

January/February 2017



Sugarland Elementary Wildcat News

A MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

As we progress through January, we find ourselves at the halfway mark of the school year. We have had a wonderful first half, and look forward to all our students working hard throughout the rest of the school year. Please help your child continue to focus on their school work and homework routines at home. It is important to maintain a consistent routine with a quiet place for children to complete their studies and develop good study skills. It is also important to make sure students are present at school each day. Please reach out to the teachers if you have any questions about what else can be done at home to help.

We hope to see you at one of the many events we have this month. Our next PTO meeting is February 1 at 6:30 pm in our library and we would love to see you there to catch up on the good things our PTO is doing. We are also excited about our first staff volleyball game against the staff at Meadowland on February 16th. This event will be held at Seneca Ridge Middle School and will start at 5:00 pm. We would love to have you join us as well.

Please help us congratulate this year's Sugarland Spelling Bee Champion, Samuel Melaku. He will move on to participate in the county-wide competition on March 2nd. A special thanks to all our participants this year. It was a wonderfully competitive event.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY EVENTS AT SUGARLAND

Jan. 26	Family Science Night
Jan. 27	No Sale Yard Sale
Jan. 27	No School
Feb. 1	PTO meeting
Feb. 3	Chuck E. Cheese Night
Feb. 7	SOL Parent Night
Feb. 8	5 th grade Cluster concert
Feb. 9	5 th grade band interest meeting at SRMS
Feb. 10	Afternoon At the Movies featuring the movie Trolls

2016-17 LCPS School Calendar

August 29 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
September 5 Holiday (Labor Day)
October 10 Holiday (Columbus Day)
November 4 End of First Grading Period
November 7-8 Student Holiday (Planning/Records/Conference Days)
November 23-25 Holiday (Thanksgiving)
December 22 - January 2 WINTER BREAK
January 3 Classes Resume
January 16 Holiday (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)
January 26 End of Second Grading Period
January 27 **MOVEABLE STUDENT HOLIDAY**** (Planning/Records/Conference Day)
February 20 Holiday (Presidents' Day)
April 6 End of Third Grading Period
April 7 Student Holiday (Planning/Records/Conference Day)
April 10-14 SPRING BREAK
May 29 Holiday (Memorial Day)
June 9 Last Day of School for Students/End of Fourth Grading Period

Sugarland Elementary School

65 Sugarland Run Drive ♦ Sterling, VA 20164 ♦ Telephone 571.434.4460 ♦ Fax 703.444.7463
Absentee Line 571.434.4461

Sugarland Elementary School website: www.lcps.org/sugarland

Principal: Dr. Gail Brady
Assistant Principal: Mr. Tim Sparbanie

Bookkeeper: Mrs. Karen Cole
Attendance Secretary: Mrs. Netzy Cossio

Music Notes

In music this month, 5th grade students are preparing for their transition to middle school in many musical ways!

On Wednesday, February 8th, 5th graders will join their peers from Horizon, Lowes Island and Meadowland Elementary Schools at Dominion's annual cluster concert. There, the students will share the stage with student musicians from Seneca Ridge Middle School and Dominion High School.

On Thursday, February 9th, 5th graders interested in taking band or orchestra next year will have the opportunity to attend SRMS's band and orchestra night. This event will give every student the opportunity to try various band and orchestra instruments before making their course selection in music class later in the month.

--Mrs. Blum-Marciano



Technology

During the month of January, students will begin the Hour of Code. Every student should have the chance to learn computer science, just like any other subject. The kids are definitely excited about this opportunity. Each grade level will focus on a particular course according to their coding ability. I am eager to inspire students to become the minds behind computer programs

-- Ms. McCord

Art Events

March 8th will be our cluster Art show at Dominion High School. Join us for an "Evening with the Arts" to see artwork and musical and theatrical performances from Elementary, Middle and High School students.

-- Mr. Maier



Library News

In the library, students will be busy learning, researching, and reading. Activities will include: first grade creating their own books and turning them into short videos to share; second grade writing and performing "Little Red Hen" plays; third grade researching wild animals; fourth grade learning about weather and preparing weather forecasts; and fifth creating an Ocean Zones exhibit and exploring atlas information.

Each week students also select a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction books to take home. Look for these books in your child's backpack. Be sure to ask them about their choices and read with them!

-Mrs. Grim



STEAM LAB

The STEAM lab has been very busy this month! Our students have been able to practice coding with Ozobots! Soon, they will create more complex codes using the Ozobot app and using the robots for classroom projects. Don't forget that this Thursday, January 26th is our Family Science Night from 6-8. Bring your families for an evening of cool science demonstrations. Over the next couple of months, grade levels will be working on different STEAM projects to showcase later in the school year. At this time, the lab could use donations of empty, **small glass mason jars or containers** for a third grade project. Don't forget to check our Twitter page: @SugSteam



Keeping up with PE

Basketball is underway. The basketball program consists of clinics during PE classes that concentrate on the fundamentals of basketball. Skill work consists of passing, dribbling and shooting. Students learn the rules and fundamentals of Basketball. The Sugarland Basketball Program is made up of 4 girls teams and 4 boys teams of 10 players for each team. Parents are invited to come to the games. Feel free to contact Mr. Cortes (victor.cortes@lcps.org) if you have any question or concerns.

