



THE BUGLE

MT. BETHEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1210 Johnson Ferry Road • Marietta, GA 30068 • 770-578-7248 • <http://mtbethel.blogs.com>
Georgia School of Excellence • National School of Excellence • Georgia Platinum Award

Volume XLIV Issue IV
November/December 2016

Jessica Appleyard
Principal

Kim Wimberly
Carrie Pruitt
PTA Co-Presidents

REFLECTIONS

Thank you to all who participated in the annual PTA Reflections program! We were thrilled to receive 50 wonderful submissions this year. ALL children who participated are invited to join us for a celebration on **Friday, January 13th at 8:00am** at Mt Bethel. Parents are invited to attend to see the children receive their certificates and medals.

We are proud of all of our students and excited to announce the following students who were chosen as winners in their grade and category. The county-level winners will be announced in December!

Kindergarten

Simran P 1st place Dance
Gabriella B 1st place Music
Steven J 1st place Visual Arts
Bianca T 2nd place Visual Arts

1st Grade

Eve Z 1st place Literature
Alexis P 1st place Photography
Ashley H 2nd place Visual Arts
Eve Z 1st place Visual Arts

2nd Grade

Harper C 1st place Literature
Aryana B 2nd place Literature
Aryana B 1st place Music
Aashray A 1st place Photography
Angela W 1st place Visual Arts
Aashray A 2nd place Visual Arts
Brady Z 3rd place Visual Arts

3rd Grade

Riley K 1st place Dance
Andrew C 1st place Visual Arts
Arman S 2nd place Visual Arts

4th Grade

Madeline B 1st place Music
Sam L 1st place Photography
Lauren K 2nd place Photography
Lauren K 1st place Visual Arts
Sanjana K 2nd place Visual Arts
Claire J 3rd place Visual Arts

5th Grade

Owen E 1st place Film
Aayush C 1st place Literature
Vince H 1st place Music
Owen E 1st place Photography
Kasey W 2nd place Photography
Chloe M 1st place Visual Arts
Jennifer H 2nd place Visual Arts
Alexa S 3rd place Visual Arts

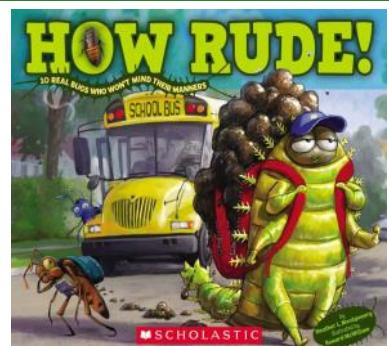
CONGRATULATIONS !

VISITING AUTHOR

On January 18th, 19th, and 20th, Heather Montgomery will be visiting Mt. Bethel to share how she has turned her fascination of all things creepy-crawly into a career as a bestselling children's author of science and nature books.

Heather's presentations are designed to engage young minds and motivate hesitant writers as she explores topics ranging from snake tongues to snail poop. Heather will share with the students her nonfiction titles, including How Rude, Real Bugs Who Won't Mind Their Manners and Unsolved Mysteries of Nature.

Questions? Email visitauthors@mtbethel.org.



The Bugle is prepared, printed, and paid for with PTA funds.

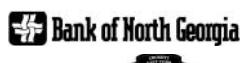
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PARTNERS IN EDUCATION



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

How is it possible that we are half way through the academic school year and knocking on the door to 2017? We have accomplished a great deal and are so proud of our school, students, staff and community! We've had the opportunity to celebrate, reflect, refine, and set the course for visioning to the rest of the year and into our priorities for the future. Below are just a few aspects that we think make MT. BETHEL the embodiment of our mission EXCELLENCE IN ACTION.

Many volunteers and supporters. The number of hours spent by our volunteers is astronomical! Parents, grandparents, community volunteers, and the support from our PTA and Foundation positively impact our students every minute of every day!

Teachers and staff who are committed and caring. Every member of our staff and the Cobb County School District as a whole: teachers, paraprofessionals, office staff, cafeteria workers, custodians, bus drivers and administration are committed to ensuring an emotionally and physically safe environment where learning can take place at high levels. We are ONE TEAM with ONE GOAL: STUDENT SUCCESS!

Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Status based on high achievement. This designation is earned by less than ½ of one percent of all schools in the nation. This was Mt.Bethel's second time earning the award – the first was in 1985. The pep rally and celebration was a tremendous display of school spirit and pride and a unique opportunity to have all of our students to be together and to cheer for the Buccaneers!

Exemplary training for our staff. It is a goal to have the best-trained teachers delivering the best instruction to all of our students. This is not possible without continuous job-embedded professional learning which is made possible by both our PTA and Foundation. The PTA facilitates our Trained Parent Volunteer program that enables teachers to work collaboratively as a team and with our literacy/professional learning expert, Jill Hawes, for two hours every month. Through this release time, teachers work on how to best differentiate for each child – determining what their learning needs are and planning strategies to provide specific skills and instruction. Our Foundation provides funding to support literacy initiatives, to ensure all of our Kindergarten and First Grade teachers along with our small group teachers are receiving intensive training in Orton-Gillingham Multi-Sensory Phonics instruction. We are seeing the strategies and skills applied in classrooms and making a difference to our youngest learners. Also thanks to Foundation funding, large cadre of teachers is mid-way through gifted endorsement training and is learning how to incorporate multiple learning styles, how to provide additional academic rigor, and to activate higher order thinking skills for every student.

