

# Bobcat Bulletin

Volume VI, Issue 4

January 2025

## Mark Your Calendar!

### No School - PD Day

February 13th

### No School

### President's Day

February 15th

## Spring Break

March 23rd - March 27th



## MAP Testing

April 20th - April 30th

### 8th Grade Graduation is scheduled for

**Tuesday, May 12th**  
at 7:00 p m



## 8th Grade Takes on the Outsiders at the Fox Theater

By Mrs. Alexis Benowitz, 8th Grade ELA Teacher

Last Friday, the Dent-Phelps R-3 8th grade Bobcats traveled to the Fabulous Fox Theatre in St. Louis to see *The Outsiders: The Musical*, and it was truly a great experience for our students!

Since we had already read *The Outsiders* in class, getting to see the story come to life on stage helped everything connect in a new way. For many students, this was their first time attending a live theatrical performance, and several of them were not sure what to expect going in. By the end of the show, though, their reactions said it all. One student even said it was "the best field trip ever," and many others were surprised by how much they enjoyed it.

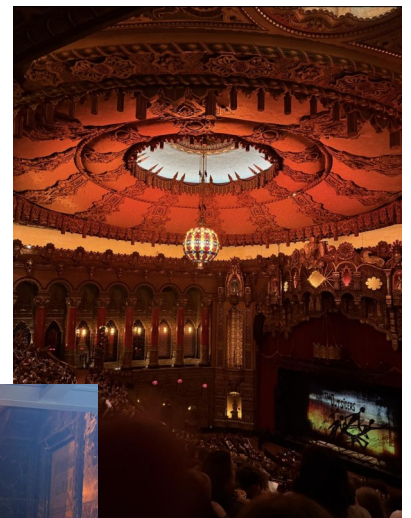
After the show, our students were able to go down to the stage for a question and answer session with some of the cast. The cast members answered thoughtful questions about the performance, the characters, and what it is like to work in theater. This part of the trip made the experience even more meaningful and gave students a chance to connect with the performers in a really memorable way.

Our group stayed engaged the entire time, and afterward the conversations kept going about the music, the characters, the emotions, and how it compared to the book, even into Monday at school. It was really encouraging to see them so involved and excited about something connected to their learning!

I would also like to thank our wonderful chaperones for helping make this experience possible and for taking our rural students into the city and staying up incredibly late

with us. We did not arrive back at school until 1:40 a.m., and their support made all the difference. A huge thank you as well to our parents for trusting us with their children and allowing them to participate in such a special opportunity (and for coming to pick them up at 1:40 on a Saturday morning!).

This trip was a great reminder of how powerful it can be when students get to experience what they are learning about in a real and meaningful way.



# Our Amazing Bobcat Garden Adventure

By Mrs. Amanda Crocker

This year, the Bobcat Garden was bursting with excitement, learning, and lots of green growth! Students from PK through 8th grade had the chance to explore nature up close and discover how amazing plants really are.

One exciting new addition to the garden was a trellis. Students loved watching the pumpkin vines slowly creep and climb their way up. It was especially surprising to see how strong the pumpkin stems were and that they could hold up the heavy pumpkins as they grew. Many students could not believe that something so small could be so strong.

We also started something new and important this year: composting. Stu-

dents learned how food scraps and garden waste can turn into rich soil that helps plants grow. It was a great way to learn how we can take care of the Earth and reduce waste at the same time.

Thanks to all the hard work in the garden, we grew beautiful pumpkins. Each class received one pumpkin and was free to use it however they wished. Some classes decorated their pumpkins, some used them for math or art, and others turned them into science projects.

Class 3B chose to use their pumpkin for a science experiment. They are currently observing the decomposition

process and learning how pumpkins break down over time. They are hoping seeds from their pumpkin will sprout so they can grow new seedlings and continue the garden cycle all over again.

Right now, we are also hard at work creating a pollinator garden. Our goal is to welcome bees, butterflies, and other helpful pollinators, and we hope the garden will be ready just in time for spring and new life. We cannot wait to see the garden buzzing with activity.

The Bobcat Garden has been a wonderful place to learn, explore, and have fun. We are excited to keep growing, discovering, and caring for nature together.

## Welcome 2026, the Year of the Horse

By Mrs. Julia Fishbaugher, PTO Member

I keep hearing that phrase floating around, "Year of the Horse". What does it all mean? Now, I don't put \*much\* stake in Chinese zodiac superstition, but from what little I do know, as an Aries, the description matches my personality to a tee. So, I'm naturally curious about the magical effect that the stamp of time and season seems to have on our being.

