

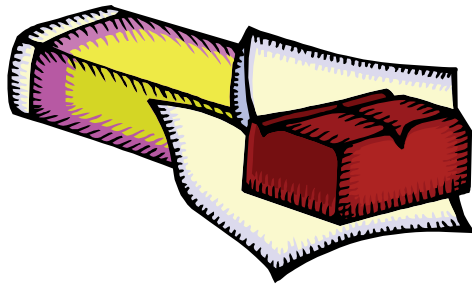
Candy Sale

The PTO is sponsoring a candy sale that begins Thursday, January 22nd. All families are asked to participate and lend a helping hand. We will be selling a variety pack with 9 different items including chocolate and non-chocolate. Each family that participates will receive a case of candy that includes 52 items to be sold for \$1.00 each. When that amount is sold and the \$52.00 is returned, your family may receive more candy. Unless requested in writing, only one case of candy will be issued at a time.

Special Instructions

- There will be a money collection envelope inside of each box of candy.
- Please put your child's name and last period teacher's name on the envelope.
- Indicate on the envelope if you want more candy sent home with your child.
- Enclose check (preferred) or \$52.00 cash, seal tightly, and return to school.
- Turn in all money each morning to the designated table in the gym lobby from 7:30-8:00.
- Sale ends February 12th.

There will be drawings for prizes, trips to the money machine, and even a limousine ride to lunch.



Counselor's Corner

Divorce Groups started on January 15th for 6th grade students. These groups were open to any student who has been touched by divorce or currently living with separated parents. Groups will run through February 12th. Students who have already expressed an interest should have received a letter with all of the details. These groups are now closed. Others interested may be able to participate in future groups. If you would like more information, please feel free to call Mrs. Stone. 578-2884

Congratulations to Mrs. Yates!!!!

Mrs. Yates is now the very proud mother of Brenson who was born on January 10th. We are excited for her and her new bundle of joy. Mrs. Stone will be seeing 5th grade students in her absence.

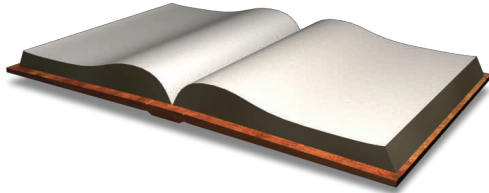


Upcoming Events:

- **Jan. 22-PTO Fundraiser Kick-Off; Surfing to High Tides Award**
- **Jan. 23-Awards Day 8:15 for 5th grade and 9:15 for 6th grade; All A's celebration; Report cards due**
- **Jan. 27-Just Say No Club**
- **Jan. 29-Step Club**
- **Jan. 30-Hat Day; Agenda check**
- **Feb. 2-6- 6th grade Scoliosis Screening**
- **Feb. 4- 6th grade Beta Club; FCA**
- **Feb. 5-5th grade Beta Club**
- **Feb. 6- Hat Day; PTO Fundraiser ends**
- **Feb. 9-18 Book Fair**

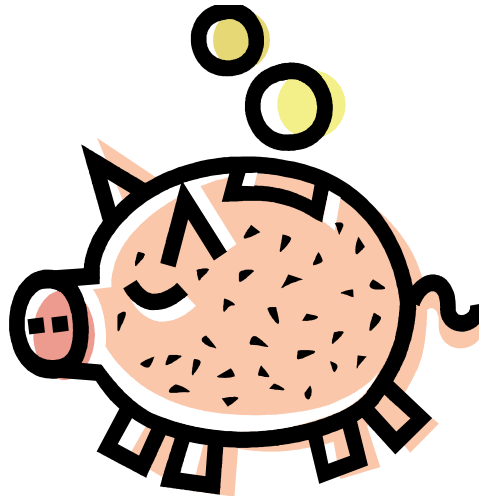
Book Fair

The Book Fair will be held February 9-18. Brochures will be sent home with reading classes over the next several weeks. Thanks in advance for helping us to have a successful Book Fair.



Scoliosis Screening...

All 6th graders will be screened the first week of February. The students' backs will be observed in two positions, standing upright and bending forward. A close observation is all that is necessary. The student will have to remove only his/her shirt or top garment. Girls are encouraged to wear a bra. Boys and girls will be screened separately and in a private place. If your child appears to have a possible curvature, you will be notified and a doctor should check your child. Please inform the school nurse if your child is under treatment for a spinal problem.



