

Bobcat Bulletin

Volume VI, Issue 6

March 2026

Mark Your Calendar!



Spring Break

March 23rd - March 27th



MAP Testing

April 20th - April 30th

Kindergarten Circus

Friday, May 8th

at 1:00 pm



8th Grade Graduation

is scheduled for

Tuesday, May 12th

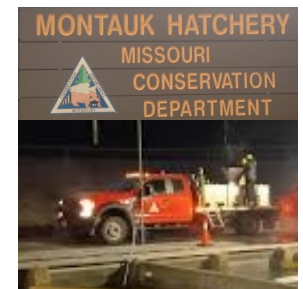
at 7:00 p m



Friday, May 1
5:00 to 7:00 pm



FREE
SLOPPY JOES
& CHIPS
(Thank you PTO)



The Science Fair will be grades 5-8. There will be first, second and third places awarded. Science fair is important for middle school students because it encourages curiosity and critical thinking. Students learn how to ask questions, research information, and test ideas through experiments. This hands-on learning helps them understand how science works in the real world. Science fairs also build important

skills such as problem solving, organization, and communication of findings. In addition, students gain confidence by sharing their work with others and explaining their results. Participating in a science fair can spark interest in science and technology careers while helping students become more independent learners who enjoy exploring and discovering new ideas. Students have been working to come up with

ideas at school, they will conduct their experiments at home, and will bring their findings in to type and prepare their boards. They will be presenting these in the classroom. On the day of the Science Fair they will be placed in the Gymnasium for all to see. At this time the ribbons for first, second and third will be placed on the boards.

Mrs. Nicole Burns, 5/6 Science Teacher

Small Changes Make Big Differences

By Mrs. Braylin Greer, 2B Teacher



Every Friday in 2B, excitement fills the room as we prepare for one of our favorite weekly activities: Flashlight Friday. This special end of week celebration takes place during our D.E.A.R. time (Drop Everything and Read) and has quickly become something students eagerly look forward to all week long.

Flashlight Friday transforms our classroom into a cozy, calm reading space. When the lights go off, students grab a book light, choose a comfortable spot around the room, and settle in with a good book and a book buddy. Flexible seating options like bean bags, couches, and soft floor spaces allow students

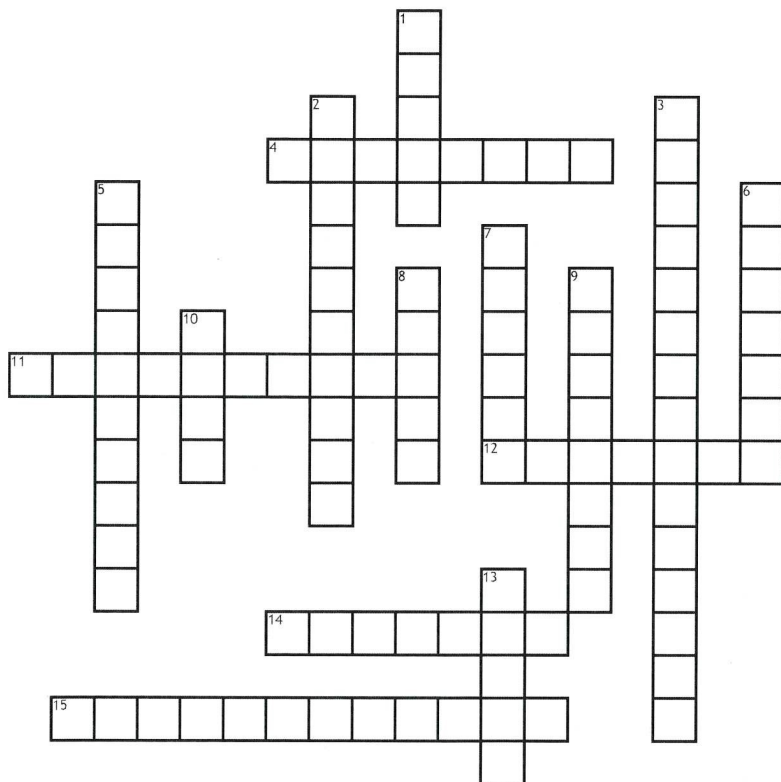
to make themselves comfortable and truly immerse themselves in their reading. The room may be dark, but the love for reading shines bright.

