MSAAC

Linda Smith
Linda Ables

All are encouraged to attend the MSAAC Meeting on:
Weds. January 21, 2015 at 7PM at the Admin Bldg in Ashburn
The topic will be about diversity hiring. We will hear from the Asst. Superintendent of Personnel. Meetings are held at the Public School Administration Building in the School Board Meeting Room in Ashburn, VA.

SEAC

Jackie Baker
Danielle Bischoff

The SEAC heard from Superintendent Dr. Eric Williams about his vision for special education. He reinforced the need for consistency throughout the district while balancing school autonomy, and capacity building to achieve that consistency. He noted that SEAC and the annual report are working toward building capacity and collaboration to identify the needs of students with disabilities. The SEAC also discussed the importance of promoting independence for children with disabilities and provided transition resources for those parents.

LEAP

Denise Washington
Rennea Butler

The November topic of discussion was "The The State of the Arts and Foreign Language Education". Detailed information can be found at [Leap Minutes](#). The topic in the January meeting will be "Superintendent's

Presentation of Proposed Budget with Q&A"

IN OTHER WORDS

The 2015 – 2016 school calendar has been approved. To see the year in advance, click on [2015-2016 school calendar](#).

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

December 1: 2015 Outstanding Crossing Guard Nominations Open

Does your crossing guard know the name of every student on their route? Does your crossing guard get up before dawn to make sure each student has assistance to cross the street on their way to school? The Virginia Safe Routes to School program wants to celebrate crossing guards who make a difference in Virginia's communities. The nomination period for Outstanding Crossing Guard of the Year 2014 will begin December 1, 2014 and run through January 23, 2015. The link to nominate your crossing guard and for more information click here [Safe Routes To School](#).

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

If you are interested in volunteering, the following opportunities are available. Please contact Rennea.butler@outlook.com with questions or to sign up.

Teacher Luncheon Provide a dish for the upcoming teacher's luncheon in January. The date and theme will be provided soon.



DID YOU KNOW



Loudoun County Public Schools have an online parent resource center at [Parent Resources](#). Information include SEAC meetings,

workshop schedules, community events, and much more.

David Ramadan attended a VDOT Winter Weather Briefing. Information regarding the briefing can be reviewed here [Winter Weather Briefing](#). VDOT snow removal plan can be viewed here [Snow Removal](#).

Save your General Mills box tops. You can drop them off in the school office to be converted to cash. The money goes right back into your child's school.

PTA membership is only \$10 per person. If you want to join the PTA, please send in your fee with your child to school.

Please send any ideas and suggestions to rennea.butler@outlook.com or wendylove@mac.com

There are various ways to communicate with us at school including, but not limited to ConnectEd, PIMS, and the monthly newsletter. A complete list of communication resources will be provided soon.

EVENTS

The Assembly Team



"Everything that we see is a shadow cast by that which we do not see."

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

[My First Book Club](#)

[Cascades Library](#)

Wednesday, Jan. 14, 4:00 pm
Thomas the Tank Engine series.
For Grades K-1.

[123 Math & Science: Our Moon](#)

[Cascades Library](#)

Tuesday, Jan. 20, 4:00 pm
Registration required, begins Jan 6.
Hands-on math and science activities.
We will be looking closer at Earth's natural satellite, the Moon. For Grades 3-5.



Jan 5 Classes resume
Jan 10 Skate night
Jan 14; 7:30 am PTA meeting

Jan 19 Martin Luther King holiday
Jan 20 Winter ASP begins
Jan 20 Restaurant night – Chik-fil-a
Jan 22; 6:00 pm Putt Putt
Jan 26 Movable student holiday
Feb 3 Bright Star assembly