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# PAW PRINTS

Batesburg-Leesville Elementary School

[www.bles.groupfusion.net](http://www.bles.groupfusion.net)

Volume N Issue 1

October 2009

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## From the Principal's Office

Dear Parents,

Thank you for helping to make the first nine weeks of the school year a huge success. With your influence and support, BLES students have entered school well-behaved and ready to learn. We are proud to report that our new Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) initiative is working to positively shape our students' behaviors and attitudes. Needless to say, the adults in the building are happier too!



Thank you for being a part of our Family Math Night. It was wonderful to see our families and teachers having a good time playing math games together. Thanks also for your support of the Fall Festival. The event was a huge success, and we raised approximately \$2,000 for our school.

Currently, our third grade students are getting ready for our upcoming winter program on December 3, "A Penguin Christmas." This is a program you won't want to miss!

BLES students continue to grow in their efforts to be young people of good character. Each month, our school focuses on an important character trait. In September, students worked on "team work" skills; and in October, students focused on "optimism." Our hope is that this monthly focus will result in life time habits of good character. In November, we will work on the character trait of "thankfulness;" and in December, we will focus on "compassion."

Lastly, I would like to highlight our BLES faculty and staff. They are such a hard working group and are diligent in their efforts to improve student achievement. Earlier this year, Mrs. Mary Clare Price was named our "District Teacher of the Year." Mrs. Price is representative of the many teachers in our school and school district who have a gift for teaching and truly go the extra mile for their students. With teachers like these and parents like you, our students are sure to meet with success.

Sincerely,

Dr. Darlene Stephens, BLES Principal

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## Everyday Math

This year our district has adopted Everyday Math for K-5. Our teachers are using this research-based curriculum, developed as part of the University of Chicago School Mathematics Project (UCSMP). Everyday Mathematics reflects the state and national goals for mathematics. As a parent you can expect to see...



- A problem-solving approach based on everyday situations
- An instructional approach that revisits concepts regularly
- Frequent practice of basic skills, often through games
- Lessons based on activities and discussion, not a textbook
- Mathematical content that goes beyond basic arithmetic

If you want more information about Everyday Math, please go to the following sites:

Getting to Know Everyday Math PowerPoint is at the bottom of the following site:

[https://www.wrightgroup.com/parent\\_connection/about.html](https://www.wrightgroup.com/parent_connection/about.html).

<http://everydaymath.uchicago.edu/>

<http://www.everydaymathsuccess.com/video.html>

This site below will show you how we do partial sums, lattice multiplication and etc.

[https://www.everydaymathonline.com/free\\_resources\\_main.html?frnologin=1&PHPSSESSIONID=b55cc580560eea08b23ecfc6d5c8e800](https://www.everydaymathonline.com/free_resources_main.html?frnologin=1&PHPSSESSIONID=b55cc580560eea08b23ecfc6d5c8e800)

If you don't have a computer at home to get to the above sites and want to know more about Everyday Math, please contact your child's teacher or Wanda Harmon, Math Interventionist, for more information. The school's phone number is 532-1155.

Also, please put the following dates on your calendar. The school will be administering the following basic facts tests throughout the school year to make sure all of our students know their basic facts. All grades have already had their addition tests. Fifth grade

has had their subtraction test, and fourth grade will be having their basic subtraction test on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will be giving re-tests to those students who have not mastered their basic facts.

	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade
<b>Addition</b>	Oct. 2, 2009	Sept. 25, 2009	Sept. 4, 2009
<b>Subtraction</b>	Nov. 20, 2009	Oct. 23, 2009	Oct. 2, 2009
<b>Multiplication</b>	Feb. 19, 2010	Dec. 11, 2009	Nov. 20, 2009
<b>Division</b>	March 19, 2010	Feb. 19, 2010	Jan. 29, 2010
<b>Mixed (Optional)</b>	N/A	N/A	March 19, 2010

### Square

Not a curve in sight  
 Neither a light  
 But four little 90 degree angles  
 The shape of a TV  
*By Dalton S.*

### BLES Afterschool Program

The Afterschool Program has gotten off to a great start this year. We have 120 students in the program who attend the program Monday – Thursday each week. Students will be tutored in math and reading 3 days per week during the year. They will have homework time each day. Students will enjoy activities on Wednesdays, such as Manner’s classes, Aikido, Junior Achievement, Physical Activity, Computer time, Library time, Aerobics, Art, and more.