Tangible enthusiasm, engagement and excitement. Visits to classrooms are marked by a genuine feeling of enthusiasm for learning as students are engaged and excited to share what they are learning. Buccaneer pride is evident in every aspect of our culture!

High-spirited neighbors at Tritt Elementary who joined us in our goal to KICK CANCER TO THE CURB. Tritt accepted the challenge to play in this year's kickball game, and together, we raised \$11,500 for the Rally! Foundation to help fund cancer research!

Experiences that address the needs of the whole child – through PE, Art, Music, Technology and STEM. Our specialists provide instruction that allows students to shine in areas outside of academics and to build on their passions. With the new rotation schedule this year in first through fifth grades, students were able to engage more deeply in the specials areas!

Love and pride in our school and community. People do not end up at Mt. Bethel by accident. They make a conscious decision to move into this area and live or work here. The history of academic excellence coupled with a genuine sense of community and pride in our students is pervasive. Our school is also a happy place that values laughter and fun coupled with hard work. What an honor it is to be a Buccaneer! YOU are truly a gift to our school and we are grateful!

May this holiday season bring you and your loved ones time to connect, to share in rich traditions, to make new traditions, We look forward to seeing what the new year brings for our Buccaneers!

With much gratitude,

Jessica Appleyard
Jessica Appleyard, Principal

Faith Harmeyer
Faith Harmeyer, Assistant Principal (3-5)

Maria Clark
Assistant Principal (K-2)

Jamie Davies
Jamie Davies, Support & Service Administrator

Jill Hawes
Jill Hawes, School Leadership Intern

FROM THE PTA CO-PRESIDENTS

Dear Mt. Bethel Families,

Thank you to our students, parents, teachers, staff and special guests for a GREAT Blue Ribbon Celebration on November 18th. It was a special day from start to finish and we could not be more proud of our school! Winning the National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence award for a second time is such an achievement and being able to celebrate it with our school and community made it that much better!

In addition to the celebration, many other fantastic events have happened in the MBES community. We had an incredible Fun Run and Fair! The day was hugely successful thanks to the hardworking chairs and volunteers putting in many hours to bring such an exciting event to our school.

In November, our fifth graders participated in Random Acts of Kindness, coordinated in conjunction with 5th grade activities and Community Outreach. We are thankful for the guidance from the 5th grade teachers, the help from parent volunteers, and the many donations from our MBES families. The fifth grade event led straight into our Spirit of Giving week, which was a huge success. Thank you all for your donations. We hope that students in all grades learned the value of giving back to their community.

There are numerous ways to continue to be involved throughout the year, whether in the classroom or school wide. We believe supporting student success also means engaging families in the school environment. Our school is what it is because of the community and YOU!

Sincerely,

Carrie Pruitt
Carrie Pruitt
Co-President

Kim Wimberly
Kim Wimberly
Co-President

Mt. Bethel Elementary
PTA[®]
everychild. one voice.[®]

CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS

Save the Date for Mt. Bethel's Cultural Celebrations Event:

Illuminating Our World
Tuesday, February 7, 2017
5:30pm - 7:00pm

December is a very festive month with Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Saint Lucia's Day, and Yule, among many other cultural celebrations. Each month, we are highlighting one cultural celebration in the Bugle. We encourage you to discuss with your child your own culture, as well as other cultures and their celebrations.

Kwanzaa is a week-long secular/cultural celebration honoring African heritage. It is celebrated from December 26 to January 1 with feasting and gift-giving, music, and family. Kwanzaa was first celebrated in 1966 and recognizes seven core African principles (Nguzo Saba): Unity, Self-Determination, Collective Work and Responsibility, Cooperative Economics, Purpose, Creativity and Faith. Symbols of Kwanzaa include a Kinara (candle holder) with seven candles, corn, and a unity cup all placed on a mat. Most who celebrate Kwanzaa do so in conjunction with religious holidays.

Mt. Bethel PTA's Cultural Celebrations Committee is working hard to plan our February event for all Mt. Bethel families. If you or your children would like to represent a culture with an educational display, musical or dance performance, or food, please contact Marlene Cohn or Tina Patel at culturalcelebrations@mtbethelpa.org.





TEACHER FEATURE



PE:

Physical Education classes will go outside as much as possible during the cool weather so please dress accordingly.

We will be working on fitness concepts and ball handling skills during January and February will find us with Jump Rope for Heart!



Technology:

Kindergartners have learned to log themselves into the computer network and get to www.abcyah.com on the Internet.

