

Bobcat Bulletin

Mark Your Calendar!



April 22nd - May 2nd

8th Grade Graduation



Tuesday,
May 13th
7:00 pm

last day of
PRESCHOOL
2024 - 2025

Mon./Wed. May 5th

Tues./Thurs. May 6th

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

Friday, May 16th

Dismiss at 12:30 pm

Springing into MAP, EOC and I-Ready Assessments

By Ms. Stephanie Dittman, Testing Coordinator

April is fast approaching and soon we will see signs of SPRING!! Along with those signs of spring, students will be seeing signs posted in our hallways reading “Shhh... Students testing”, or “Quiet please, classroom is testing”. Yes, it is that time of year when our students will be taking various end-of-year assessment(s). 1) State MAP testing will include grades 3-8; 2) EOC Algebra 1 will include 8th grade; and 3) I-Ready Diagnostic will include K-8. Testing will take place from April 22-May 9, 2025.

The Importance of State and Benchmark Testing in Your Child’s Education: Every year, students participate in state testing and benchmark assessments, and while some may see these tests as just another requirement, these assessments play a crucial role in shaping your child’s education.

State testing is a tool for growth. State testing provides educators and school administrators with insight into how well students are grasping the curriculum. These assessments measure progress in key subjects such as math and reading and highlight areas that may require additional support. The

results are used not only to evaluate student achievement but also to improve teaching methods, gauge curriculum effectiveness, and inform continuous school improvement efforts.

In addition to state testing, students participate in benchmark testing three times a year. These tests, such as the I-Ready Reading and Math assessments, allow teachers to track student progress throughout the year. Benchmark assessments are not just about scores—they provide teachers with detailed information on each student’s strengths and weaknesses. This data-driven approach allows educators to personalize learning, provide targeted interventions, and ensure that every child is receiving the support they need to succeed.

Parents play a key role in ensuring students feel confident and prepared for testing. Here’s how you can help:

Encourage a Positive Attitude – Remind your child that MAP testing is an opportunity to show what they’ve learned. Encourage them to do their best without stress.

Ensure Restful Sleep – A good night’s sleep helps with

focus and stamina. Aim for at least 8-10 hours of sleep before test days.

Provide a Healthy Breakfast – A nutritious meal with protein, whole grains, and fruit supports brain function and concentration.

Arrive on Time – Being on time prevents unnecessary stress and allows for a smooth start to the test day.

Talk About the Test – Explain to your student that testing helps teachers understand how to support their learning, and reassure them that they are prepared.

Encourage Positive Test-Taking Habits

Remind your child to read each question thoroughly.

Encourage your child to **eliminate wrong answers**, underline key words in questions, and **show their work** in math.

A positive mindset goes a long way! Encourage deep breathing if they feel nervous

We are proud of the hard work our students put in every day. Thank you for your support in helping them feel prepared and confident!

Together, we can make this a successful testing season!

Springtime is Learning Time!

By Mrs. Nicole Atkinson 5/6 Science Teacher

Spring is the perfect time to get outside and explore nature with your family! This year, spring officially begins on Thursday, March 20—just in time for spring break. With warmer weather and longer days, it's a great opportunity to experience the changing season and observe nature in action.

One exciting springtime activity is visiting a petting zoo, where many baby animals are born during this season. In the wild, animals such as foxes, deer, chipmunks, otters, swans, beavers, and raccoons welcome their young in the spring. While black bears are typically born in January, many other species time their births to coincide with an abundance of food and favorable weather conditions—an excellent connection to 5th-grade science standards on life cycles and adaptations!

If your family enjoys the outdoors, consider exploring Missouri's scenic

trails and parks. Great options include Taum Sauk Mountain Trail, Ha Ha Tonka State Park, Elephant Rocks State Park, Dillard Mill State Historic Site, and Devil's Well. These locations showcase the beauty of Missouri's ecosystems, which align with 6th-grade science standards related to Earth's processes and natural environments.

Another hands-on way to engage with nature is by planting a garden. The Farmer's Almanac recommends starting cucumber seeds indoors between March 21 and March 28, then transplanting them outdoors between April 27 and May 2. Green bean seeds can be planted directly outdoors from April 27 to May 9. Gardening is a fantastic way for children to observe plant life cycles and learn about ecosystems while developing responsibility and patience.

Spring is also a time when insects become more active. Many children love catching bugs with nets and jars, but did

you know that fireflies are disappearing? Their decline is linked to habitat loss, pesticide use, and light pollution. According to firefly.org, families can help by:

- Letting logs rot naturally to provide insect habitat
- Planting gardens and trees to support pollinators
- Avoiding pesticides in yards and garden
- Installing water features to create inviting environments for wildlife
- Reducing outdoor lighting and mowing less frequently

For a unique family outing, visit Bo's Hollow, where you can step back in time, enjoy a picnic, and even take a ride in a Model A car. They open for the season on May 1!