Notes from the School Counselor

Character Trait for January/February:

Trustworthy

Students are reviewing this character trait in guidance lessons.

We will also be beginning our Career Lessons this month in Kindergarten – third grade.

We are reviewing strategies to be a good friend and to avoid Bullying in Grades 4 and 5.

NO SALE YARD Sale January 27. 10:00AM-11:00AM in the cafeteria

Counseling Groups

Ms. Fore will be sending home interest forms for counseling groups. Please return the form if you are interested in a counseling group for your child.

Comcast Internet and Laptops Available

Students who qualify for Free Lunch may also qualify for a discounted internet price, just \$9.95 per month. Laptops are also available as at discount for \$149.99.

Please call Comcast for more information 1-855-846-8376



BIRTHDAYS

Parents, we have received a very generous offer from a donor to help us celebrate students' birthdays. If you celebrate birthdays, and would like for your child to participate, please let us know. Parents will receive a gift card for a birthday cake so please contact me the week before the birthday.



The Backpack Buddy Program provides food every weekend for families.

Contact Ms. Foré for more information.

Reduced or Free Dental Care:

Loudoun County Health Department Children's Dental Clinic

102 Heritage Way, Suite 101

Call 703-771-5959 for more information about eligibility process



Responsibility Winners



Priscila Martinez
Hannah Hillman
Elaynie Sanchez-Canales
Jasmine Taylor
Jeffrey Argueta
Jason Ochoa Reconos
Herson Gamez
Samuel Mengers
Josselyn Guerrero
Daniela Castillo
Adrianna Fedak
Alexa De La O
Kingston Casey
Kayla McLendon

Kayla McLendon
Flavia Galeb-Ferrufino
Rachel Funes
Brian Reyes Villatoro
Ethan Mam
Shadia Galeb -Ferrufino
Roberto Alvarado-Abarca
Ethan Mengers
Josue Ramos-Zelaya
Edmund Clinch
Bryan Martinez
Yousuf Shehzad

Reading Team



The following was taken from an article for parents entitled, “Recognizing Reading Problems.” Learning to read is a challenge for many kids, but most can become good readers if they get the right help. Parents have an important job in recognizing when a child is struggling and knowing how to find help. Here are some signs to look for and things to do if you suspect your child is having trouble reading.

What to look for:

- * Difficulty rhyming
- * Difficulty hearing individual sounds
- * Difficulty following directions
- * Difficulty re-telling a story
- * Struggles to sound out most words
- * Avoids reading aloud

If you feel your child may have difficulty with reading here are 2 steps you can do:

Step 1: Meet with your child’s teacher. Set up a conference to talk about your concerns. Ask the teacher for observations and discuss what can be done at home and what can be done at school. Keep in touch with the teacher to monitor progress.

Step 2: If after some time, your child’s performance doesn’t improve, ask to meet with other professionals, such as the reading specialist to see if there are other interventions available.

What a powerful team you will form, as you work together to make learning to read a joyful experience!

Sugarland Spelling Bee

The Sugarland Spelling Bee was held on January 23rd. Nine 5th grade students, who won their classroom spelling bees, competed in this exciting event that was broadcast live to the classrooms. The students were: Yousuf Shehzad, Katherine Garcia, Kyle Pettengill, Ethan Massey, Ashley Lopez, Vaughan Juhasz, Aylin Ramirez, Emily Gutierrez, Sammy Melaku. We had two runners up, Vaughan Juhasz and Yousuf Shehzad. Our winner was Samuel Melaku. Samuel won after 22 rounds of spelling. He will represent Sugarland at the Loudoun Regional Spelling Bee on March 2 at 6:30 p.m.

Yearbooks – Order one now!

**Sugarland Students can pre-order a
2016-17 Sugarland Yearbook Now!**

The yearbook will feature:

- **Student, staff and class photos**
- **Photos of clubs and sports**
- **Photos of special events**
- **And more!**



TWO WAYS TO ORDER:

1. Purchase your Sugarland Yearbook Online!

It's Fast, Safe, and Easy! Go to: ybpay.lifetouch.com

Enter school code: **12754617**

Follow prompts and pay with your credit card

Online ordering Questions? YBPay Customer Care 800-453-9764

2. Purchase your Sugarland Yearbook online, or with cash or check.

A Reminder from Loudoun County Public Schools

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. Children are permitted to share Valentine's Day cards with each other, but they cannot give out candy.

Information from Our Parent Liaison

Community Board

Starting in February, we will have a community board on the wall by the front entrance of our school. This board is meant to be a resource where our school's families can post or look for information within the community. For example, if you are renting a room and need to find a tenant, or you are looking for a place to rent you can post here. Perhaps you provide childcare and someone else is looking for a provider. These are all things that can be posted on this board. This is meant to help circulate news of the community for our families. If you are interested in posting, please give information to Mrs. Andrade.



PBIS – Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports

Sugarland students are continuing to work hard on the three R's at school. Being Responsible, Respectful, and Ready to learn. The big paw prints in the hallway are on their way to reaching the fourth reward which will be "Pajama Day". Did you know your child can earn small paw prints individually? Every week we recognize students from each classroom for earning small paw prints in class. They get a special prize and their name on the morning announcements. Please keep encouraging your child do to their very best every day in all areas of our school. We look forward to seeing our big paw prints reach all the way around the school by the end of the year!