Last week, we had a story teller from the Batesburg Branch of the Lexington County Public Library come and tell stories to a group of our students. We have had a Parenting Program on safety and our Family Reading Night kick-off that parents and students attended. Students will be attending a play at Haynes Auditorium in December. On Tuesday, October, 27<sup>th</sup> we will have our Lights on Afterschool Celebration. We will have an Open House for parents during our program from 3-5, and at 5:15 we will have pizza and entertainment in the cafeteria. Darion McLeod from the Columbia Museum of Art will be telling stories during our program.

### P.E. Student of the Month

Congratulations to the P.E. Students of the Month. These students were selected because of the great effort, the nice manners, and the sportsmanship they demonstrate in their Physical Education class.

#### September –

- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Kate D. and Christian T.
- 4<sup>th</sup> grade Kacie E. and Osvaldo G.
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade Amaia C. and Kevin A.

#### October -

- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Julia E. and James S.
- 4<sup>th</sup> grade Dominique S. and Taylor J.
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade Emily J. and Anthony W.

### **Bateburg-Leesville Branch Library Events**

**‘All programs are free’**

- Gazing at the Stars: An Astronomy Program November 9 at 6 p.m. For all ages
- Books & Beyond: November 19, December 17 at 4 p.m. For ages 6 and up.
- Give Thanks and Give: November 23 at 6 p.m. Storytelling by Angela O’Connell and a craft. We will also be collecting non-perishable food items for a local ministry.
- December 21 at 5:30 p.m.: “Shrek before Christmas” movie and visit from Mr. and Mrs. Santa.
- Porkchop Productions will be here on December 19 at 2 p.m. with a special holiday performance.
- Book Club for grades 6-8 will meet on November 10 at 4 p.m. We will discuss *Shiloh* by author Phyllis Reynolds Naylor.
- Teens & Tweens will be held 11/16 and 12/14 at 5:30 p.m. For 6<sup>th</sup> grade and up.

Cindy Sexton  
 Youth Services Assistant  
 B-L Branch Library  
 203 Armory Street  
 Batesburg, SC 29006  
 532-9223

### Author Visit



Fran Hawk, author of The Story of the H.L. Hunley and Queenie’s Coin will visit our school on November 6. Mrs. Hawk is a former school librarian and presently writes a weekly column for the Charleston “Post and Courier.” She lives in the Charleston area and will travel to our school to talk about the writing of her award-winning book and to share with students a replica of “Queenie’s coin” which was found inside the H.L. Hunley when it was resurrected from Charleston Harbor in 2000. The H.L. Hunley disappeared on the night of February 17, 1864 after becoming the first submarine in history to sink a ship during wartime. The Hunley was finally found in 1995, 28 feet below the surface of Charleston Harbor, about four miles from shore.

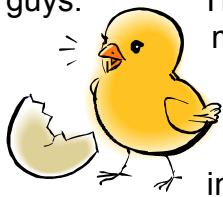
Mrs. Hawk's favorite things are children, books, and writing. We are looking forward to her visit on November 6. A form will be sent home with students to purchase a copy of The Story of the H.L. Hunley and Queenie's Coin for \$17.95. Mrs. Hawk will autograph copies during her visit. You can find more information about Mrs. Hawk and her books at [franhawkbooks.com](http://franhawkbooks.com).

### **News from Mrs. Watson's Science Lab**

In the science lab, the teachers and I choose activities that match the state standards that the students are studying in the classroom. Third and fifth grades have started with the life science standards. Fourth grade has started with their weather standards.