March of Dimes

Our 2009 goal is \$25,000.00. We raised \$20,000.00 last year and our school was 3rd in the state. Doughnuts will be sold in the gym lobby every Wednesday morning for \$1.00. Students may also wear hats on Fridays if they purchase a hat sticker for \$2.00 in front of the library. We will also have two dances that are scheduled for February 19th and March 19th in the 6th grade parking lot. In addition,

mark your calendars for the March of Dimes Talent Show on Thursday, April 16th. Finally, 5th and 6th grade will be competing to see who earns the most money. The winning grade will receive a free day

outside after the PASS test. There will be inflatables for the students to play on and drinks and candy!

School Store

Beta Club is sponsoring a school store. It is open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays before school in the gym lobby. The store is selling pencils, notebook paper, binders, pens, and much more. Make sure you have all the supplies you need and help support the Beta Club too.



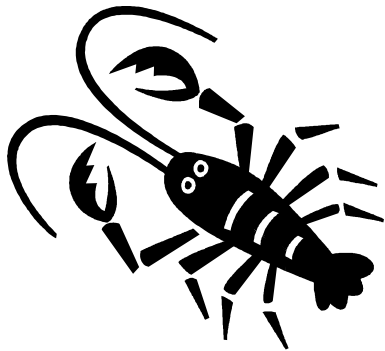
Needed:

All teachers: Kleenex or other Tissues,
Hand disinfectant

Literacy Coach: Parents that have any extra time on their hands and that are willing to share it, please contact Martha Waters at 578-2884 or email Martha.waters@spartanburg2.k12.sc.us.

6th Grade Science...

6th graders are currently working on an invertebrate unit. Students have been excited to observe real sponges, earthworms, shrimp, and even lobsters! A special thanks to Bi-Lo for donating some of these organisms to us. Our students have loved seeing the live animals while they've studied them. Rumor has it that some have even sampled shrimp and lobster-yum!!

**100 BC Celebration**

Students in both 5th and 6th grade that had reached the party targets for their grade received a ticket to the "Drive-In Movie". They were rewarded on Thursday, January 15th with a movie, popcorn, and soft drink. It was a lot of fun for all! The next party will be on April 7th. During this event students will flashback to the 70's. 5th graders will need to have read 600 lines and 6th graders will need to have read 450 lines by April 5th. Keep reading!!!!

**Papa John's Teacher
Appreciation
Essay Contest**

Students are encouraged to nominate a teacher, coach, or school administrator who has had a positive impact on their lives.

- Essays must be less than 250 words and written by the student
- Students must include their name, address, phone number, teacher name and school name on the entry form
- Only one nomination per student
- Essays must be sent in by March 13th
- Official entry forms may be picked up in the front office.

Winning Teachers will Receive:

- a special plaque
- one year's worth of Papa John's pizza

Winning Students will receive:

- A Papa John's pizza party for 30
- One year's worth of Papa John's pizza

Pod 2 News...

On December 13, Pod 2 students and teachers gathered at Mr. Gatti's to celebrate the Christmas season. After stuffing ourselves with pizza, pasta, and salad, we headed to the arcade to test our gaming skills. We discovered that our very own Casey Paziora was a master jumper on *Jumpin' Jackpot* while Abigail Morin was a pro finding the missing million on *Deal or No Deal*. Lesley Larson went fishing for Gatti tickets spinning the *Gone Fishing Wheel*. Dustin Hicks and Matthew Ballenger were our ticket champions earning well over 1,000 each. Pod 2 thoroughly enjoyed our time together of food, fun, and fellowship.

A Big Cheer to...

Brenna Richey, Kayla Dalton, Lisa Henderson, Bailee Koon, and Eva Sereque who won 1st place in their divisions in a cheerleading competition held in Asheville.

Way to go girls!



Information on the new SC PASS Writing Test

The Writing Test for grades 3-8 in SC is changing. The two largest differences in the PACT Writing Test and the PASS Writing Test are the time of year that the test is administered (March vs. May) and the addition of Multiple Choice Questions. The test will be administered on March 10th and 11th. Teachers have been busy preparing your child to be successful on the test. Students are becoming familiar with the South Carolina scoring rubric inside and out. You may hear your child mention words such as content and development, organization, voice, and conventions. Students are scoring pieces of writing so that they will have plenty of models for their own writing. Writing is such an important life skill and we are sure that all of our teachers' efforts will benefit our students.



Homework Helpers

- Help your child schedule a specific time to do homework. This shows that it is a priority. If your child has no homework assignments, suggest that he or she read a book during that time.
- Help establish a "work area" so that there is good lighting and proper materials with which to work (pencils, a ruler, a dictionary, etc.).
- Let your child work on his or her own, but let him or her know that you are available for help.
- Review your child's papers and notes on a daily basis. A frequent review of spelling words and math facts will make it easier for your child to be successful.

Remember that nothing can help like a hug, a smile, and a word of approval. Be encouraging and supportive and your child will respond in a positive manner.