

Bobcat Bulletin

Volume VI, Issue 7

April 2026

Mark Your Calendar!



May 1st
5:00 to 7:00 pm



Kindergarten Circus
Friday, May 8th
at 1:00 pm

8th Grade Graduation
is scheduled for



Tuesday, May 12th
at 7:00 p m

Field Day
Thursday, May 14th
Grades K-7th



MSTA South Central Support Staff of the Year - Alicia Pryor

Alicia Pryor exemplifies the very best of what it means to serve a school community. As our school nurse, she consistently goes above and beyond to ensure that the physical, emotional, and overall well-being of every student is met with compassion, professionalism, and care. Alicia's kindness is evident in every interaction, and her ability to connect with students, staff, and families makes a lasting impact on our school climate.

She approaches even the most challenging situations with grace and dignity. Whether supporting a student through a difficult moment or assisting teachers with complex student needs, Alicia is always willing to step in, listen, and help find solutions. Her calm presence and reassuring demeanor provide comfort during stressful situations, and her positive, bubbly personality lifts the spirits of those around. That sense of warmth and humor is invaluable in a demanding environment and helps create a school where

people feel supported and safe.

Beyond Alicia's daily responsibilities, she plays a vital role in school safety. As an active member of the safety committee, she works diligently to ensure that staff are properly equipped and prepared for emergencies. She takes the initiative to confirm that teachers have the necessary supplies and up-to-date training to respond effectively in critical situations. Her dedication to preparedness gives staff the confidence needed to focus on teaching and supporting students, knowing that safety is a shared and well-organized priority.

What truly sets Alicia apart is her genuine care for both students and staff. She understands that when students feel safe, healthy, and supported, the entire school benefits. Her commitment to fostering that environment has a direct, positive effect on morale, collaboration, and overall success. Teachers feel sup-

ported, students feel valued, and our school is stronger because of her presence.

Alicia Pryor is more than a school nurse; she is a trusted advocate, a steady leader, and a source of encouragement for our entire community. Her heart for service, dedication to safety, and unwavering support make an outstanding candidate for the South Central Support Staff Member of the Year award. Our school is undeniably a better place because of her.



The Impact and Excitement of Middle School Volleyball

By Ms. Deanna Atkinson, Coach

Middle school volleyball is more than just a sport—it is an opportunity for students to develop teamwork, discipline, confidence, and perseverance. For many students, joining the volleyball team is their first experience participating in organized athletics, making it an important stepping stone in both their athletic and personal development. Through practices, games, and team bonding, student-athletes learn lessons that extend far beyond the court.

One of the most valuable aspects of middle school volleyball is the emphasis on teamwork. Success in volleyball depends on communication and cooperation. Players must trust one another to pass, set, and hit the ball effectively. Each athlete has a specific role, and when everyone works together, the team becomes stronger. These experiences teach students how to collaborate, encourage their peers, and celebrate both individual and team accomplishments.

Volleyball also helps students build

important life skills. Practices require dedication, focus, and the willingness to improve. Players learn how to handle both victories and losses with good sportsmanship, developing resilience and a positive attitude. Coaches often emphasize effort, growth, and learning from mistakes, helping students understand that improvement comes through persistence and hard work.

In addition to skill development, middle school volleyball creates a strong sense of community. Teammates spend time supporting one another during practices and games, often forming friendships that last well beyond the season. The energy of game days—students cheering from the stands, teammates encouraging one another, and the excitement of a close match—creates memorable experiences for everyone involved.

Ultimately, middle school volleyball is about more than winning games. It is about helping students grow into confident, responsible individ-

uals who understand the value of teamwork, commitment, and perseverance. Whether a student continues to play volleyball in high school or simply carries the lessons forward, the experiences gained on the court can have a lasting impact on their lives.



Spring has Officially Sprung

By Mrs. Julia Fishbaugher, PTO Member

Spring has officially sprung! The age-old humidity hangs heavy in the air, happy little dandelions polka dot the freshly green landscape, new buds are forming on every branch of every tree, and every evening is getting longer and lighter.

When April showers cloud our forecast,

just remember that May's flowers are right around the corner. Change is here!

The school year is slowly winding to a close, and every teacher and parent is wondering where in the world this year has gone. Time for the final push to finish out strong! Your PTO hopes you're

taking full advantage of the beautiful Ozark spring and that your boots are muddy, your lungs are full of fresh air, you stay out until the yard lights come on, and your winter-time cabin fever is fully put to rest.

Happy Spring!



