



The Howler

Winding Creek
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

April, 2012

Volume 6, Issue 8

April

Highlights:

- Apr 2 Past, Present & Future Day
- Apr 3 **No School**
Teacher Workday
- Apr 4 Hawaiian Day
- Apr 5 2:00 DARE Graduation

Favorite Movie or TV Character Day
- Apr 6 **1:30 Early Dismissal**
- Apr 9-13 **No School**
Spring Break
- Apr 17 CiCi's Pizza Night
- Apr 19 5th Grade Field Trip to Middle Schools
- Apr 20 Report Cards go home
- Apr 23 5th Grade Field Trip to Monticello

Kindergarten Field Trip to Rappahannock
- Apr 27 Spring Dance 6:30-8:30

A Note from Mr. Bolles

Dear Parents,



The sun is shining, temperatures are rising, and spring is in the air. I hope everyone is enjoying the warmer weather. March was a busy month. The PTO coordinated our Third Annual Fun Run at Rodney Thompson on Saturday, March 10th. We had 5K, 1 mile, and 300 yard runs and Wolfie made an appearance. Thanks so much to Kristyn Hoy and Michelle Pounders for coordinating the entire affair and thanks to all the parent volunteers who made it possible. The Fine Arts Festival was on March 17th and 18th at Brooke Point High School. Mrs. Leatherwood worked tirelessly to get ready for the show. Our art work was amazing, exceptionally well presented and on display for all to see! Also, Mr. Santulli continued in his role as coordinator of the 3rd grade all county musical performance on Saturday morning (eight 3rd graders from each elementary school). The African Ensemble played Saturday afternoon to rave reviews.

Winding Creek had three Destination Imagination (DI) teams that we sent to Richmond on March 3rd to compete in the regional competition. Two of our teams placed and moved on to the State competition on Saturday, March 31st outside of Charlottesville. Our fifth grade team, the "Pudding People of the Solar Express", placed first and is eligible to participate in the national competition in Knoxville, Tennessee. Way to go DI teams!

We had our fifth grade dance on Friday, March 16th and it was a great time. Thanks so much to Ms. St. Laurent, Mrs. Scott, and Ms. Ruchelman, as well as the 5th grade teachers for making it all happen. A special shout out to Mr. Olson and his class for their coordinated dance moves... totally awesome! We are all looking forward to our Spring Dance on April 27th.

The year is flying by and our current PTO board members are at the end of their term and we are looking for new faces to step forward and continue in this important and very rewarding opportunity by making a difference in your child's school. Look for nomination letters to come home soon from the PTO. Elections will be held at the general membership meeting Monday, May 14 at 7:00 p.m.

As the third quarter comes to a close, we are beginning to plan for next year. Appropriate placement and the creation of classes is a key to a successful year for all students. Your voice is important to us in this decision process. We have included in this newsletter a form called "Parent Input Form 2012-2013." If you have any special concerns or have information relevant to your child's placement next year – please fill out this form and return it prior to May 24th.