Chinese zodiac practices and beliefs date back thousands of years during

the Han Dynasty. These "years of" integrate a twelve-year cycle with twelve special animals, Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Pig. It is believed that a person born in each year will possess special attributes of the animal represented by that specific year, and stands as a prediction of what to expect in the year to come.

The Year of the Horse is the seventh year in the twelve-year cycle. It follows

the Year of the Snake which represents wisdom, patience, and growth. The supposed self-reflection and internal growth of 2025 is followed by a prediction of a much faster paced, energetic year in 2026. This year is meant to be a year of action, courage and moving forward! It is said that the Year of the Snake is spent learning who you are, and the Year of the Horse is about becoming who you're meant to be. It's a year to be bold and grasp opportunity with both hands. How exciting!

## Paws-itive Referrals

By Mrs. Sarah Parker, Assistant Principal



Throughout the school year, students are selected for a positive referral by staff members for going above and beyond to be a positive Bobcat. These character traits are what teachers look for when deciding if a student receives a positive referral: respect, attitude, attendance, responsibility, hard work, honesty, caring, and self-control. Once

a student is recognized for going above and beyond in one of these character traits, or multiple, a teacher "writes the student up" a Paws-itive Office Referral. Once they are referred, a student gets called down to the office by the principal or assistant principal, and they receive a congratulatory well done, a little treat, a PBIS Assembly Good Behavior ticket,

and their picture taken for Facebook. The student's parents also get a call from administration explaining how their child received a positive referral and how their positive actions were recognized. These "referrals" allow students to feel a sense of pride for their actions, and the recognition they receive is well deserved.

# Learning Civic Duty

By Mr. Steven Thompson, 5th/6th Grades Social Studies Teacher

5th grade has had a successful school year so far. Our main focus has been American history and civic duty, guiding students toward becoming informed and responsible citizens of the United States.

5th grade is now approaching the Revolutionary War after exploring key moments in early American history. We began social studies with a brief look at pre-European America and the Pilgrims before diving into the United States as a British colony and the American Revolution.

Alongside our history lessons, 5th grade has explored "Where Do You

Live?" A journey that started with the Dent-Phelps school district, expanded to Missouri, the United States of America, North America, Earth, the Solar System, and stretched all the way to Orion's Arm of the Milky Way Galaxy. This helped students develop a greater understanding of their geographic place in the universe. We fine tuned that with an assignment that used a map of the Dent-Phelps R-3 school district to plot out the way home for the students. Building on this, students completed a map test of Dent County and its county neighbors. That led to mastering the 50 states and capitals of the United States. 5th grade then

took a geographical trip north, learning about Canada's provinces and territories.

In December 5th Grade social studies got acquainted with and learned all the Presidents of the United States. As the school year heads toward summer break, we will continue to study U.S. history through the War of 1812, the growing pains of a young nation, the Civil War, and post Civil War Reconstruction. The goal is to introduce students to key leaders and events to help them understand how past decisions have shaped the country we live in today. Knowing the past will help you better see the future.

## Monthly A.R. Nights - Spark Imagination and Enhance Focus

By Mrs. Angel Hubbs, 1st Grade Teacher

At Dent-Phelps R-III we have monthly AR nights. We invite all the students to read with teachers after school on this night. This provides a quiet place to read and an enjoyable reading experience with their teachers. Parents are always welcome to stay during AR night. This year AR night has fallen on Monday evenings. Sometimes AR goals seem hard to reach and need some time carved out to make sure they have time to reach their goals. We are encouraging students to read and test to meet their goal. Several awesome things happen when a child picks up a book. But most importantly they are building their vocabulary, learning new words, and getting better comprehension skills as they read each story.

At Dent-Phelps R-III we have a large selection of books in our library at school for all ages of students and reading levels. I encourage you to ask your child if they

have checked out books lately and what they have read. Also take time each night to encourage your child to read. Ask them if they have tested lately and if they need help finding a book. Making a nightly routine of reading with your child will be sure to make a lasting impact on their reading abilities and confidence as they grow to become better readers.

We will be having a fun literacy night coming up next month. This will be Monday, February 9, 2026. We will send out permission slips the week before so your child can stay this evening. Please encourage your child to stay for AR night. The teachers would be so excited to see a lot of kids join them this evening.

Upcoming AR nights!  
Monday, February 9, 2026  
Monday, March 9, 2026  
Monday, April 13, 2026



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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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