Dent-Phelps Athletes Shine at Special Olympics

By Mrs. Dani Baldwin, SPED Coordinator

In March, our Dent-Phelps athletes participated in their first-ever Special Olympics Unified Basketball Tournament, marking a significant milestone for our community. This event was a Unified Sports initiative, which fosters inclusion by bringing together athletes with developmental disabilities and partners without these disabilities to play on the same team.

Dent-Phelps proudly fielded two Unified Basketball teams. Our older students competed in the 3-on-3 Unified Basketball bracket, where they showcased their skills and teamwork, ultimately taking first place and earning the gold medal in their division.

The second team, comprised of students aged 8 to 14, participated in the Skills and Drills competition. This aspect of the Special Olympics focuses on teaching foundational basketball skills such as dribbling, passing, and shooting. It serves as both a learning opportunity for beginners and a competitive platform for those not engaged in team play. Our young athletes excelled, securing third place and bringing home the bronze medal.

The basketball tournament, held in Laquey, was a day filled with joy and smiles. Special Olympics offers an incredible opportunity for students with disabilities to engage in sports and events that might otherwise be inaccessible. We are proud

of our athletes and grateful for the support of our community, which makes these experiences possible.

By participating in Unified Sports, we emphasize the power of inclusion and the importance of providing all students with the chance to shine. Thank you to everyone involved for making this event a memorable success!



Following the basketball tournament, our athletes quickly shifted focus to the Waynesville track meet. Each athlete signed up for a running event, a throwing event, and a jumping event. Though rain storms shortened the day, students still completed two events each. We were able to take seven athletes to the track meet, and all seven returned with at least two medals. Students experienced new challenges, such as jumping into a sand pit—quite different from our grassy practice area. All of the students tried their best, but the highlight was watching them cheer each other on during events.



Nurse Alicia's April Newsletter

Spring into healthy habits

Can you solve this riddle?

I am not seen, but I'm always done. Followed by many, avoided by some. In the morning, at night, or the day's middle. I am an action, a pattern, a little riddle. What am I?

(Answer is on bottom corner of page)

A habit is a regular behavior or routine that is repeated frequently and often without thinking.

Examples of Healthy Habits

- Hydration
- Exercising
- Hygiene
- Skin Care
- Nutrition
- Good Sleep Routine

Lets take a closer look

Hydration: Regular hydration is fundamental for maintaining bodily functions. Water aids digestion, regulates body temperature, and helps eliminate toxins. Keeping hydrated is crucial for maintaining concentration and energy levels, especially during busy school days.

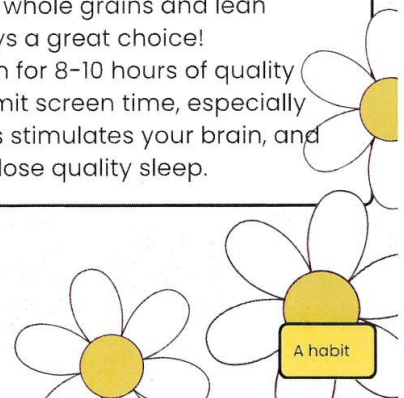
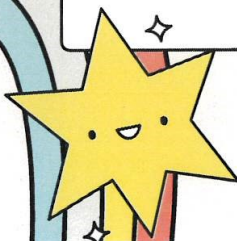
Exercising: Regular physical activity is a key habit, for maintaining health. Exercise strengthens the cardiovascular system, builds muscle tone, and enhances mental health by releasing endorphins.

Hygiene: Maintaining good hygiene is important for preventing illness and promoting overall health. Brushing teeth, showering daily, and putting on clean clothes every day helps to reduce the spread of germs. Wearing deodorant daily is an added bonus!

Skin Care: Regular skin care protects your skin from environmental damages and helps maintain its health and vitality. Proper skin care routines can prevent common skin issues and boost self-esteem.

Nutrition: A balanced, nutritious diet helps support physical health, aids mental function, and can prevent a range of chronic diseases. Fruits, vegetables, whole grains and lean proteins are always a great choice!

Sleep Routine: Aim for 8-10 hours of quality sleep per night. Limit screen time, especially before bed, as this stimulates your brain, and can cause you to lose quality sleep.



SCHOOL COUNSELING

APRIL NEWS

MONTHLY FOCUS SELF-DISCIPLINE

Kids who have self-discipline can cope with uncomfortable emotions in a healthy way.

They've learned anger management skills and are able to control impulsive behavior. They can respond respectfully when adults correct them and they can take responsibility for their behavior.



