

Bobcat Bulletin

Mark Your Calendar!



No School Nov 25th -29th

December 2nd
Picture Retakes and
Sports Pictures

PTO Christmas Shop
December 16th - 20th

December 19th 6:00 pm
A World of Christmas
Program

Christmas Parties
Friday, December 20th
Teachers will be sending
notes home with details
for each class.

Early Dismissal 12:30 pm
December 20th

Christmas Break
December 23 - January 6

Classes resume Tuesday,
January 7th

School Closing Procedures

By Mrs. Victoria Brooker, Superintendent



As we are seeing winter weather forecasts for next week, I felt it was a good time to share our school closing procedures.

The five area school district administrators agreed to the following when it comes to closing school due to road/weather conditions:

* If possible – close school the night before so that everyone has ample time for notification.

* If possible - school closings need to be made by 5:30 am to prevent buses from starting their routes.

* Administrators of each district check the roads.

If it is a morning check, administrators need to be on the roads around 4 am to ensure there is plenty of time to coordinate a closing before 5:30 am.

* If two of the five administrators feel conditions are unsafe then all five schools close. This is because of the High School students being transported from four of the schools.

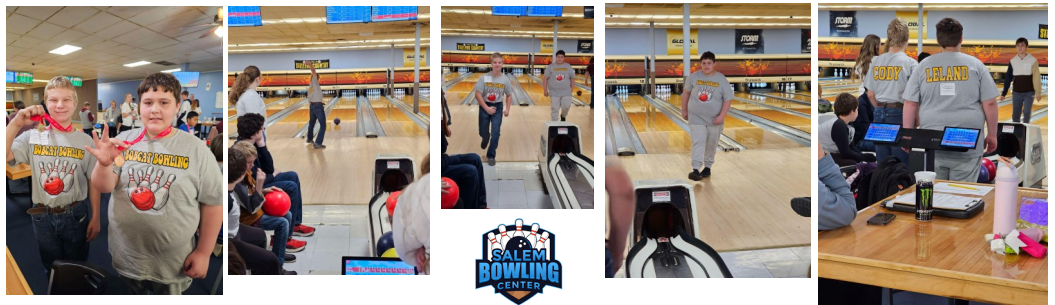
* In the event of weather only affecting a few gravel roads or only sections of gravel – implementing modified routes. (This is the same as with issues with low water crossings.)
The school's automated

system will call, text and email all currently enrolled students primary contact. Please ensure with the office that we have correct telephone numbers for you to receive the text/call notification messages.

Television and radio stations are contacted as soon as the decision to close is made.

Always listen/watch for DENT-PHELPS R-3; there is a Phelps R-3 School in Edgar Springs so we are very specific to eliminate confusion between the two schools.

Bobcat Special Olympic Team Brings Home Medals



AR Literacy Night was a Big Success

Students, parents, and teachers had a great evening of reading at AR Literacy Night! We have more AR Nights planned for the school year. These are great opportunities for parents to learn more about AR and join their student(s) in reading and fun!



Christmas Shop is coming!!!

By Julia Fishbauger, PTO Member

The holiday season has officially begun! Before we know it, we'll be listening for Santa's sleigh bells! But let's not just breeze past Thanksgiving! My favorite holiday is Thanksgiving. I love everything about it. I love the determination of ignoring the rumble of hunger all morning just so you can be prepared for the feast ahead. I love the "I wore my elastic pants for this".

I love the steady hum of family and close friends gathering around the kitchen island, trying out "who made this?" dip while everyone bustles about the kitchen, whipping up brown butter gravy and basting the turkey one last time. I love the smell of tried and true recipes handed down through the family. I love already knowing who brings

what, everyone offering the best of his or her culinary expertise.

I love the warmth, the thermostat reading 2 degrees above what the heat's set at because of all the people jumbled in one room and the oven being on for hours on end. I love the smushing around the table, elbows touching. I love the grace before the meal, the countless things to be grateful for.

I love the laying around tryptophan buzzed, belly ache, didn't think to save room for pie, but "sure, just a little slice.... one of each, sure. Thanks Grandma."