The first graders went to Cobb Digital Library and researched facts about Harriet Tubman and then typed a paragraph about her and added a picture in Word.

Our second graders learned how to do bulleted lists and numbered lists in Word. In addition, they continued to practice their keyboarding skills.

Third graders learned how to make a column, pie, and line chart in Excel.

The fourth graders worked on a 3-part Excel project where they entered data, used simple formulas, formatted cells, and graphed their information.

Fifth graders are researching careers and are typing a formal report, which will include a cover page, report, and bibliography. (Computer Special)



Target:

Target is on hiatus, as we continue with our eligibility screening and testing process.

A few important things to remember...

*Progress reports will be sent home in January with homeroom report cards. *Testing results and eligibility information will be mailed home on December 21, 2016. *After schedules have been finalized in early January, we will post any changes to the Target schedule on our website.

Learning Commons:

Do You Hear What I Hear?!

After weeks of research, our 5th graders have begun to compose their amazing historical raps. This year, with our Flocabulary subscription, we are using their beats as a backdrop to our 5th graders awesome rhymes. The groups will take the MBESLC stage in a few weeks in another live showdown – Rap Battle Royale version 2016.



During the battle, each class will perform in front of their own class as well as another group of 5th graders. After the live performances, each student will vote on a class favorite for BOTH classes. The class winners will make a studio recording and an accompanying video that will be submitted to Flocabulary who will choose our ultimate winner. This year will mark our 3rd year of collaboration with the fine folks at Flocab. The teachers will also be looking for groups to nominate for the Bucky Awards, Mt. Bethel's very own awards event in May. Hollywood, you can keep your Emmys and Oscars!

Click to enjoy some of our class favorites from the past: <http://www.cobblearning.net/mbmedia/2016/11/29/do-you-hear-what-i-hear/>

TEACHER FEATURE


K
Kindergarten:

We had a great kindergarten fall festival! We appreciate all of the supplies and volunteers. Our first field trip to the Atlanta Zoo on November 11th was action-packed, filled with learning and fun! Added benefit – our field trip t-shirts helped to keep us safe and easily identified. Thank you, PTA!

November's Orton-Gillingham training session was so beneficial! Thank you, Mt. Bethel Foundation, for funding this training! Our Kindergarten teachers were able to observe an Orton-Gillingham lesson in a kindergarten classroom, to take what they learned, and to apply it the next day to help our students become better readers.

We look forward to the upcoming December celebrations!


1st Grade:

Our First Graders really enjoyed the Blue Ribbon Pep Rally! They all look so cute in their blue shirts cheering with their blue pom-poms. We are busy learning about Lewis and Clark with Sacajawea, and Thomas Jefferson. The students are learning about nonfiction books as well as learning to write about nonfiction topics. Enjoy this special month with your family.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! :)


2nd Grade:

Watch out, parents! Second graders have strong opinions and will be learning how to express them in writing this quarter. They are so creative in expressing supporting reasons and examples, you might just find yourself agreeing to a new pet or a trip to Disney!! In reading, we will build our asking and answering questions skills, and determining the moral of a story. In math, we will compare numbers and apply our newly acquired place value strategies for adding and subtracting numbers within a thousand.

Finally, January is the perfect time to study Georgia's own civil rights leaders, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Jackie Robinson, just in time to honor MLK on his birthday!


3rd Grade:

3rd grade students loved their first Market Day! They became entrepreneurs – they created a product, advertised it, set up a store on Market Day, and sold it. They learned and applied the basics of economics without realizing they were thinking about supply and demand, product cost, profit and loss, and using resources. Everyone participated and had fun learning!

Thank you parents for all your support on this engaging and meaningful experience for your child!


4th Grade:

November was a very busy month for fourth grade. Our field trip to the Cobb Fire Safety Village was a big hit. We hope everyone followed the guideline of "Change your clocks, change your batteries" with the time change. If you don't know what that means, ask a 4th grader!

Students enjoyed a "physical" second visit from Well Star with their "Get Fit" program.

Fourth graders followed the various paths of water molecules with the Cobb Water Company for our unit on water in science. Along with our science unit on Water/Weather, fourth grade began the second unit in reading workshop, "Reading the Weather, Reading the World." This nonfiction unit guides the students on how to read nonfiction and to research natural weather disasters. Fourth graders finished out November, preparing for their class Spelling Bees.


5th Grade:

The fifth grade recently had the opportunity to participate in the season of giving and Thanksgiving through their Random Acts of Kindness day in November. Students had the chance to give back to the community through handmade lunches, letters to veterans, and personalized books for Mt. Bethel's sister school. Now, as we head into December and the holiday season, the fifth grade will be looking into their family's heritage through their family tree. The fifth grade hallways will then be transformed later this month into Ellis Island, as our children take on their own immigrant in hopes to make it through the golden door on Immigration Day!



BUCCANEER

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR FUN RUN SPONSORS—WE APPRECIATE YOU!!

