

# Bobcat Bulletin

Volume V, Issue 5

December 2024



**1st Place Lady Bobcats  
Green Forest R2 Tournament**



**3rd Place Bobcats  
North Wood R4 Tournament**



**Chess Teams  
1st Place Middle School  
1st Place Elementary School  
Gainesville Chess Tournament**

**Christmas Break**

**Early dismissal -**

**Friday, December 20th**

**at 12:30 pm**

**Classes resume**

**Tuesday, January 7th at 8:00 am**

**Menu for January 7th**

**Egg and Cheese Biscuit,**

**Fruit, Juice, Milk**

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**Bosco Pizza Stick,**

**Salad,**

**Fruit, Milk**

## Embracing the Spirit of Christmas and the Promise of a New Year

As we celebrate the Christmas season, we reflect on the incredible journey we've shared during the first half of this school year. Together, we've accomplished so much, and our success is a testament to the strong partnership between our families, staff, and community.

Our students have excelled in academics and showcased their skills and talents in chess, robotics, basketball, and cheerleading. AR family nights brought the joy of reading to life, while the generosity demonstrated during our canned food drive highlighted our community's compassion and commitment to helping others.

A special highlight this fall was our Veterans Day ceremony, where we came together to honor those who have served our country. It was a moving reminder of the values of courage, service, and gratitude that we strive to instill in our students.

As the holidays draw near, the excitement is building for our upcoming Christmas program, which will involve more grade levels than ever before. The students and staff have been working hard to prepare, and we can't wait to see their creativity, talent, and holiday spirit come to life. This program promises to be a wonderful celebration of the season and a testament to the collaborative energy of our school community.

Thank you to all our families for your unwavering support, encouragement, and involvement. Whether cheering from the sidelines, volunteering, or engaging in your child's learning journey, you make a difference every day.

As we look toward 2025, we are filled with excitement and optimism. By working together, we can make the second half of the school year an even greater success for our students, staff, families, and community. Let's continue building an environment where every child thrives and reaches their fullest potential.

Wishing you a holiday season filled with joy, peace, and cherished moments with loved ones. Here's to a bright new year of learning, growth, and achievement together!

Warm regards,  
Mrs. Brooker and Dr. Tiefenthaler

## The Last Chapter of 2024 - Merry Christmas!

By Ms. Julia Fishbauger, PTO Member

It's December already, the last chapter of the year, and boy what a year it's been! This time of the year offers an opportunity for reflection and gratitude. It's a time to cherish the memories made and the lessons learned throughout the year. As we bid farewell to the year behind us, December brings much to look forward to.

Foremost among these is the holiday season. December arrives with the festivities of Christmas taking center stage. Streets strewn with twinkling lights, the aroma of freshly baked cookies, and the joy of exchanging gifts with loved ones all combine to

create an atmosphere of happy togetherness.

The changing of the season brings the promise of snowfall, transforming our world into a winter wonderland. The fun of building snowmen or if we're blessed with enough of it... sledding, make this time of year truly magical.

The holiday traditions, delights of winter activities, and time set aside for friends and family always make this time of year special. The chilly days and early sunsets offer opportunity for closeness with loved ones inside. Our family wards off cabin fever with lots

of time spent snuggled on the couch reading books, playing card games at the kitchen table, and lots and lots of crafts with the kiddos.

We hope you and your kids enjoy the winter break to take a breather from schoolwork and rest up for the rush of the second half of the school year.

Happy holidays from your R3 PTO! We sure hope Santa is good to you, and we'll see you all next year!



## How Many Snow Days Will We Have This School Year???

By Mrs. Tammy Back, IA Teacher

Something I do with my students each year is to make a prediction of when the 100th Day of school will be. The date often changes each school year as one by one the snow storms pass through our area with each snow day pushing back the celebration one more day. The 2024-2025 school year has been different in that we have already had two days off in November due to flooding. It may not have been snow, but nonetheless, the 100th Day of school has already begun its journey, having now been pushed back two days.

Students learn about what it means to make a **hypothesis**, or a proposition based on previous knowledge and data and the term, **inclement weather**, or severe weather that disrupts the regular routine. Then the students will graph the last 15 years to compare the numbers from year to year and look for patterns to justify the date they decide to choose. Once the data has been

analyzed, the students will write their hypothesis of what they think will happen. After the number of snow days is predicted, then the class will take a closer look at the school calendar.