Third grade has been studying life cycles and adaptations. We have made rye guys.

This is an activity which let us make predictions, observations and conclusions about the growth of rye seeds. We have tadpoles and butterfly larvae in the classrooms, and chicken eggs hatching in the lab. This week, we have looked at adaptations in bird beaks and feet. We are now doing an activity on food chains.



Fourth grade has been studying weather. We did a lab on how to read a thermometer and will be looking at the anemometer, wind vane, and rain gauge. We also had a speaker from NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) in Columbia.

We were shown Powerpoint presentations on severe weather and weather forecasting. Our speaker brought each child a cloud chart. The students also were shown a lightening generator and a tornado simulator. On Wednesday we put rain gauges in different areas and will be recording amounts and looking at the rainfall amounts for the past year in South Carolina.



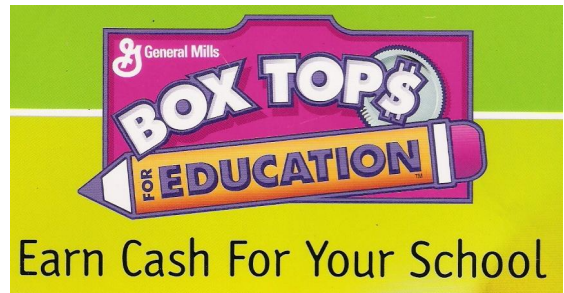
Fifth grade has been studying life science. We began by looking in the microscope at cells and making a model of cells. Last week we did an activity which illustrated food webs. Next we will be doing a science fair project in the lab to study the steps which the students will need to do for their science projects. They are also working on displays of the animals and plants which live in different Biomes.

We would like to thank the following people for helping to provide materials we have used in the lab:

Paulette Gay with Clemson Extension, Jeff and Brandee Quarles and Columbia Farms for providing the eggs and incubator  
Richard Brown and IGA Foods for providing styrofoam meat trays

Megan Byrd and others who sent baby food jars

Judith Hite for donations of salt.



### **Box Tops for Education**

Thanks to everyone who has brought in Box Tops. The money raised goes directly to help fund student activities. Other than clipping the Box Tops, shopping online is another way to earn cash for our school. Marketplace and Reading Room are two places on the Web site [www.BoxTops4Education.com](http://www.BoxTops4Education.com) that could earn 6% to 8% for our school through your online purchases. Thanks for your support, and keep us in mind when clipping, saving, and shopping.

### **Book Fair a Success**

The Batesburg-Leesville Fall Book Fair held September 18 - 25 was a success. Our total sales were \$3,650. We received a cash profit of \$912 plus \$230 in free books. One hundred dollars of those free books went directly to students whose names were drawn to receive a \$5 book from the Book Fair. The other \$130 bought books for our media center, such as The 39 Clues (Book 4 & 5) The Last Olympian (Percy Jackson series) J is for Jack-O'-Lantern, Christmas Cookies, and Testing the Ice: A True Story of Jackie Robinson. Look for these books on our library shelves in the near future.



We would like to thank everyone who helped support our fair. We are especially thankful for our PTO who sponsored a breakfast for grandparents in the media center during the fair.

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ALL LEXINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL  
DISTRICT THREE PUBLICATIONS

Lexington County School District Three does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, immigrant status or English speaking status, or disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities, in compliance with all applicable federal and state laws.

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### Important Dates



#### October

26- BLES SIC meets @ 7 p.m.  
28- Report Cards Issued

#### November

9- Jr. Beta Club Induction, 7 p.m.  
10 – School Board meets @ BLMS,  
7:30 p.m.  
23- Interim Reports Issued  
25-27 – Thanksgiving Holidays

#### December

3- Third Grade presents “A Penguin  
Christmas,” 7 p.m. @ FAC  
8- School Board meets @ BLHS, 7:30  
p.m.  
10 – Last day of Afterschool Program  
until after holidays  
18- Half day for students  
21-Jan. 3 – Christmas Holidays

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