Aesthetic Orthodontic Care - Dr. Johanna Jenkins, Atlanta Rocks! Indoor Climbing Gym, Atlanta Swim Academy, Aurelio's Pizza, Bank of North Georgia, CANOPY, LLC., Cavallaro and Moore Orthodontics, Chick-fil-A at Woodlawn Square, Dogwood Catering, East Cobb Orthodontics - Smiles by Capps & Iaculli, East Cobb Pediatrics, East Marietta Little League, Edible Arrangements, Edward Jones Investments - Scott Armstrong, Floss Dentistry, Fuji Hana, HealthQuest Chiropractic Center, Indian Hills Country Club, Innovative Orthodontics - Wendy J. Katz DDS, Iron Tribe Fitness East Cobb, Jazercise Roswell/East Cobb, Johnston Orthodontics, Kid Chess, Marietta Martial Arts, Marlow's Tavern, Mathnasium of East Cobb, Olde Towne Athletic Club OUT OF THIS WORLD SPACE PROGRAM, Pigtails & Crewcuts: Haircuts for Kids, Publix, Sport Clips Parkaire, Steelhorse Law, Summit Midstream Partners, The Bar Method, Waldron Dentistry, WEISS ENT, White Tiger Martial Arts, Zaxbys

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PRESENTING EVENT SPONSOR:



Kindergarten ½-Mile

GIrls

1st Ambry T.
2nd Evie H.
3rd Ahana B.
4th Lola M.
5th Juliana V.

Boys

1st Canon P.
2nd Max E.
3rd Felix F.
4th Joseph D.
5th Alan S.

1-Mile RACE

1st Grade GIRLS

1st Isabelle S.
2nd Jameson G.
3rd Bridget S.

Boys

1st Hayden P.
2nd Kaysan A.
3rd Holden W.

2nd Grade GIRLS

1st Calina H.
2nd Virginia Grace T.
3rd Marie Z.

Boys

1st Cutler E.
2nd Owen B.
3rd Samuel F.

3rd Grade GIRLS

1st Allison P.
2nd Simone S.
3rd April Z.

Boys

1st Blake P.
2nd George P.
3rd Sean G.

4th Grade GIRLS

1st Lily O.
2nd Caroline W.
3rd Zoe B.

Boys

1st Owen C.
2nd Hudson B.
3rd Mitchell D.

5th Grade GIRLS

1st Mirabelle H. & Ava M.
2nd Manuela P.
3rd Megan V.

Boys

1st Miller A.
2nd Griffin S.
3rd Gray C.

5K Age 9 and Under:

GIrls

1st Elizabeth P.
2nd Kate W.
3rd Emaly F

Boys

1st Bristan D.
2nd Mason W.
3rd Sawyer B.

5K Ages 10-12:

GIrls

1st Margo Anne G.
2nd Shannon G.
3rd Gracie C.

Boys

1st Matthew T.
2nd Ethan B.
3rd Max N.

5K Overall Winners:

Female - Ella B.

Male - Coach Jones



BRAVOS !!!!!!!



Many thanks for a SUPER successful 30th Annual Mt. Bethel Fun Run & Fair! We had over 600 people registered the day of the race - that's amazing! Thanks to our Princeton Lakes and Lake Fjord neighbors for sharing their roads with us so this event could happen. Thank you to **Mori Contreras, Kathleen Corrao, Laura Pettus, Cheryl Fulton, Emily Ratliff, Katie Kincaid, Amanda Poland, Gretchen Patrick, Juani Randolph, Wendy Prisock, Tina Patel, Stacie Pester, Colleen Wanek, Jessica Luke, Rachel Cavallo, Sari Silver, Janice Winfrey, Joely Heege, Tai Halfmann, Cami Henricks, Elizabeth Riddle, Laura Johnson, and Ellen Nagle** for helping before, during the race and setting up for the fair!

Thank you especially to all the teachers and staff who came to support the students. Thank you also to "The Mavericks", **Ms. Denman and Mr. Morris**, who led the races on motorcycle and our super helpful custodial staff, **John Maflin and Anthony Atkinson** as well as ASP director **Sharon Pearson**.

A HUGE thank you to the Walton Leadership Team, Dickerson Trash Can Band, MBES Girls on the Run, and Jazercise. Special thanks goes to all of our event sponsors including our presenting event sponsor, Once Upon a Child in Sandy Springs. Many thanks to Bagelicious, Dunkin Donuts, and Party City for donating food, warm coffee and generous discounts. In addition, our exhibitors were fantastic. Thank you to Johnston Orthodontics, East Cobb Pediatrics, Massage Heights, Peachtree Gymnastics, Kids Chess, White Tiger Martial Arts, Weiss ENT, Challenge Island and Spanish Now. Your activities for the children were GREAT and support was awesome!

The event was an outstanding success in every way, primarily due to our incredible Fun Run Team & Coaching Staff: **Coach Collins, Coach Jones, Coach Dietrich, Ashley Cook, Gina Laney, Michele Krishnamurthy, Amy Casey, Shannon Cornwell, Alison Currin, Dan Niederjohn, Andy Diffenderffer, Erin Searles, Stacey De Martini, Carrie Pruitt, and Dana Christian**. Thanks a million, Fun Run Heroes!!!