Here is where this experiment can become a challenge. Each day in class we write how many days we have been in school to date on the dry erase board in the front of the classroom. At times, I have to stop and recount the days on the DPR-III school calendar to make sure I have the correct number. First quarter had a total of 40 days, second quarter will have 36 days if it goes as scheduled (was 38 days before the start of November), and the 100th Day of school this year will likely occur during the second week of February. If there were no more inclement weather days, Monday, February 10, 2025 will be the day students will celebrate being 100 days smarter.

The students are always excited to see what will happen and if any of them have picked the correct day. Based on the data recorded over the years, as listed in the t-chart, I would say any date after February 10 could be possible. The number of inclement weather days that is most common is around four. The class will make their hypothesis for the 100th Day of school experiment when we return to school from Christmas break. What day do you think it will be due to the chance of snow days?

2013-2014	18 days
2014-2015	15 days
2015-2016	4 days
2016-2017	4 days
2017-2018	6 days
2018-2019	9 days
2019-2020	10 days
2020-2021	10 days
2021-2022	11 days
2022-2023	8 days
2023-2024	7 days
2024-2025	2+? days

## Freeze the Excuses: Fun Ways to Stay Active This Winter

By Ms. Deanna Atkinson, 5A Teacher

As the winter chill sets in, it can be tempting to stay indoors and hibernate. However, staying active during the colder months is essential for maintaining both physical and mental health. Here are some tips to help you keep moving, even when the weather outside is frightful.

### Embrace Indoor Workouts

When it's too cold or snowy to exercise outside, take your workout indoors. Home workouts like yoga, pilates, or strength training can be done without any equipment. If you enjoy a challenge, follow online workout videos or use fitness apps to keep things fresh and exciting. If you have access to a gym, indoor activities like cycling, or treadmill walking are great alternatives. The Salem Community Center at the armory is a great place to enjoy these things with your family.

### Go for Winter Walks

If you're able to bundle up and brave the cold, winter walks can be an enjoyable way to stay active. The crisp air and quiet, snowy landscapes can make walking more peaceful and mentally refreshing. Just be sure to wear appropriate footwear to avoid slipping on icy sidewalks, and layer your clothing to stay warm. If you haven't walked the Tiger Trail by the upper elementary, that is a good place to start.

### Set Indoor Movement Goals

If you prefer to stay indoors, try setting specific movement goals for the day. Whether it's 10,000 steps on a fitness tracker, a set number of minutes spent stretching, or a challenge to take the stairs instead of the elevator, small goals can keep you motivated and moving.

### Stay Social

Staying active doesn't have to be a solo endeavor. Invite friends or family to join you for indoor classes, winter walks, or sports activities. Group exercises are often more motivating, and spending time with others can help you stay engaged and make it more enjoyable.

### Dress in Layers

When exercising outdoors in winter, dressing in layers is crucial. Don't forget gloves, a hat, and warm socks to protect your extremities from the cold.

Staying active during the winter months might take a bit more effort, but it's worth it for your overall well-being. By finding enjoyable indoor or outdoor activities, setting goals, and staying social, you can maintain a healthy and active lifestyle all year long.

## Science in Everyday Life and Why It Matters

By Ms. Elizabeth Norfolk, 7A Teacher

Science is all around us and plays a vital role in everyday life, from the food we cook to the technology we use. Understanding science helps us make informed decisions, solve problems, and appreciate the wonders of nature and human innovation. In the kitchen, cooking is a chemistry experiment; in technology, advancements in physics, engineering, and materials science shape the devices we rely on; in nature, science explains life cycles, weather patterns, and more; and in health, it empowers us to take care

of our bodies and minds. Science encourages critical thinking, problem-solving, and innovation, fostering curiosity that leads to new discoveries. It also helps us navigate complex issues like climate change, health, and sustainability, giving us the tools to create a better future.

At home, parents can spark their child's scientific interest by asking questions, experimenting together, and connecting science to their child's personal interests. Whether that's sports, art, or technology,

there's a scientific angle to explore, from physics in sports to coding and design. By weaving science into daily life, we help children see its relevance and inspire a lifelong passion for discovery and learning. Together, we can nurture a generation of thinkers and innovators who are prepared to make a positive impact on the world!



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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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