

# Bobcat Bulletin

Volume 3, Issue 7

March 2023

## Mark Your Calendar!

### NO SCHOOL



March 27 - March 31, 2023

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Testing begins  
Monday, April 17th



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Denise Copeland was recognized today as being our Rockstar Support Staff Member of the Month! Denise wears many hats at Dent-Phelps in her role as the district bookkeeper from paying bills, payroll, and checking in supplies. We sure do appreciate everything that she does for our school! When you see Denise tell her great job!

## Time Flies

By Mr. Denny Melvin, Principal

Happy March to each and every one of you. As always, it seems as if the school year speeds up this time of year. Before we know it, we will be sending our 8<sup>th</sup> graders off to high school and we will have a new crew in kindergarten. I have found that time flies while working in education. One of the best aspects of my job is to watch our students grow academically, socially, and emotionally. They transform in front of our very eyes. I am proud and honored to be a part of your child's life. Spring break will begin

March 27<sup>th</sup> and run through April 2<sup>nd</sup>. When we get back from break our students and teacher have two weeks to make a final push to prepare for our state testing. It is critical that students are in school the month of April to get ready for, and to take the MAP test. Here's six simple tips for parents to help students perform his or her best on testing days. 1. Prioritize attendance 2. Talk to your child about test taking (Relax and do their best) 3. Offer positive reinforcement 4. Support healthy habits

(good night's rest) 5. Keep testing in perspective 6. After testing day has come and gone, talk with your child about how he or she felt about the test. I appreciate your support in helping our students get ready for this test. I look forward to our students taking the test and showing what they know!

Thank you to each one of you for supporting your child's education. As always, it's a great day to be a BOBCAT!

## February Character Award Winners KINDNESS



# All About Penguins

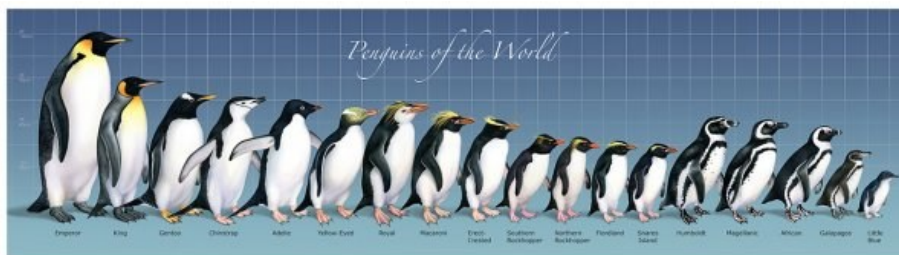
By Ms. Nicole Atkinson, 5th/6th Grade Science Teacher

Penguins only live in the southern hemisphere. Only the Galapagos penguin has been found north of the equator. Penguins don't have teeth; the top of their mouth has serrated ridges. The tallest penguin is 45 inches tall and the shortest is 12 inches tall! Penguins cannot fly, their wings are for swimming. A group of penguins in the water is called a raft on land; the group is called a colony. A penguin's tuxedo helps it camouflage when they are in the water. Their black back looks like water and from below their white stomach looks like the sky. A Gentoo Penguin's top speed is 22 mph! Birds have hollow bones for flying but not

the penguin. Penguins have solid bones to help them sink into the water. This beautiful creature has a fast metabolism and poops every 20 minutes. A penguin's lifespan is 15 to 20 years.

This animal can travel long distances on land by tobogganing, or sliding across the ice on their bellies while

pushing forward with their feet. Out of all these amazing birds two-thirds of them are on the threatened list on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List. Penguins can range in weight from the smallest 2.2 pounds to the largest at 90 pounds. Penguins eat krill, squid, and fish.



# It's a Solid... It's a Liquid... It's Oobleck

By Mrs. Tammy Back, 2B Teacher

Oobleck got its name from a book by Dr. Seuss, called Bartholomew and the Oobleck. In the book, oobleck is a mysterious substance that falls from the sky. After reading the book, the boys and girls of 2B were full of questions. So, the class went on a science experiment adventure to answer some of those questions. **Q:** What is oobleck exactly? **A:** It's a substance made from a mix of cornstarch, green food coloring, and water. **Q:** How is oobleck made? **A:** In a bowl, place 1 cup of corn starch in the bowl, add 3 drops of green food coloring, and slowly add water while mixing until you have the right consistency. The messy goo that results was well explored and played with. **Q:** Is oobleck really sticky? **A:** The students learned that oobleck is sticky after the ingredients are mixed together coining the phrases 'oobleck touch' and 'you've been ooblecked.' **Q:** Is oobleck a liquid or a solid? **A:** Oobleck has defining characteristics of both a

solid and a liquid at the same time. **Q:** Why did the oobleck melt away at the end of the story? **A:** The water dried up leaving only the cornstarch that was scattered by the wind.