IMPORTANT DATES

4/3- NO SCHOOL

MAP Testing

4/24- NO SCHOOL

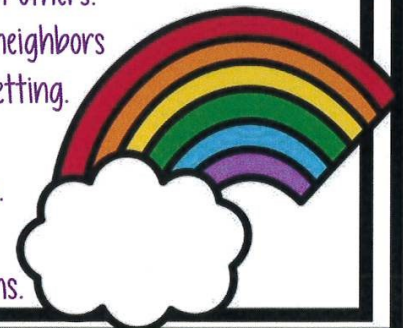
5/1-8th Grade to RTI/C

5/12-8th Grade Graduation

HAPPY KIDS TIP

Here are tips to help your child make and keep friends:

1. Model and practice key skills like introducing yourself, taking turns, and asking questions to show interest in others.
2. Set up playdates with classmates and neighbors to build friendships in a comfortable setting.
3. Role-play ways to start conversations, include others, and join group activities.
4. Encourage group activities like sports teams, clubs, and after-school programs.



Mrs. Kim Pogue



573-729-4680 ext. 1005

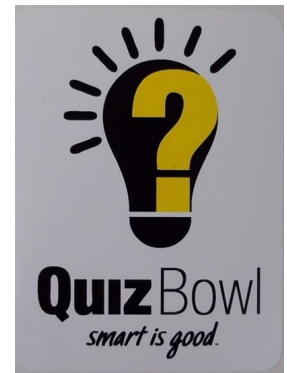


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Successful Quiz Bowl Season for Bobcats

The all-fourth grade Bobcat Quiz Bowl team, coached by Mrs. Jennifer Rogers and Mrs. Gabby Lopez, captured 3rd place in the Salem Elementary Quiz Bowl Tournament. These fourth grade Bobcat scholars competed against both fourth and fifth grade students.

Team members are Savannah Johnson, Landan Lopez, Rue Crocker and Paul Longley.



Middle School Bobcat Quiz Bowl members captured 1st place in the recent Salem Quiz Bowl Tournament!

Raelynn Welch, Emmett Robbins, Conray Bauer, Luke Hubbs and Madden Schloemer (not pictured) make up this year's middle school team. The team is coached by Mrs. Jennifer Rogers.



Way to brain, Bobcats!!! 🧠



Spring Fever has Hit Bobcat Country

By Dr. Karla Tiefenthaler, Assistant Superintendent

As we gingerly step into April, our school abuzz with energy, growth, and excitement. This time of year offers a wonderful opportunity to reflect on how far our students have come while also looking ahead to the many memorable moments to come this month and next.

One important milestone this month is MAP (Missouri Assessment Program) testing. These assessments help us understand each student’s academic growth and guide our instruction to better meet their needs. We encourage all students to do their best, get a good night’s sleep, and come to school ready to show what they know. We are proud of the progress they’ve made this year and look forward to celebrating their continued growth.

Beyond the classroom, spring brings some of the most anticipated events of the year. End-of-year field trips are being planned, offering students meaningful, hands-on learning experiences and a chance to explore beyond

the school walls. Teachers work hard to plan and manage these trips, which provide opportunities to tie school curriculum to real-life, and to have fun doing so!

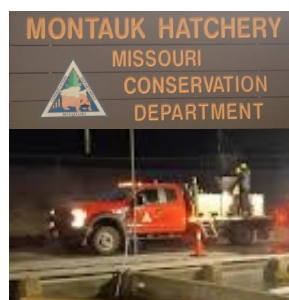
In honor of our dedicated educators, we will celebrate National Teacher Appreciation Week May 4th-8th. This special week is the ideal time for families and administration to celebrate and thank all teaching staff for their commitment to our Dent-Phelps students. Our staff morale committee fundraises throughout the year to provide. I encourage families to reach out to teachers during this week and let them know they are valued for their hard work and the positive impact they have on students!

We are also eagerly preparing for an event that is near and dear to Mrs. Crocker’s heart—Field Day on May 14th! Mrs. Crocker is once again heading up the Field Day committee’s planning and implementation efforts for a day filled with fun, teamwork, and school spirit. Students will have

the chance to participate in a variety of outdoor activities that promote collaboration, perseverance, and joy. It’s always a fantastic day for our entire school!

Our Family Involvement committee is excited to bring back our beloved Spring Jubilee this year. In the spirit of community, this event will once again bring together students, families, and staff for an evening of celebration and connection. With games, activities, and opportunities to simply enjoy time together, Spring Jubilee has long been a cherished part of our school culture, and we are thrilled to welcome the community on May 1st from 5:00-7:00 PM. We hope this special evening strengthens the connections that make our school such a wonderful place.

As we move through this exciting season, thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together, we are creating a positive and enriching environment where every student can thrive.



Friday, May 1
5:00 to 7:00 pm
FREE
SLOPPY JOES
& CHIPS
 (Thank you PTO)

DENT-PHELPS R-III SCHOOL

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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

Dent-Phelps R-3 School
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