

Bobcat Bulletin

Volume VII, Issue I

September 2026

Mark Your Calendar!

No School

October 5, 2026

Family Game Night

October 9

5:30 - 7:30 pm

School Cafeteria



Smile Mobile

October 12 - 16

First Quarter Ends

October 16th

Parent Teacher Conferences
 Behavior Teamwork Grades Communication Homework
 Progress Goals Achieve

October 19 - 22

No School

October 22, 2026

Creating Moments that Matter... The Bobcat Way

By Dr. Karla Tiefenthaler, Superintendent

As we begin another school year at Dent-Phelps R-III, I am reminded of just how fortunate I am to be part of this school community. There is something very special about Dent-Phelps. It is found in the way our staff cares for our students, the way our families support our school, and the way our community comes together for our children. As superintendent, I want our families to know that you are not simply part of our school...you are an important part of our Bobcat family.

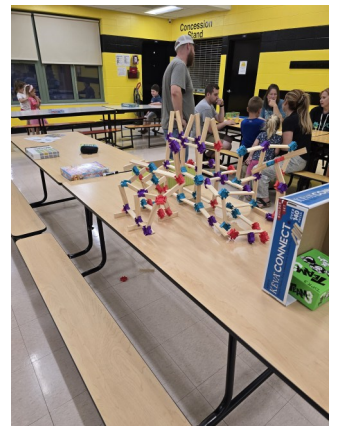


One of our goals this year is to create more opportunities for our families to

come together, get to know one another, and feel at home in our school. With that in mind, we were excited to introduce Family Game Night, with our first event held on Friday, September 11th. The idea behind Family Game Night is really quite simple. We want to open our doors and give families a chance to slow down, spend time together, laugh, play, and enjoy one another's company. In the busyness of everyday life, those moments together are so important. Our children benefit when they see the adults in their lives connected, working together, and cheering them on.

In a world of hurry and distraction, the staff of Dent-Phelps will continue to work to make our school a place where every family feels welcome when they walk through our doors. I want you to feel comfortable coming into our school, talking with us, celebrating with us, and being part of the many experiences that make childhood and the school years so memorable. We may not always get eve-

rything perfect, but I hope our families always know how deeply we care about your children and how grateful we are that you entrust them to us each day.



Thank you to everyone who joined us for our first of many Family Game Nights planned for this school year. I am excited about what this school year holds, but more than anything, I am thankful that we get to experience it together. Thank you for supporting our students, encouraging our staff, and helping make Dent-Phelps R-III a place where children know they belong.

Welcome Back to School, Bobcats!

By Mrs. Julia Fishbaugher, PTO Member

Whew! Where did the summer GO?! As the saying goes, "time flies when you're having fun"! We all sure must have had TOO much fun because the summer was a crazy blur (at least it was for all the parents!).

We hope your summer days were spent with plenty of time relaxing, soaking up the sunshine and playing in the pool, lake, river etc. Now it's time to drag ourselves reluctantly, and somehow at the same time, excitedly, back to the hum and routine of the school year.

Another year begins with worn in schedules, and the intrigue of new faces mixed with the comfort of familiar ones.

This time of year, I'm always thankful for the blessing of our little school. As a parent, I cannot describe the peace of mind I have the privilege of knowing when I hand my children off in the morning to the smiling faces of individuals who have dedicated so much to their development and wellbeing. The community of Dent Phelps R3 truly is a betterment to all of us.

Now, it's time to settle in, buckle down, and reach our goals for the school year. The next goal for your PTO is to wrap hundreds of Boo-Grams for you to pass out to your friends this Halloween! Oh yeah, that's riight around the corner, and it'll be here in the blink of an eye! Remember that all proceeds of every PTO fundraiser go right back to our school, so we appreciate your continued participation!

Let's have an incredible 2026-2027 school year!

Enjoying the Game - 4th/5th Grades Basketball

By Coach Bell Jadwin

Our 4th and 5th grade basketball players made so much progress this season, both as athletes and as teammates. For many of our players, this is their first opportunity to experience competitive basketball, and it has been rewarding to see them learn, improve, and gain confidence with each practice and game.

They bring a lot of energy and excitement to the basketball court. They love to compete and want to win, but they are also learning that not every game will go their way. Learning to handle tough moments, overcome disappointment, and keep a positive mindset has

been an important part of their journey.

Throughout the season, we focused on giving our best effort, supporting our teammates, and working together. Every game has been an opportunity to learn something new and become better.

We are incredibly proud of how far these young players have come. They are developing skills, building friendships, learning valuable lessons, and making memories that will last long beyond this season.

Most importantly, they are having fun and enjoying the game!



**October 15th
6:00 pm**

**Dent Phelps R-3
Conference Room**

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Enjoying Beef Days Field Trip

By Miss Ciera Hamilton, 4A Teacher

Recently 4th grade had the opportunity to attend Beef Days, an exciting educational field trip that connected many of the things we learn in the classroom to our community and everyday life. During the event, students rotated through several hands-on learning sessions led by local FFA members, along with local organizations and agricultural experts. We learned about different farm animals and their purposes during the FFA Farm Barnyard exhibit. Students also discovered the many products that can be made from cattle through a lesson on beef by-products. Another session focused

on forestry products and taught us about the importance of trees and Missouri's forests. We also learned about the "Purple Cow" and how agriculture plays an important role in our state.

Safety was an important part of our day as well. Students learned about firearm safety, electrical safety, and safe practices when using or being around ATVs, tractors, and chainsaws. These lessons helped us understand how to make safe choices around farms, homes, and outdoor equipment. In addition to learning, students enjoyed spend-

ing time with classmates, participating in the coloring contest, and having lunch together.