The Healthy Habits Committee loved every minute of our October week long activities. We thought about the sports we play, healthy foods we eat, sleep we get, good hygiene, getting along with others and the importance of drinking water. We said "Hey!" to everyone and we got to wear our pajamas to school while collecting a car-load full of dental hygiene supplies for Back Pack Ministries. Kids enjoyed helping this ministry, which is devoted primarily to providing food to children who qualify for the Federal Free and Reduced Price Meal Program.

We also wish to thank our parent volunteers including **Christy McCarey, Kat Goodyear, Jocelyn Davis, Cason Perry, Hyesung Kang, Joie Frost** as well as **Rachel and Adam Printz**. **Stars and Strikes** also supported us in a big way by providing thousands of dollars in prizes, so that every kid who wanted to show a healthy habit could get a fun activity on the house. Our appreciation to **Jamba Juice**, as well, for their participation in offering discounts towards smoothies! Finally, thank you to the fun and healthy co-chairs of this event: **Vivian Galletly, Brittany White and Janice Winfrey**. Stay Healthy Mount Bethel!

Big Bugle Bravos to the Random Acts of Kindness organizers, **Whitney Wideman and Melanie Alston**, and all the parent volunteers who made this event productive and meaningful.

Many thanks to **Kimberlee Ackerman and Cara VanLoh** for heading up 5th Grade Activities this year!

Thank You!

Giant Buccaneer Bravos to all the following Volunteers: **Christi Hodges** - Cultural Arts, **Tina Patel and Charity Muldoon** - Copy Crew, **Wendy Feis and Melanie Knopf** - Art Enrichment, **Bobbie Warhola** - Fresh Fruit Fridays, **Christi McCarey, Jodie Morgan, Steven Johnson, Drew Downs** - All Pro Dads, **Kim Makuch** - Tool Kit, **Kathleen Corrao and Chana Wade** - Legislative/ PTA Advocacy, **Nicole Mason and Amanda Poland** - Community Outreach/ Spirit of Giving.

A HUGE bravo to **Mia Wagenen**, owner of **MVO Marketing**. Mia dedicated her time and resources to help us create the Patron Card and Community Treasured Partner clings.

Thank you for a successful Conference Week!!! The Hospitality Committee would like to thank the following people for volunteering their time - we couldn't have done it without you: **Dara Onori, Agda Tamassia, Breia Bali, Selena McMasters, Maggie Gordon, Katy Gadsby, Susan Sharow, Marlene Cohn, Karen Varadachari, Ruby Kaur, Nicole Solet, Jocelyn Davis, Laura Pettus, Jodi Craine, Amy Berg, Lenore Willis, Jennifer Pila, Chana Wade, Melanie Alston, Carrie Gaudion, and Sarah Byrd**.

We would also like to thank all the families who sent in food, especially those who brought hot food. Thank you to the Cafeteria & Custodial Staff for all their support throughout the week! Big Thank You to J. Christopher's and Baristas for donating coffee. Costco, Zaxbys and Cherry on Top Delights for their wonderful food donations and Tijuana Joe's for a wonderful lunch on Thursday for all the employees at Mt Bethel and the biggest Buccaneer Bravos to our fantastic Hospitality Chairs — **Amanda Hufnagel and Tina Patel**.

Counselor's Corner

Counselor's Corner: Mary Rees (K, 2, 4) Kellie Oakes (1, 3) Kristie Gordon (5)

In the month of November, the **Kindergarteners** met Howard B. Wigglebottom, a silly rabbit who learns the hard way the value of being a good listener! After hearing the cautionary tale, the students took a listening test to determine how good at listening they were, followed by coloring a picture of Howard after he earned a gold star for becoming an excellent listener.



First graders learned how to manage angry feelings through a story called, The Turkey with the Terrible Temper. Tom turkey learns strategies from the other turkeys that help him calm down when he is angry. He learned to take deep breaths, count to ten, get some exercise, be thankful for what he had instead of being jealous of others, relax and have fun, and always get plenty of rest. The students were encouraged to think of other ways they could handle angry feelings in a positive way. Moving into the month of December we will begin talking about Empathy.

In **2nd grade**, the students learned what it means to “put yourself in someone’s shoes.” They saw a hilarious video clip of Mark Ruffalo teaching Murray, from Sesame Street (who doesn’t like a Muppet?) and then heard different scenarios and answered questions about the feelings of the characters. Finally, they read situation sentences and told the class what the child might be feeling.

In **3rd grade**, we have been spending time talking about mindfulness, growth mindset, and we will finish up in December focusing on positive self-talk. When we discussed mindfulness we talked about being mindful (aware of our bodies and feelings as well as strategies to cope with stress) and not being mind full (focusing on all the things that can cause stress day to day). When we learned about growth mindset the students were asked to work in teams to build the tallest structure using pipe cleaners. Along the way they were given challenges such as put one hand behind your back or work without speaking to your group. It was neat to see how the students managed to persevere and work with their groups.