I love the togetherness of it all. I love the family traditions, the feeling you belong. I love the long goodbyes when everybody's about asleep anyways, better get the kids

home. I love the gossip on the car ride home.

Now Christmas is special, and it's worth the hype. But Thanksgiving is magic, you can't convince me otherwise. Speaking of Christmas, the PTO is bringing back the CHRISTMAS SHOP! Remember to send cash to school with your kids December 16th - 20th!

December PTO meeting is set for December 2nd at 6pm, everyone is welcome to join us!



Season of Gratitude: Reflecting on Our School's Blessings

Dear Families and Friends,

As we step into the season of Thanksgiving, we find ourselves reflecting on the many reasons we have to be grateful here at our school. November is a time to express our heartfelt thanks for the dedication, hard work, and support that come together to create a nurturing and thriving educational community.

First and foremost, we want to extend my deepest gratitude to our amazing students. Every day, they come to school eager to learn, grow, and make a difference. Their enthusiasm, curiosity, and kindness are at the heart of everything we do. We've seen great strides in academic performance, and I'm particularly proud of their perseverance and determination to achieve their best. Their resilience, even in challenging times, is truly inspiring.

To our exceptional teachers and support staff, thank you for your unwavering dedication. You go above and beyond to provide not only rigorous academic instruction but also the emotional support and encouragement our students need. You create safe spaces for learning and foster an environment where every child feels valued and capable. Your commitment to our students' success is what makes our school a special place.

We also want to acknowledge our wonderful families and community members. Your partnership and involvement in our students' education are invaluable. From attending school events to volunteering your time and supporting at home, you play a crucial role in our school's success. Together, we are building a strong foundation for our children's future.

A special thank you to our Board Members, who continue to guide us with wisdom and support. Your dedication to the educational excellence and well-being of our students ensures that we remain focused on our goals and priorities.

In this season of gratitude, we are reminded of the strength of our community—how we come together to face challenges, celebrate achievements, and work towards a brighter future. I am confident that as we move forward, we will continue to see the fruits of our collective efforts in both academic and personal growth for each of our students. Wishing all of you a safe, joyful, and restful Thanksgiving. May we all take this time to cherish what we have, celebrate our accomplishments, and look forward to the possibilities ahead.

Happy Thanksgiving,
Mrs. Brooker and Dr. Tiefenthaler

100 100% I-Ready Pathways Tests for 6A



Dent Phelps Lady Bobcats - 2024

By Mr. Steven Thompson

With the year coming to a close, the Lady Bobcats are wrapping up a successful season. A season that has showcased their hard work, dedication, and team spirit. More importantly, a season that featured student-athletes displaying good academics and citizenship. A core group of talented 8th graders has been at the forefront, providing leadership and setting the standard for their younger teammates. The determined and resilient Lady Bobcat squad has achieved an impressive record with only a single loss—a testament to their focus and drive throughout the season.

The Lady Bobcats performance has not gone unnoticed. They have earned the number one seed in the upcoming season-ending basketball tournament at Green Forest. The Lady Bobcats' success is no accident; it's the product of a united team approach, where each player is willing to put the team's needs above individual ambitions. The unselfish style of play has enabled them to work as one on the court.

The Lady Bobcats' on-court achievements this season are a direct result of player commit-

ment to each other and to their shared goals. The Lady Bobcats have shown their athletic abilities humbly. The values of the game displayed were of teamwork and sportsmanship. As they prepare to enter the Green Forest tournament, the Lady Bobcats stand as a true testament to what can be achieved when individuals come together with a common purpose and a selfless mindset. The season has been a memorable one, and with their exceptional performance, they are ready to make a lasting mark in the tournament and cap off their season in style.



8th Grade Athletes Recognition Night



Know Your Role

By Coach Cole Elliott

If the 2024-2025 Bobcat Boy's Basketball team had a motto, it would have to be "know your role". This is something that I have tried to instill in these boys since the first day of practice. This has become our team identity and culture. What does this mean? Knowing your role on a basketball team means a few things: how you play and what you do.

How you play.

