

## March of Dimes...

March is a busy month for March of Dimes. Many of you have already supported our fund raising efforts and we are very appreciative. There are many more ways that you can show your support this month. On March 9th, join our school at Beef O' Brady's for Spirit Night. Teachers will be working and serving our BSIS customers! Be sure to let your server know if you are attending to help support the 5th grade or 6th grade.

Auditions for the Annual March of Dimes Talent Show will be held on March 17th from 3:30-4:45. If you plan to audition, please make sure you have transportation to pick you up at 4:45 sharp!

Our last dance will be held on **Wednesday, March 18th**, immediately after school from 3:15-5:00. Please make sure to purchase tickets before school beginning March 16th-18th from 7:20-7:45 each morning. The cost for the dance is \$5.00.

5th grade has raised \$1,561.00 and 6th grade has raised \$3010.00. Our school total is \$10,245.20.



## Counselor's Corner

### **Grief Groups:**

Grief/Loss groups will begin March 5. Any sixth grade student who has lost a loved one in the last 2 years are able to participate. For more information contact, Tonya Stone, School Counselor.

### **Swofford Trip:**

Sixth grade students will be going to Swofford Career Center on Wednesday, March 18th. Students will shadow students engaged in classes offered at the Career Center. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to see and begin thinking about options for their academics at the high school level. Permission slips will go out Monday March 9. Please sign and return quickly to assure your student's bus placement.

### **Swofford Career Center Visit:**

Lisa Carlton, Career Specialist, will visit with our sixth grade students on March 25, 2009. Students will be introduced to the Swofford Summer Program that allows students to participate in programs that are offered through Swofford Career Center. Look for an application on March 25th in your child's bookbag.

### Upcoming Events:

- March 5th-5th Grade Beta Club, Step Club
- March 9th-Beef O'Brady's March of Dimes Spirit Night
- March 10th and 11th-PASS Writing Test
- March 13th-Spring pictures, Last day to sign up for talent show
- March 17th-Environmental Club, Student Council, Auditions for talent show
- March 18th-6th Grade trip to Swofford, PE Club, March of Dimes Dance
- March 19th-Art Club



### Test Taking Tips

- Student needs at least 8 hours of sleep the night before the test.
- Student needs to eat a nutritious breakfast.
- Remind student they have been prepared daily throughout the school year for PASS.
- Remind student to utilize strategies taught to them through Reading and English classes.
- Remind student to give their best

### Foolproof Proofreading

Spell-check is a useful tool, but it's not a substitute for your child's careful eyes. When your child types an essay or a report, help him/her spot misused and left-out words with these tips:

- Suggest that he/she takes a break between writing and proofreading. A fresh look will let them see mistakes more easily.
- Print it out. Checking their writing in two formats (paper and screen) might help them find errors they'd otherwise miss.
- Make a list of problem words (their/there, its/it's). Have them scan every paper for them and double check their use.
- Remind them to read aloud to catch errors. They can hold a piece of paper under each line as they read to help them focus on these words.

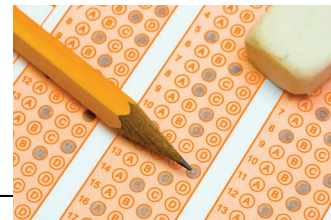
### March Madness

March Madness always brings lots of excitement with all of the basketball games and tournaments. Our own BSIS students will have their own challenges with the upcoming MAP and PASS testing.

MAP Testing– March 12th—April 10th  
PASS Writing Testing– March 10th and 11th

### A little information about MAP testing...

NWEA developed Measures of Academic Progress (MAP), a state-aligned computerized adaptive assessment program that provides educators with the information they need to improve teaching and learning. Educators use the growth and achievement data from MAP to develop targeted instructional strategies and to plan school improvement. MAP test results help educators make student-focused, data-driven decisions.



### Reading Aloud with Older Readers

It's never too late to read to your youngster, no matter what his age. Even for young adolescents, hearing books read aloud increases attention span and develops vocabulary. Reading together keeps parents and children close.

Here are some tips on making read-aloud time successful with your older reader.

- **Keep it short.** Try 5 to 10 minutes at first, and then gradually increase the time. Short chapters that are full of action can help capture your child's attention. Books to try: *Captain Grey* by Avi and *Call it Courage* by Armstrong Perry
- **Offer a variety.** Share an interesting magazine article, letter, or brochure. And don't forget about poems. Books to try: Shel Silverstein's *Where the Sidewalk Ends* and *Sing a Song of Popcorn*; *Every Child's Book of Poems* by Beatrice Schenk de Regniers.
- **Recycle Favorites.** Read-alouds are a perfect time to revisit old favorites from when your child was younger. Books to try: *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day* by Judith Viorst and *Ramona the Pest* by Beverly Cleary.
- **Take Turns.** Let your youngster choose a book for you to read. You may learn more about your child's interests or have a chance to discuss important topics, like fitting in at school or handling a loss.

## Way to go....

**Kayla Dalton, Caitlin Lazurick, and Matthew Shumate** were all winners in the Boiling Springs High School poetry contest.  
**Claire Cumbo** recently placed in a dance competition in Myrtle Beach.  
**Tyler Frixx** is an avid BMX racer and participated in a BMX Super Cross this past weekend.