Elliot F. Bolles
Principal



Word of the Month:
Cooperation

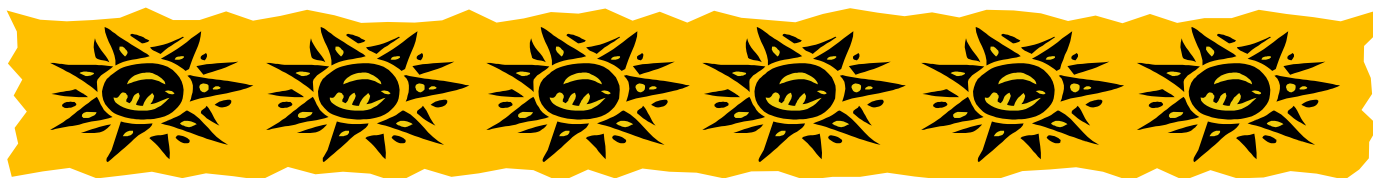


APRIL 2012

WORD OF THE MONTH

Cooperation

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Past, Present or Future Day	3 No School (Teacher Workday)	4 Hawaiian Day SOL Tutoring 4-5	5 Favorite Movie or TV Character Day 2:00 DARE Graduation	6 1:30 Early Dismissal All Out Spirit Day	7
8	9 <i>Spring Break</i> →	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 CiCi's Pizza Night 5:00-8:00 SOL Tutoring 4-5	18 SOL Tutoring 4-5	19 5th Grade Field Trip to Middle Schools	20 Report Cards go home	21
22	23 5th Grade Field Trip to Monticello Kindergarten Field Trip to the Rappahannock	24 SOL Tutoring 4-5	25 7:00 p.m. Performance of "Beware of Greeks With Cupcakes" SOL Tutoring 4-5	26	27 PTO Spring Dance 6:30-8:30	28
29	30					



P.E. News

Happy Spring so far; even with the up and down temperatures outside!
In Physical Education class we are trying to enjoy the days of warmer weather and clear skies!

Our 3rd annual wolf pack fun mile run and 5K was held on Saturday, March 10 and was another huge success! Thank you so much to our Winding Creek PTO for the awesome job they did organizing and operating the race! It was such a delight to see the great participation especially in the cold, windy weather. We look forward to our 4th annual running event already!

Congratulations to the following classes who have earned the Golden Running Shoes in March: Mrs. Meadows' and Mrs. Burgess' 4th graders, Mrs. Solis' and Mrs. Smith's 2nd graders, and Mrs. Bodnarchuk's 3rd graders.

Although April may bring us showers, we look forward to activities such as throwing stations, striking games, the Rainbow and Rabbit Runs. In class, we will also be able to run laps on the track this spring so that students can earn new prizes. Our prizes include sunglasses, sport bags, Frisbees, sport watches, and medals. We will prepare our 4th and 5th graders for fitness testing in the beginning of May too. Our annual Field Day event will take place towards the end of May.



Enjoy your Spring break in April!

Mr. Mytrysak and Mrs. Winkels
P.E. Teachers

Winding Creek SOL Testing Schedule for Spring 2012

GRADE	DAY/DATE	SUBJECT
3rd	Tuesday, May 15	Reading (Part I)
3rd	Wednesday, May 16	Reading (Part II)
3rd	Friday, May 18	Math
3rd	Wednesday, May 23	History
3rd	Thursday, May 31	Science
4th	Tuesday, May 15	Reading (Part I)
4th	Wednesday, May 16	Reading (Part II)
4th	Monday, May 21	Math
4th	Wednesday, May 30	History
5th	Monday, May 14	Reading
5th	Thursday, May 17	History
5th	Tuesday, May 22	Math
5th	Thursday, May 24	Science

This schedule is a reminder to parents regarding upcoming Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) testing. Parents are asked to ensure children are in school, on time (by 9:00) on testing dates. We ask that students are well rested and prepared to do their very best on each test.

Testing is being done on computers. Once a testing session has begun, there cannot be any interruptions until everyone is finished testing. Therefore, we respectfully ask parents to refrain from scheduling appointments on testing dates. If your child is absent due to illness, they will complete a make-up test as soon as we can get it scheduled, but it must be within the state-wide testing window.

If you have any questions regarding SOLs, you can ask either your child's teacher, Mrs. Hall or Mr. Bolles.

Music News



Winding Creek ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Music Ensemble Rehearsal and Performance Dates - 2010 /2011

Current as of 3/28/2012

(all dates are subject to change)

Th 5/10	Ensemble Concert @WCES (Chorus, Orff, African, and Recorder).....7:00 PM
Fri 5/11	End rehearsals for Chorus, Recorder, and 4 th Gr Orff. 5 th Gr Orff and African Continue.
Sun 5/20	African Ensemble @ Marine Corps Half Marathon.....TBD
W 5/16	African Ensemble @ Colonial Forge Percussion Concert7:00 PM
T 6/19	African Ensemble @ Greenfield Senior Living.....10:00 AM-12:30