In **4th grade**, the students learned about teamwork and cooperation. We discussed the challenges and benefits to working in a team or group. I read the book The Little Red Pen, which is a delightful adventure involving a bunch of uncooperative school supplies and a stack of papers to be graded. Then, I divided the students into groups to play the Cooperation Cup game. Be sure to ask your student how they managed to stack plastic cups into a pyramid without actually touching them!

The month of November was packed with fun in **5th grade**. The students learned why motivation is important to their school and home life. We also dug a little deeper and discussed the characteristics of someone who is intrinsically vs. extrinsically motivated. To follow, students discovered what motivates them. Students worked with teams to transfer skittles to a cup with chopsticks while motivating their team. This was a hoot!

Following the break, we are focused on improving peer relations. The lesson topic is currently, rumors and gossip. At this age, they put so much value into what others think or say about them and sometimes children can say things that just aren’t nice. I begin the lesson with six student from each class shaking hands with the other students in the class. What the other students did not realize is that their classmate was spreading glitter with each handshake. This led us into the discussion of how gossip is like glitter, once it is out there (and as painful as it can be) it is near impossible to clean it all up. This lesson hit close to home and really made each student reflect upon the power of their words.

HONORING OUR HEROES ESSAY CONTEST

EVERYDAY HEROES THE POWER OF ONE:

East Cobb County Council (ECCC) of PTAs 2016-2017

Honoring Our Heroes is a student writing contest designed for you to write about your real-life heroes and role models. The person you write about should display one or more of the following characteristics: generosity, trust, persistence, dedication, leadership, creativity, caring, bravery, imagination, service, gentleness, courage, or compassion. We want you to redefine media-hyped and cartoon heroes such as professional athletes, movie stars, and rock musicians and instead recognize someone who has made a more personal impact on your life such as a family member, doctor, public safety officer, soldier, or teacher. Please contact chartered@mtbethelpa.org with any questions.



Entry forms can be found here: <http://mtbethel.blogs.com/pta/2016/2016-17-HOH-student-entry-form%20mao%20edit.pdf>

FOUNDATION NEWS

New FACT Registration Procedure – Rolling Registration!

All FACT programs will accept registrations, via their websites, a minimum of 60 days prior to the start of any given FACT semester. There will not be a hard “open” registration date and many programs may open prior to 60 days. So, please check their websites to register.

The Spring FACT semester begins on Monday, January 23 and runs through Friday, April 21. The FACT Clubs offered and time slots will not change from the Fall semester.

Please visit mbesf.org to see the list of FACT programs and links.



Use your Patron Card all year long and get great deals from our community partners!

Check our website for additional offers <http://mtbethel.blogs.com/partners/patron-card.html>



Patron Drive Update: Thank you to everyone who has supported the Annual Foundation Patron Drive!

We've seen a lot of new Foundation car magnets out there! Here are the Patron Drive statistics as of November 11th:

- * \$115,625 in fulfilled donations
- * \$12,600 in pledges
- * We anticipate Corporate Matching funds to come in gradually for the next several months as well!

After January 31st, in accordance with the deadline for pledges, we will provide an update on the fundraising totals. We can support Mt. Bethel in additional ways with every pledge that is fulfilled!

The winners of the class parties, teacher parking spots and Principal-For-Day winners will be announced at the Foundation's Annual Meeting in February.

Again, thank you for Supporting Excellence with your donations to the Mt. Bethel Foundation this year!

Buccaneer Bytes with Mrs. Carolyn Cooper

Coding. What is it? I'm sure you've heard this buzz word being thrown around in our growing world of technology. Coding is the basic language that is used to create software, apps, and websites. Students at Mt. Bethel are learning the basics of computer coding in the STEM Lab, the Learning Commons, and in the computer lab.

Want to be inspired to learn how to code? Watch this video from code.org: <https://youtu.be/dU1xS07N-FA>.

The Hour of Code is an initiative to introduce all children to the world of computer programming. Coding is a powerful tool for children to learn! How can you learn and practice coding at home with your kids? Visit the [Code.org parents page](#).

[Code.org](#) is just one great resource to begin coding. In addition to [Code.org](#), there are many other resources available online or as iPad apps for children and adults to learn and practice coding. [Kahn Academy](#) is another great resource to learn and practice coding.

Visit the complete article on coding at <http://www.cobblelearning.net/carolyncooper/2016/11/16/practice-coding-at-home/>,



KIDS OF CHARACTER

Students were recognized in a presentation during lunchtime at the end of October for demonstrating the Lifeskills of Caring, Friendship, Common Sense, and Effort. Congratulations to Mt. Bethel's Kids of Character!

November's focus was on the Lifeskill of Cooperation (to work together towards a common goal or purpose) and Flexibility (to be willing to alter plans when necessary).