While Flashlight Friday feels like a fun reward, it also serves an important purpose. This tradition is designed to build reading engagement and excitement, especially with our Accelerated Reader (AR) goals. Reading in the dark with individual book lights helps reduce distractions because students are focused on their own books and less aware of what others are doing. As a result, students are more engaged, more focused, and more motivated to read.

Most importantly, Flashlight Friday helps foster a positive reading culture. Students associate reading with comfort, joy, and choice rather than pressure. They love the novelty of reading in the dark and often ask how many days are left until Flashlight Friday. It's a simple routine that creates powerful results such as stronger reading habits, increased confidence, and a genuine love of books.

Remember that small changes can make a big difference in how students experience learning!

I Love The Library



Across

4. Fact finding
 11. A story of real facts.
 12. A distinct group of books shelved together.
 14. The day you must return a book.
 15. System used to arrange nonfiction books

Down

1. Overdue fee
 2. Publication issued regularly
 3. The location of where books are checked out.
 5. Information of where a book is located.
 6. Non factual literature
 7. Where books are stored in the library.
 8. Term used to describe different writing styles
 9. The title of the person in charge of the library.
 10. Overdue fee
 13. A book of maps.

Celebrating Mrs. Pogue's Newly Published Book: *That's What It's Like to Be in Kindergarten*

By Dr. Karla Tiefenthaler, Principal

Dent-Phelps R-III is thrilled to celebrate a special accomplishment from our very own school counselor, Mrs. Kim Pogue! Mrs. Pogue is officially a published author, recently releasing a children's book created to support one of the biggest and most exciting milestones in a child's life: starting kindergarten.

Mrs. Pogue shares that writing a book has been a lifelong dream, inspired by her love of school, books, and words. She says that when she began thinking about the story she wanted to tell, the transition into elementary school felt like the perfect fit, given her background in schools and her many years spent helping families navigate this important time in their young child's life.

As a counselor, Mrs. Pogue sees firsthand how the move to kindergarten can feel overwhelming for some children and families. New routines, new expectations, and unfamiliar environments can create real worry, especially for young learners who aren't sure what to expect. Mrs. Pogue explains she wrote *That's What It's Like to Be in Kindergarten* with the heartfelt goal of easing those anxieties and helping children approach school with confidence, comfort, and curiosity.

At its heart, this book is all about helping kindergarteners feel excited and hopeful about the adventure ahead. For families, the message is just as reassuring: school is a powerful place for learning and growth, and school staff genuinely look for-

ward to welcoming students and walking alongside them as they begin this new educational journey.

Mrs. Pogue also emphasizes a practical way caregivers can help with first-day worries by keeping the tone positive and talking children through what they might experience at school. "

Knowing what to expect can be one of the best defenses against worry," she says. Her advice to incoming kindergarten families is simple and encouraging, "Speak positively about school, build your child's confidence, talk through expectations, and invite your child to share concerns so worries can be addressed before the first day."

When asked about her favorite part of her new book, she shares, "My favorite part of the book is the ending where kindergarteners go home and share with their families what their first day of school is like. The hope is that kindergarteners have positive experiences about school to share at the dinner table on the first day of school." The book also opens the door for meaningful conversations about friendships and feelings by highlighting the excitement of meeting new people and learning how to be a good friend when you encounter someone new.

Mrs. Pogue also shares another encouraging takeaway from her writing journey: self-publishing was much easier than she expected once her illustrator helped guide her through the process.

Herein lies proof that, with determination and the right guidance, big dreams really can become reality!

Families who would like to purchase *That's What It's Like to Be in Kindergarten* can find it on Amazon. Mrs. Pogue also plans a read-aloud at the Salem Public Library in the near future, with another read-aloud invitation coming up soon at Green Forest R-II. Here at Dent-Phelps, she plans to use the book as a transition activity to support our Bobcats as they move from preschool to kindergarten.

We are incredibly proud of Mrs. Pogue for this wonderful accomplishment and for creating a resource that supports students, reassures families, and celebrates the joy of beginning school.

Congratulations, Mrs. Pogue, and thank you for sharing your literary gift with us all!



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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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