Please keep in mind that this schedule can and will be changed as new performance opportunities or scheduling conflicts arise. This is especially true for the African Ensemble, which performs at various locations in the community. Please check our website for the latest changes and updates:

www.tinyurl.com/wcesmusic

Nurse Notes



Attention Parents of Rising 6th Grade Students

The following are additional immunization requirements of rising sixth grade students:

- **A Tdap (Diphtheria, Pertussis, and Tetanus) booster is required of students enrolling in grade six.** This vaccination may be listed as T, Td, DTaP, and/or Tdap and should be within the last five years. Tdap can be given to student's age 10 or 11. Multiple vaccine preparations are available, if your health care provider does not carry the preparation for your student's age, you may call the health department for an appointment.
- **A HPV (Human Pappillomavirus) vaccine is recommended for girls entering 6th grade.** If the parent/guardian opts not to have his/her daughter vaccinated, the school division will not require parents/guardians to sign a waiver form and no documentation is needed. Sixth-grade girls who do not have proof of HPV vaccine administration will not be excluded from school.

Should you need assistance in obtaining the necessary immunizations for your child and/or health records, please call your child's physician or the Stafford County Health Department at (540) 659-3101. The Stafford County Health Department offers free immunizations every Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., appointments are required. **Proof of required vaccinations is needed at your elementary school prior to the last day of school or to your middle school by August 1st.**

STAFFORD COUNTY HEAD START
Melchers Complex, 610 Gayle Street
Fredericksburg, VA 22405
(540) 368-2559

**HEAD START/
VIRGINIA PRESCHOOL INITIATIVE PROGRAM
NOW ENROLLING**

Stafford County Head Start/Virginia Preschool Initiative Program is now accepting applications for the 2012-2013 school year. Head Start is a free, full-day preschool program, which offers children an exciting curriculum, a stimulating learning environment and an excellent teaching staff. Transportation, meals and supplies are provided. This program is open to children who are 3 or 4 years of age by September 30, 2012, live in Stafford County, and meet the federal income-eligibility guidelines. Enrollment is available to children regardless of race, sex, creed, national origin, or handicapping condition. The Head Start program encourages the active recruitment of children with special needs. If you or someone you know would like to know more about Head Start, please call (540) 368-2559 for more information.

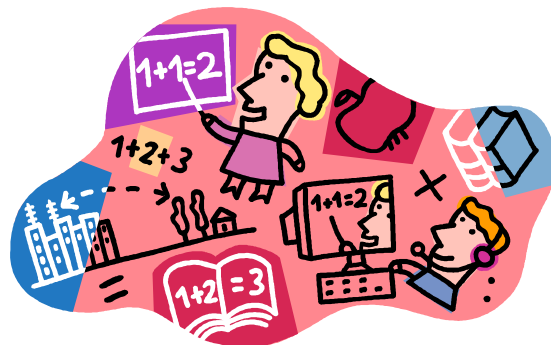
Math Corner

Mark your calendars for **SciMaTech Night** on Thursday, May 3 from 5:30-8:00 p.m. Join us for a showcase of student projects and an action-packed night of hands-on activities integrating math, science and technology. We hope to see you there!

Looking for ways to help out with math homework? Here are a few questions to support your child's thinking.

Parent Questions to Support Math Homework:

- What do you already know?
- What are you trying to find out?
- What words or directions are confusing to you?
- Can you draw a picture or make a diagram?
- How could you organize the information?
- What have you tried so far?
- Do you have similar problems to look at?
- Do you notice any patterns?
- Is there a more efficient strategy?
- How do you know your solution is reasonable?
- What would happen if...?
- How can you convince me your answer makes sense?



Sarah Durkin
Math Specialist

The Art Scene



Kindergarten has been working on a paper collage artwork featuring a vase full of colorful flowers. This project has been the longest and most involved artwork thus far this year. They are turning out wonderful and just in time for Spring.

First graders have created an artwork inspired by the book "If the Dinosaurs Return." We painted skyscrapers and added colorful dinosaurs! Next, we began learning about the color spectrum and ROY G BIV – an acronym for the colors and the order of the colors in the rainbow. Their rainbow paintings are simply wonderful!