Beef Days gave our 4th graders a fun way to explore agriculture, rural life, and safety while learning from people in our community. We are thankful for the opportunity to learn outside of the classroom and experience these topics in a hands-on and meaningful way.

It was a fun and educational day that our students will remember and share what they learned with classmates and teachers afterward.



We're Back... And We Brought the Glue Sticks

By Mrs. Amanda Crocker, 3B Teacher

BREAKING NEWS: Third grade has officially arrived!

After a long summer of sleeping in, eating snacks, playing outside, and forgetting what day it is, our third graders are back! The backpacks are packed, the pencils are sharpened, and approximately 47 glue sticks are ready to disappear. We are only getting started, but our classroom is already buzzing with learning, laughter, questions, and the occasional mystery of "Whose water bottle is this?"

WHAT IS A THIRD GRADER?

A third grader is a very special type of human. They can read chapter books, solve tricky math problems, tell you exactly what happened at recess, and some-

how need a snack approximately 11 minutes after lunch. Third graders are also becoming more independent learners. This year, we'll be learning how to think deeply, explain our ideas, solve problems, and ask BIG questions.

WHAT ARE WE LEARNING THIS YEAR?

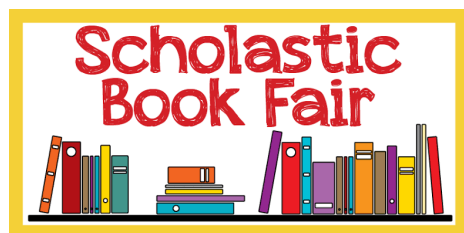
In Reading, we'll read lots of great books, become reading detectives, discover new words, and look for important details hiding in our stories.

In Writing, we'll become authors! We'll write stories, opinions, and informational pieces while learning how to make our writing even better. In Math, things are

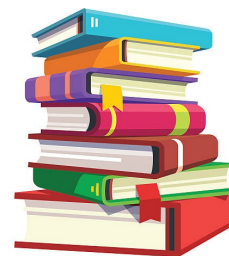
about to get serious. We'll learn more about multiplication and division, work with larger numbers, solve word problems, explore fractions, and use different strategies to solve tricky problems.

In Science, we'll investigate, experiment, observe, and ask lots of questions about the world around us. In Social Studies, we'll explore communities, geography, history, and the people and places that make Missouri interesting.

September is just the beginning, and we already have plenty of learning, laughing, reading, writing, exploring, and of course glue-sticking ahead of us.



**Dent Phelps Library
Monday - Thursday
October 19-22**



It Takes a Community

By Mrs. Sarah Parker, Principal

As we begin another school year, I can't help but feel incredibly proud of our school family and the way everyone has come together to make this such a wonderful start. In a small school and community, we know that every person matters, and we see firsthand what can happen when we work together. Our teachers have welcomed students with open arms, our support staff has stepped in wherever

needed, and our administrators and staff have worked side by side to make sure our students have the best possible start. Countless little moments like helping a student find their way, lending a hand to a colleague, greeting a family, or simply taking the time to make someone feel valued are what truly make our school special. These moments may not always make the headlines, but they are what makes

our school a community. I am thankful every day for the people who pour their time, energy, and heart into our students. Thank you for making the start of the school year so amazing. I am proud to serve alongside you, and I look forward to all that we will accomplish together this year. When we work together as a community, our students benefit most, and they are the reason we do what we do.

Working Hard in Preschool

By Mrs. Megan Moravec, PK Teacher and PAT Coordinator

Preschool has been working hard over the past several weeks of school! Since this is their first year in a school setting, preschoolers have been learning the rules and routines of our school and classroom. They have met and learned about their new classmates and what it means to be a good friend. We have also been working on what it means to be a responsible team member in our classroom.

Preschoolers have been learning how to stay safe within the classroom and throughout our school. They have been developing important social-emotional skills, such as sharing, taking turns, and solving problems with others. They have also learned about and practiced how to use classroom supplies, such as scissors and glue.

Throughout the school year, preschoolers will be working on many other skills, such as shape, color, number, and letter recognition, as well as learning the sounds that letters make. Children will learn to rote count and count objects to determine

how many are in a set.

Preschoolers also need to strengthen the small muscles in their hands, which are needed for everyday activities such as buttoning, zipping, and opening snack items, as well as for schoolwork such as writing, cutting, and coloring.

There are so many skills that we work on in preschool, but these are just a few! It is so exciting to see each student grow and develop throughout their preschool year.

Here are some tips to help your preschooler at home:

- **Give your child experiences!** Children learn from the world around them. They make connections and draw on their experiences. Take a nature walk, let your child play in the mud, talk about the world around you as you drive, or visit a new place. Your child will be able to use these experiences as they play and pretend. They will also learn new language and vocabulary.

- **Spend time reading together each day!** Talk about the story, the characters, and any words they may not know.

- **Let your child be bored!** Limit screen time. This allows your child time to learn how to self-regulate and manage their emotions. When children are bored, they have an opportunity to get creative and use their imagination!

- **Give your child time and a safe space to practice independence skills.** Encourage your child to practice on their own skills such as putting on their shoes and jacket, putting their belongings into their backpack and zipping it up, opening their snack items, and wiping up spills.

Make learning FUN! Preschoolers learn best through hands-on activities and play! Work in short intervals, as their brains are not yet ready or developed to sit for long periods of time. If they aren't interested, move on and try again another time.



**Monday
October
12th**



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

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