December will focus on the Lifeskill of Initiative (to do something of one's own free will because it needs to be done) and Organization (to plan, arrange, and implement in an orderly way; to keep things orderly and ready to use).

Thank you for encouraging these Lifeskills at home.

Questions? Please contact: chartered@mtbethelpta.org.

LEGISLATIVE

Thank you all for giving your time to advocate and vote on behalf of education for our children. Your efforts are appreciated and they are necessary! With Winter Break fast approaching, we wanted to provide information regarding the OSD election results and the upcoming SPLOST vote.

GA Election Results/scroll to the end for OSD:

<http://results.enr.clarityelections.com/GA/63991/183370/en/summary.html>

Map of Votes:

<http://results.enr.clarityelections.com/GA/63991/183370/en/md.html?cid=901000>



What is SPLOST?

Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax: The voters of Georgia approved a constitutional amendment in November 1996, allowing Local Boards of Education the option of calling for a referendum to ask their voters to approve a SPLOST.

SPLOST shifts the tax burden away from homeowners and onto consumers. This means that non-residents who enter the county for work, play, or travel could provide as much as 30% of the revenue for the county.

What is SPLOST \$\$ spent on?

If the voters approve the referendum, the SPLOST revenues may be used for the following: Specific capital improvement projects for educational purposes, Retire General Obligation Bond debt previously incurred with respect only to capital outlay projects and/or, Issue new General Obligation Bond for specific capital outlay projects to be paid with SPLOST.

What is the SPLOST rate and length?

The rate is 1 (one) percent. The tax shall not be subject to any sales tax exemption such as food and beverage exemptions. The length shall be imposed for a period of time not to exceed five years.

When is the vote and what is the impact?

The Cobb and Marietta school districts will ask voters on March 21, 2017 to approve the latest SPLOST cycle. If authorized, it is projected to collect an estimated \$62.5 million for Marietta and \$797 million for Cobb.

Where can I learn more about SPLOST?

The Ed-SPLOST V Notebook outlines the proposed receipts and expenditures associated with the approved Resolution.

<http://www.cobbk12.org/SPLOST/>

http://www.cobbk12.org/SPLOST/SPLOSTVNotebook_Complete.pdf

Questions? Please contact legislative@mtbethelpta.org.

MENU

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			December 15 Pizza: Cheese, Tk Pepperoni Roasted Chicken w/Roll Baked Beans Caesar Side Salad Grilled Chicken & Fruit Salad Vegetarian Fruit Salad	December 16 Hamburger/Cheeseburger Mac & Cheese w/Fish Sticks Mac& Cheese w/Roll Tater Tots Tossed Side Salad Chicken Caesar Salad Vegetarian Caesar Salad
December 19 Baked Breaded Chicken w/roll Corn Dog Mashed Potatoes Veggie Dippers Chicken Caesar Salad Vegetarian Caesar Salad	December 20 Popcorn Chicken w/roll Loaded Baked Potato w/Roll Steamed Broccoli Tossed Side Salad Popcorn Chicken Salad Vegetarian Chef Salad	December 21 Chicken Filet Sandwich Grilled Chicken Sandwich Fiesta Ranch Chicken Burrito Bowl Beans: Black, Refried, or Fiesta Sweet Potato Fries Grilled Chicken & Fruit Salad Vegetarian Fruit Salad	December 22 HOLIDAY BREAK SCHOOL CLOSED	December 23 HOLIDAY BREAK SCHOOL CLOSED
January 2 HOLIDAY BREAK SCHOOL CLOSED	January 3 HOLIDAY BREAK SCHOOL CLOSED	January 4 HOLIDAY BREAK SCHOOL CLOSED	January 5 Pizza: Cheese, Tk Pep, Specialty Caesar Side Salad Corn Taco Salad Vegetarian Taco Salad	January 6 BBQ Chicken Sandwich Fish Sandwich Chicken & Biscuit Dippers Baby Carrots Seasoned Fries Chicken or Veg Caesar Salad
January 9 Cheese Stuffed Breadsticks w/ Marinara Asian Chicken w/Fried Rice or Lo Mein Steamed Broccoli Glazed Carrots Chicken or Veg Caesar Salad	January 10 Chicken, Beef, or Cheese Nachos French Bread Pizza Beans: Black or Refried Corn Popcorn Chicken Salad Vegetarian Chef Salad	January 11 Hamburger/Cheeseburger Mac & Cheese w/Fish Sticks Mac & Cheese w/ Roll Tater Tots Tossed Side Salad Chicken or Beg Caesar Salad	January 12 Pizza: Cheese, Tk Pepperoni Roasted Chicken w/Roll Baked Beans Caesar Side Salad Grilled Chicken & Fruit Salad Vegetarian Fruit Salad	January 13 Battle of the Sauces: Herb-Garlic Ranch vs. Southwest Ranch Chicken Nuggets w/Roll Pasta Choice Green Beans, Baby Carrots Taco Salad, Veg Taco Salad

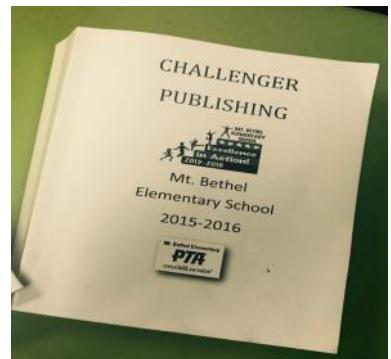
CHALLENGER PUBLISHING

Calling all authors! Join this Mt. Bethel tradition!