Second graders have experimented with painting Chinese characters using a bamboo brush! We have started a bamboo painting, as well, and you will see some Pandas coming home too! China is a lot of fun to learn about and so is the artwork inspired by Chinese culture.

Third, fourth and fifth graders have been diligently working on the tile mural which is on schedule to be installed over Spring Break by John Levesque of J.E.L. Tile. The mural will have large panels featuring four ecosystems. Students drew their ideas for each of the ecosystems in the size of the large panels, and I used as many of their drawings as I could combine into each large panel. The drawings were so wonderful that I could have created a huge mural for each ecosystem! Next, the drawings were transferred on to the tiles and the painting began! After painting of the tiles was completed, I glazed and fired the tiles. Border tiles were previously painted by the younger grades. Kindergarten painted striped tiles which create a lovely pattern. First graders used their fingers to paint flowers and second graders painted insects to continue the ecosystem theme. Once installed, the Ecosystem Mural will be a permanent addition of Community Art to our school!

Mrs. Leatherwood
Art Teacher

Lost & Found



If you are visiting the school, please stop by the Lost & Found area located in the hallway near the cafeteria. Check out the large collection of jackets, sweatshirts and hoodies — and hopefully find that missing item you have been looking for!

All unclaimed items will be donated to charity.

Focus on Learning

March Math Problem Solving Contest Results

3rd Grade

5 Correct

Tyler Shelton
Keelan Crane
Isabella Kulstad
Aubrey Isaacs
Paityn Walker
Michael Arner

4 Correct

Ryan Barnette
Kyle Deguzman
Mary Ellen Schuster
Aiden Hollister
Jaedia Rodgers
Mackenzie Reynolds
Lauryn Schiffrin
Jacob Kitchen
Kelsey Skees
Brianna Valerio
Annemarie Hanville

4th Grade

5 Correct

Cassie Ratliff
Genevieve Jones

4 Correct

Rebecca Chung
Andrew Hunter
Lexie Gaston
Sydney Mayer
Cameron Close
Julia Hale
Daniel Jung
Zachary Leigh
Andrew Rusnak
Javier Britt
Emily Hogan

5th Grade

6 Correct

Cole Ramos

5 Correct

John Ratkowiak

4 Correct

Isabel Dashtizad
Adam Pratte
Brandon Henderson



Just a reminder... individual spring portraits were sent home for your review. If you wish to purchase any of the pictures, please send in a check made payable to Lifetouch. If you do not want to purchase the pictures please return them to school. Thank you!









We are looking for donations of gently used clothes, especially shorts. Sometimes students come to the office looking for a change of clothes after spilling something during lunch, or after landing in a mud puddle during recess.



WCES School Spirit Week

April 2-6, 2012

Get Creative -- Dress up Week is HERE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Monday	<p>Past, Present, Future Day</p> <p>(historical person, someone from the present, or your future school, career, or goal)</p> 
Tuesday	<p>---- No School ----</p> <p>Great day to  get those Spirit Week ideas going!</p>
Wednesday	<p> Hawaiian Day</p> <p>Flowers, flip flops, leis, grass skirts</p>
Thursday	<p>Favorite movie  or TV character</p> <p>See if your friends can guess who you are!</p>
Friday	<p>~*~*~*~*~* ALL OUT day ~*~*~*~*~*</p> <p>Mismatched, backwards, crazy hair, Fun hats, crazy socks, Wolf wear, anything goes</p> <div></div>

The National Museum of the Marine Corps Presents



Celebration of the Military Child



Contact:
Marti Vose
(703) 784-4464

Saturday April 14th
12 - 3 PM

LEGO Models,
Crafts, **Activities**,

Puppet Shows,
Book **Readings**,

Bubbles and **MORE!**

Information and activity tables presented by
community organizations, including Families
Overcoming Under Stress (F.O.C.U.S.)

National Museum of the Marine Corps
18900 Jefferson Davis Hwy
Triangle, VA 22172
www.usmcmuseum.org
(877) 635-1775

Winding Creek Elementary

Kindergarten Registration

Take that important first step for your child and register now!