Using a material that doesn't behave according to the 'rules' is a great way to get my students to explore what they already know about the difference between solids and fluids. Oobleck can feel like a solid when you hold it in a ball, but it becomes like a liquid when you let your hand go loose. It takes the shape of whatever is holding it. While playing with the oobleck, students identified that normally solids have a definite shape whereas a fluid can change shapes because it flows. Oobleck is a solid and liquid at the same time.

The boys and girls had a terrific time reading the story, predicting what it would actually be like, making the

oobleck, playing with it, and observing what occurs when oobleck sits out in a bowl for 3 days. They also learned some fun things about oobleck. Oobleck does not bounce. If you make it into a ball and throw it up in the air, it loses its shape and becomes flat. Oobleck can be molded in a bowl and when taken out it does not keep the bowl's shape.



# Benefits to Being Outdoors

By Rachel Hinderliter, PTO Member

Hello, Bobcat families!

We want to start off by thanking each and every one of you who supported our students in the annual Valentine's Day Carnation Fundraiser. You helped us raise enough money to purchase shade sails for the lower play ground! These will provide shade and cooler temperatures for staff and students while outside during warmer months. Speaking of warmer months, who is ready for Spring? You may have noticed more rain, some slightly warmer days, grass

returning to pretty shades of green, buds beginning to pop up on the barren trees, or the return of yellow daffodils. This can be such a fantastic time of year to get outside with your child(ren), explore nature, and soak up some vitamin D.

Studies show the average American child spends about an average of 4 to 7 minutes a day playing outside and over 7 hours a day in front of a screen. Benefits to being outdoors include improved memory, feeling happier, reduced stress and anxiety, a strengthened immune system,

and it promotes creativity. Spring break is just around the corner and here are a few fun ideas you might enjoy doing outdoors as a family: go for a walk or hike, create an outdoor scavenger hunt, enjoy playing at a local playground, or feed the fish at Montauk State Park.

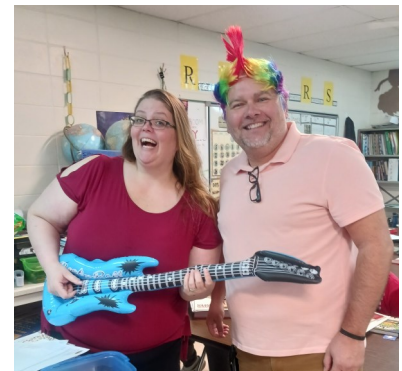
Spring break will be a great time for your child(ren) to rest, play, and recharge as we finish the last quarter of our school year. We hope you all have a safe and wonderful break!

## February Rock Star Teacher of the Month

Mrs. Jamie Walker is an amazing social studies teacher! She is very committed to her students. Mrs. Walker has the awesome ability to create a fun and interesting learning environment. Whether it's in the classroom or in the hallways, Mrs. Walker has a profoundly posi-

tive influence on her students. We are fortunate to have Mrs. Walker as part of our bobcat family.

When you see Mrs. Walker, make sure to tell her congratulations, awesome job, and continue to ROCK ON!



## Archery Club Continues to Bring Home Medals

Congratulations to our Bobcat Archery Team who competed in the Mountain Grove Tournament recently. We captured 1st place in the Middle School Boys Division (Sylis DuBois), 2nd in the Elementary Girls Division (Macy Manthey), and 2nd Elementary Boys Divi-

sion (Blake Manthey). We are proud of all of our Bobcats!



**DENT-PHELPS R-III SCHOOL**

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## We Want Your Input...

We'd like to hear from you regarding our programs, schedules, yearly calendar, activities, etc. We value your opinion and want to make the best decisions possible in meeting the needs of our staff, students, and community.

Please email your comments and/or suggestions to:

**[admin@dentphelps.k12.mo.us](mailto:admin@dentphelps.k12.mo.us)**

If you don't have access to a computer, feel free to drop us a note or give us a call.

If you would like to be placed on our newsletter mailing list, please call the office at 729-4680.

The Administration

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