Spring is a season of growth, discovery, and learning. Whether you're exploring local trails, observing wildlife, planting a garden, or simply enjoying the sunshine, take time to appreciate the wonders of nature with your family!

Building Each Other Up through Volleyball

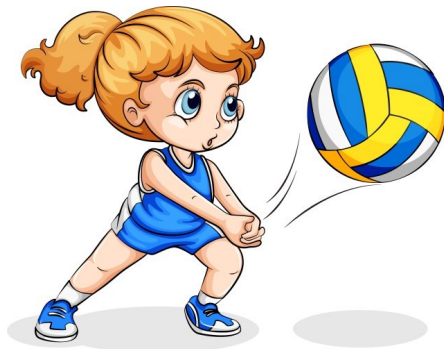
By Coach Deanna Atkinson

Volleyball season is officially over and the Bobcat Volleyball team proved to be such an impressive group of players. There were almost twenty girls that played this year. Being on a team teaches them so much more than volleyball skills; they learn communication skills, empathy, social skills, active listening, and trust. They worked hard to create a bond of trust, friendship, and companionship. During practice the girls would work together to build the strengths of the team and improve weaknesses. The confidence level

of each player and self-esteem was continually supported by each player always providing encouragement when chips were down. I am super proud of the display of being a "team player" each girl presented. They worked really hard all season. Way to go Bobcats!

I want to recognize the Dent-Phelps Volleyball team: 8th grade: Paisley May, Josie Bowers, Abby Edmondson, Emily Rossy, and Lindsey Crump. 7th grade: Harley Camden, Jessica Crump, Macy Manthey, Payton Parks, Raelynn Welch, Maci

Turner, Jaelyn Turner, Kayzlyn Wilson, and Cianna Cambeletta. 6th grade: Quincy Parker, Daizy Kennedy, Josie Radford, and Journey Parker.



Flashlight Friday Makes Reading Fun

By Mrs. Braylin Greer



Every Friday, my second-grade classroom transforms into a magical reading space during D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything and Read) time with our popular tradition called Flashlight Friday. As the classroom lights go off, students eagerly clip on their personal book lights and scatter throughout the room, finding their perfect reading spots among cozy bean bags, saucer chairs, and the reading couch. The freedom to choose where they read helps students feel more relaxed and engaged with their books. Some prefer to curl up in a quiet corner, while others enjoy sitting near friends, creating a comfortable reading community. This

weekly ritual has become a highlight of my students' academic experience, creating an atmosphere where reading feels less like a task and more like an exciting activity.

What makes Flashlight Friday truly special is how it combines comfort, choice, and companionship to foster a love of reading. Students who demonstrate good reading habits can earn the privilege of reading with a "book buddy" which is a small stuffed animal that serves as their reading companion. These cuddly friends sit next to students as they read, offering a sense of comfort and making the experience

more enjoyable. The combination of flexible seating options, personal lighting, and these book buddies creates an environment where students feel empowered to explore literature on their own terms. This innovative approach to D.E.A.R. time has proven to be an effective motivation tool, with students consistently expressing excitement about their Friday reading sessions and showing increased engagement with books throughout the week. The success of this program shows that when we make reading fun and comfortable, students naturally develop stronger reading habits and a genuine interest in books.

Happy SPRING Bobcats!

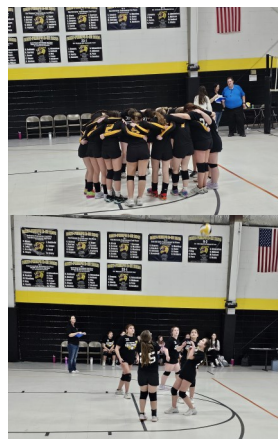
By Mrs. Lia Fishbauger, PTO Member

Whew! We've survived January and February! And what a winter we've had! The snowdrifts have melted, the sun is back, and spring is just around the corner. March 20th marks the official start of spring this year, and I'm counting down the days. Springtime in Missouri is a magical time, and the earth seems to come alive almost overnight.

Spring is marked by the spring equinox. Spring equinox comes from the Latin language, meaning equal and night. This occurs when the earth's axis tilts toward the sun, and the northern hemisphere tilts closer to the sun than further from it as in winter. This makes our days longer and warmer, and our nights shorter. This means we're over the hump of winter! Daylight savings began and be-

fore we know it, we'll be playing out in the yard until the sun sets at 9pm.

So, bring on the sun and warmer days! Bring on green grass, leaves on trees, spring rain, and the newness of this season!



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Everyone, Everyday"*

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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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