Every team we have played this year has their scorer. Some teams have even had more than one scorer. Not everyone's role is to score points. Sure it looks good on the stat sheet, but there are other needs on the basketball court. Ashton Edmonson (8th, Co-Captain) and Junior Brooks (7th) are two players who know they are scorers, but this year have decided to develop their play in other areas as well. Another major part of a functioning basketball team is rebounds. Jake Gover (8th, Co-Captain) has found his role as the team's leading rebounder. Jake knows this role so well that he has found himself on top of the Dent Phelps record books in every rebounding

category. Defense is another critical role in winning basketball games. All our boys play above average defense; however, our best defender this year has come from the bench. Our "sixth man" Madden Schloemer (7th) may not have the most steals or blocks this season, but the intensity and discipline he defends with makes him a very challenging player to go up against. Each player knows that being great at his role is what makes this team a cohesive unit.

What you do.

Knowing your role in regards to what you do does not necessarily have to do with stats, or points, or rebounds. This is the deeper aspect of how we win games. How do you treat your teammates? Do you cheer them on or criticize? How do you treat the opposing team? Are you respectful or not? This is the part of knowing your role where the natural leadership of players either shows itself or not. This is where our team culture and identity comes alive. If you've watched our team play this year, you know we don't come out with a blitz of instant offense or overwhelming

defense. These boys like to get a feel of every ball game. As a game develops, we adjust. This doesn't create blowout victories; this creates well played gritty basketball games. That is our role as a team. That is our culture as a team, patient and gritty. Every game this team has won this year has been by letting the game develop, wearing down the opposition, and then letting the fundamentals finish the game. I could not be more proud of these boys this year.

As we head into the tournament, I want to thank each and every parent and player for allowing me to coach the team this year. I appreciate the way these boys have been receptive to me as a first year coach. Parents, I know it's nerve wracking to send your kid to play on a team coached by someone you may not know very well or at all. Hopefully you have seen in these boys that my intentions are to teach them to play the right way. This has been an amazing first season for me and one that I will never forget. Thank you all.

-Coach Elliott



Go Bobcats



GO BOBCATS

Moving into Thinking

By Mrs. Stephanie Parsons, 4B Teacher



When you walk into our fourth-grade classroom on most days, you won't see students being lectured to during a math lesson; rather, you will see them working in collaborative, randomized groups. This is part of our Building Thinking Classrooms approach, which is centered around Peter Liljedahl's work, where he believes in student collaboration and group work.

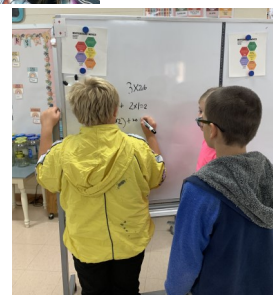
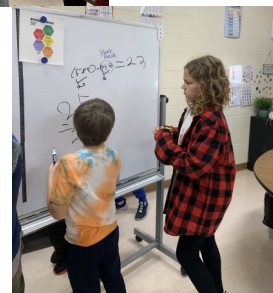
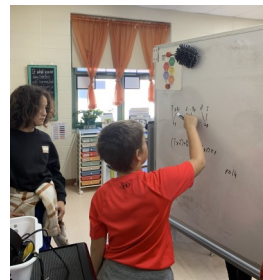
A Building Thinking Classroom is a thinking classroom that is not only conducive to thinking but also occasions thinking (a series of favorable opportunities), a space that is inhabited by thinking individuals as well as individuals thinking collectively, learning together, and constructing knowledge and understanding through activity and discussion.

A thinking classroom looks very different from a typical classroom. Students are working in groups rather than individually; they are standing rather than sitting, and you will see them working on vertical whiteboards around our room. Having students stand while they are engaged keeps them involved and makes them less likely to withdraw from work or assume that others will handle it. True, authentic thinking is occurring.

As students work vertically in groups, teachers can easily see how each group is progressing and move around the room. As questions arise from students, I encourage them to sort out the task on their own and begin asking questions like, "What makes this hard?" and "What have you tried?" This helps get students to think meta-cognitively and develop the skills to push through challenging work on their own.

Research into how best to do this revealed that when we find ways to help students understand both where they are (what they know) and where they are going (what they have yet to learn), not only do they become more active in their learning and thinking, but their performance on unit tests increases.