## 6th Grade Science...



It's been a zoo in 6th grade science lately! Thanks to all of the parents who helped their child bring in examples of vertebrate animals. Our students really enjoyed seeing the hamsters, birds, snakes, and lizards. We really appreciate you taking the time to share with our students. A HUGE thanks to Bi-lo Corporation and Stephanie Ryals for donating lobsters, shrimp, plants, and ice cream. We will be finishing up our animal unit in a couple of weeks.

We need lots of green thumbs, because our next unit will be on plants. You still have time to donate \$1.00 or more, if you would like for your child to bring home his/her plant when we finish this unit.



**Tony,**

I love you the bluest.

I love you the color of a night sky as it calms to a quiet.

I love you the color of a waterfall rushing against the rocks.

The crack of crisp ice.

The song of a gentle blue jay.

The splashing of a storm lake.

I love you.

Danny and Annamarie Congemi

## In the news...

Our very own Jamie Caldwell was featured in the Spartanburg Herald Journal as a "Kid Review" a few weeks ago. We were proud to see one of our own students sharing his love of reading with others in our community. Here's his review hot off the press!

### ***Diary of Wimpy Kid: The Last Straw*** by Jeff Kinney

This is the third book in the 'Wimpy Kid' series. It is about a father who is going to send his son to a military school during the summer. Greg, the son, tries to do things to impress his father, like joining the Boy Scouts. But something always seems to go wrong. This book is very, very funny. I think it is the best in the series so far.

## Spill the Beans...

Thanks to all of the 6th graders and their families that joined us for Spill the Beans.

We wanted to share a few of the poems that were written that night.



**Jordan,**

I love you the greenest.

I love you the color of a tree blowing in the wind.

I love you the color of an emerald as it glistens in your hand.

The jump of a fat frog from lily pad to lily pad.

The crunch of a juicy, sour apple as I pull it from a tree.

The smell of a tall pine tree as I walk through the forest.

I love you.

Helen Bennett

**Kierrah,**

I love you the pinkest.

I love you the color of a rose when its the deepest pink.

I love you the color of a sunset at its outer most rim.

The blushing of a rosy cheek.

The bursting of a perfect bubble.

The smell of sweet perfume.

I love you.

Lawanda and Tatiyana McEntyre

## **5th Graders Celebrate Black History Month**

Several 5th grade classrooms researched famous African Americans and then wrote reports based on their findings and created models. The teachers were extremely impressed with their creativity and the classes learned so much about these interesting people.

### **Duke Ellington**

**By: Makayla McIntyre**

On April 29, 1899, Edward Kennedy Ellington was born in Washington, D.C. to James Edward and Daisy Ellington. With his father, a Methodist, and his mother, a Baptist, Ellington's upbringing had strong religious influences. As a young boy, Duke was known for his love for music and art. He divided his studies between music and commercial art. In 1923, he went to New York City and soon became a successful bandleader. Ellington's band made its first jazz tour in 1932.

After the 1940's, Ellington's religion became part of his music. He wanted to become a role model for other black Americans to follow. Ellington later received several awards from the NAACP for his music and devotion toward colored people. Ellington continued to compose and perform for several years until his death from lung cancer in 1974. Ellington's legacy is that he remains one of the greatest talents in all of jazz. Duke's influence over musicians, as well as myself, has shown to me to continue to work hard and use the talents that I have to follow my dreams, regardless of the color of my skin.

### **Condoleezza Rice**

**By: Austin Lewis**

Condoleezza Rice is a great woman. She was the first female African American to be Secretary of State. She was born in 1954 in Alabama. She grew up in a middle class family. Her dad was a preacher and a teacher. When she was young, she played the piano. She was very smart and even skipped grades. She was going to college for music, but switched to politics.

She learned to speak Russian fluently and studied Soviet politics. Soon people started to notice her. She was hired as a teacher at Stanford University and then became provost. She got a job at the White House for National Security Advisor during the first Bush administration. She became good friends with his son and when he went into office he placed her as Secretary of State.

Condoleezza Rice influences my life today by showing me that you can be whatever you want if you try. It also shows that it doesn't matter where you come from, but where you're going. I think she was a great woman.

## **Papa John's Teacher Appreciation Writing Contest**

We had lots of students write wonderful tributes to their teachers for the writing contest. We wish them the best of luck. This is one piece that was submitted.

**Mrs. Garrett**

Influence means to have a great impact on someone's life. The person that has done this for me is Mrs. Garrett. I am fortunate enough to have her every day for band. Mrs. Garrett is always in a good mood. She has influenced my life because she makes school much more fun, she cheers me up if I'm not feeling well, and she helps me with things I don't understand.

Mrs. Garrett makes school so much fun. She plays fun activities with us almost every day. We play games to see who has the most rhythm and who can hold a note the longest. She also lets us make up our own games. If they are really good, we always get to play them. Every day she gives us fun ways to study our music. We get to play exciting and awesome songs.

She always cheers me up. She is always doing funny dances. Almost everything she says is hilarious. She will ask me if something is wrong when I don't look well. Whenever I am around her, her happy mood makes me feel better.

Mrs. Garrett helps me with anything I don't understand. If something is wrong with my instrument, she will always help me. Also, if I don't know how to play a note, she will show me how. She will take extra time to help me with something.

Without Mrs. Garrett, school wouldn't be the same. It would be boring and so would the day. If she wasn't here, I would never have been in band. I would be having no fun at school. Mrs. Garrett is a spectacular band teacher!

Chasity Porter