Does your child like to read, write and/or draw?

If so, please encourage them to participate in the PTA's Challenger Publishing program. Look for upcoming details on the PTA blog and Eblast. This is a great activity for the winter break!

Questions? Please email challengerpublishing@mtbethelppta.org.



BOX TOPS

Art Contest Coming in January 2017

It's time to get creative with your Box Tops! Start clipping and collecting now. Rules and deadlines will be in the E-Blast and on Facebook later this month. Ask family and friends that you will see over the Winter Break to save Box Tops for you. Go to www.boxtop4education.com to see which products have Box Tops..



MENU

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
January 16 Baked Breaded Chicken w/roll Corn Dog Mashed Potatoes Veggie Dippers Chicken Caesar Salad Vegetarian Caesar Salad	January 17 Popcorn Chicken w/roll Loaded Baked Potato w/Roll Steamed Broccoli Tossed Side Salad Popcorn Chicken Salad Vegetarian Chef Salad	January 18 Chicken Filet Sandwich Grilled Chicken Sandwich Fiesta Ranch Chicken Burrito Beans: Black, Refried, or Fiesta Sweet Potato Fries Grilled Chicken & Fruit Salad Vegetarian Fruit Salad	January 19 Pizza: Cheese, Tk Pep, Specialty Caesar Side Salad Corn Taco Salad Vegetarian Taco Salad	January 20 Try Day: Battle of the Sauces Teriyaki Ranch vs. BBQ Ranch Chicken Nuggets w/Roll & 2 sauces BBQ Chicken Sandwich Fish Sandwich Baby Carrots, Seasoned Fries Chicken or Veg Caesar Salad
January 23 Cheese Stuffed Breadsticks w/ Marinara Asian Chicken w/Fried Rice or Lo Mein Steamed Broccoli Glazed Carrots Chicken or Veg Caesar Salad	January 24 Chicken, Beef, or Cheese Nachos French Bread Pizza Beans: Black or Refried Corn Popcorn Chicken Salad Vegetarian Chef Salad	January 25 Hamburger/Cheeseburger Mac & Cheese w/Fish Sticks Mac & Cheese w/ Roll Tater Tots Tossed Side Salad Chicken or Beg Caesar Salad	January 26 Pizza: Cheese, Tk Pepperoni Roasted Chicken w/Roll Baked Beans Caesar Side Salad Grilled Chicken & Fruit Salad Vegetarian Fruit Salad	January 27 Hamburger/Cheeseburger Mac & Cheese w/Fish Sticks Mac & Cheese w/ Roll Tater Tots Tossed Side Salad Chicken Caesar Salad Vegetarian Caesar Salad
January 30 Baked Breaded Chicken w/roll Corn Dog Mashed Potatoes Veggie Dippers Chicken Caesar Salad Vegetarian Caesar Salad	January 31 Popcorn Chicken w/roll Loaded Baked Potato w/Roll Steamed Broccoli Tossed Side Salad Popcorn Chicken Salad Vegetarian Chef Salad	February 1 Chicken Filet Sandwich Grilled Chicken Sandwich Fiesta Ranch Chicken Burrito Beans: Black, Refried, or Fiesta Sweet Potato Fries Grilled Chicken & Fruit Salad Vegetarian Fruit Salad	February 2 Pizza: Cheese, Tk Pep, Specialty Caesar Side Salad Corn Taco Salad Vegetarian Taco Salad	February 3 Check the Cobb County Elementary School Menu <a href="http://www.cobbk12.org/
centraloffice/FoodServices/
indexMenus.aspx">http://www.cobbk12.org/ centraloffice/FoodServices/ indexMenus.aspx

IDENT-A-KID

A representative from Ident-A-Kid Child ID Program will be at Mt. Bethel on January 26th. This program provides parents with an identification card including your child's picture and vital information.



The Ident-A-Kid card is a Child Identification Card designed to provide parents and law enforcement officials with crucial information should your child become lost or missing. The driver's license-like card contains your child's photograph, fingerprint and description. Parents keep the card with them at all times and, in an emergency, can provide law enforcement with it for immediate response. In addition, the United States Government's Social Security Administration recognizes the Ident-A-Kid Card may be usable in supporting either secondary or third level identification, should it be needed.

Look for information in child's backpack soon!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 22 - Jan. 4: Winter Holiday

Jan. 13: Reflections Reception, 8am

Jan. 16: Martin Luther King Day - No School

Jan. 18: TPV Training 9:30 - 10:00

Jan. 31: Patron Drive Pledges Due