The full benefits of when all pieces of a thinking classroom are running together the greater student engagement, more active learning, increased student enjoyment, increased student responsibility, higher performance, easier and faster movement through content, greater satisfaction as a teacher; and just like that, we get a whole new set of students to start with again!



Fun Facts About Thanksgiving

The first Thanksgiving was celebrated in 1621 over a three day harvest festival. It included 50 Pilgrims, 90 Wampanoag Indians, and lasted three days. It is believed by historians that only five women were present.

Turkey wasn't on the menu at the first Thanksgiving. Venison, duck, goose, oysters, lobster, eel, and fish were likely served, alongside pumpkins and cranberries (but not pumpkin pie or cranberry sauce!).

There are four towns in the United States named "Turkey." They can be found in Arizona, Texas, Louisiana and North Carolina.

The average number of calories consumed on Thanksgiving is 4,500.



Phonemic Awareness - Crucial for Reading Success

By Mrs. Sara Heithold, KA Teacher

Did you know that the two best predictors of early reading success are alphabet recognition and phonemic awareness? Did you also know that the lack of phonemic awareness is the most powerful determinant of the likelihood of failure to read? So what is phonemic awareness and how can I help my children improve their phonemic awareness. In this article I will explain what is phonemic awareness and how you can help your children succeed in that area.

Phonemic awareness is the ability to hear and manipulate sounds within words. This means that you can do phonemic awareness activities in the dark because you only need your ears to hear the sounds in words and you do not need to see anything to perform the activities.

At Dent-Phelps kindergarten through second grade uses a phonemic awareness curriculum called Heggerty. This curriculum is done daily, only takes 15 minutes, and the teachers do not need any materials for it.

The 5 Phonemic awareness activities that I have listed can be done

on car rides, walks, bath time, waiting in line at the store, and anytime you have an extra moment with your kiddo!

1. Sing songs and nursery rhymes- Rhymes help children understand that sounds in our language have meaning and follow certain patterns. Have fun reading and reciting songs and nursery rhymes together and exaggerate the rhyming words to highlight the different sounds in each word.

2. Word families - Word families are sets of words that rhyme. Start to build your family by giving your child the first word, for example, *cat*. Then ask your child to name all the “kids” in the *cat* family, such as: *bat, fat, sat, rat, pat, mat, hat, flat*. This will help your child hear patterns in words.

3. Tongue ticklers - Alliteration or “tongue ticklers” — where the sound you’re focusing on is repeated over and over again — can be a fun way to provide practice with a speech sound. Try these:

For M: Miss Mouse makes marvelous meatballs!

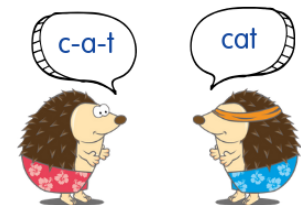
For S: Silly Sally sings

songs about snakes and snails.

For F: Freddy finds fireflies with a flashlight.

4. Jump, skip, hop! - Create simple picture cards that you draw or cut out of magazines. Have your child, identify what’s in the picture, and then break that word into its individual sounds. For example, *dog* is d-o-g, three sounds (phonemes). Three sounds? You and your child do three jumping jacks, skips, or hops (followed by a high-five). You can also do this game outdoors without the cards, just call out simple words for your child.

5. Snail talk - Tell your child you’re going to communicate in “snail talk” and they need to figure out what you’re saying. Take a simple word and stretch it out very slowly (e.g., /ffffffllllaaaag/), then ask your child to tell you the word. Switch roles and have your child stretch out a word for you.



Chess Team Takes 2nd at West Plains Tournament

Way to represent, Bobcats!

Earlier this month the middle school Chess Team came home with big smiles and a 2nd place trophy from the West Plains Chess Tournament.

Parker Long placed 2nd, Alex Johnston placed 3rd and Jayse Potts placed 5th.

Great job Middle School Chess Team.



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*"Value, Empower, and Educate
Everyone, Everyday"*

*We're on the web!
www.dentphelps.k12.mo.us*

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

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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