In order to register, you will need:

Child's original birth certificate

Child's social security card (optional)

Proof of residency (i.e. utility bill, lease, or sales agreement)

Enrolling parent's photo ID

Note: A certificate of immunization and a copy of the physical examination must be submitted by June 29.

Hours of registration are 9:00-3:00 Monday-Friday.
Elementary staffing is based on student enrollment and kindergarten is a big piece of our overall enrollment. The earlier you register your child, the sooner we are able to find the best teachers for our children.

For more information call:
(540) 658-6400

Moving?



If you will be moving at the end of this school year, please let us know!

Fill out the information below and return it to the school office.

Student Name(s)

Teacher's Name

Please check one:

____ We will be moving to another school within Stafford County.

School Name: _____

____ We will be moving out of county, but still in state.

City/County moving to: _____

Circle One: Public School Private School DOD School

____ We will be moving out of Virginia.

City/State moving to: _____

Circle One: Public School Private School DOD School

____ We will be moving out of the country.

Circle One: Public School Private School DOD School

Please call the office to arrange for pick up date to hand carry records.

Parent Signature _____

Date _____

Counseling at the Creek

Winding Creek Elementary
Ms. St. Laurent and Mrs. Jones

Wrapping Up!

5th Graders—It is hard to believe that April is here already! When the middle school forms start rolling in, we know that it is time to begin the process of bidding farewell to our “Rising 6th Graders”. Middle school forms have started coming home and students are making choices about electives for next year. If you have questions about the transition to middle school, please let us know.

April 19th, all 5th graders will have an opportunity to visit the middle school in their district. The same night, parents are encouraged to attend orientation night. Soon after that, expect many

forms to come home. We would like to encourage you to let your 5th grader take the lead on exploring the different electives and making sure forms get turned in on time. This is excellent practice for being more responsible and independent in middle school.

Be watching for an elective form and a Middle School Course Catalog after the April 19th trip. Please contact us with any questions. Although you may also contact the middle schools, be aware that they are still contending with their current students. We are usually prepared to answer most inquiries about middle schools and electives.

Small Groups

Mrs. Jones and Ms. St. Laurent have been conducting groups with a number of students to work on skills and learn ways to cope with life's stresses and changes. We are entering the last set of groups for this year. If

you would like your child to be in a small group for a particular issue, please let us know.

Summer is a great time to pursue private services for issues that we have less time to address during the school year.

If you would like a referral to a private therapist or for a group for social skills or any topic, please let us know, and we will do our best to search for some resources.

Students in Grades K-4 have been working on skills including Kelso's Choices and Assertiveness. Mrs. Jones and Ms. St. Laurent are in classrooms every third week, so ask your students what they are learning in Guidance!

Spring 2012



Important Dates:

- ◆ April 19th—Middle school field trips for 5th graders during school day.
- ◆ April 19th—Middle school orientations for Parents Only at middle schools.

Winding Creek Elementary School

Parent Input for Student Placement

2012-2013 SCHOOL YEAR

We are already looking forward to the next school year. Each child is considered individually in order to make the best placement possible. We value parental input as we formulate our placement lists. **Parents who wish to share information regarding their child's placement may fill out this form and return it to the school office by Thursday, May 24th.**

In order to maintain the integrity of our county's policy of heterogeneous grouping, we will not honor requests for individual teachers by name. However, you may request the teaching style that you feel would work best for your child. **If you do not want a specific teacher (no more than one), please write that in the comments section.**

Working together I know we will create a positive learning environment for all our students.

Elliot F. Bolles, Principal

Child's Name: _____ Grade ('12-'13): _____

Special needs of my child (e.g. strengths, weaknesses, etc.):

1. _____

2. _____

Teaching styles/practices which best meet my child's needs:

1. _____

2. _____

Additional Services (FOCUS, Special Ed., Counselor Groups) _____

If possible, please separate my child from: _____

(Student's Name)

Comments: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Please return this form as soon as possible (NO LATER than Thursday, May 24, 2012)