QUARTERLY NEWS

PRINCIPAL’S PIECE
After the cold, wet and dreary winter, spring brings welcome changes to our school and its beautiful surroundings. At the top of the list is more opportunity to learn and play outdoors. In recent weeks, students have been able to go outside for recess, field trips, special events, lunch and to work on learning tasks outside their classrooms. Just as spring is a time for new growth, it is typically when students “blossom” academically and socially. During the last nine weeks of the year, students begin to pull together the skills learned throughout the year to take on assignments and challenges with confidence and greater ease. Whether indoors or out, learning and growth remain steadfast priorities for us at school. Capitalizing on opportunities to ensure students realize their hopes and dreams takes on an urgency that energizes everyone.

With all of spring’s distractions and extra activities, teachers are taking steps to maximize every learning moment that remains. There are things families can do to help. During this time when more events are on the calendar, it is extra important to maintain daily routines and rituals. At school this means things like morning meeting, the daily schedule, and learned procedures. At home this might mean maintaining morning, mealtime and bedtime routines. Routines help minimize anxiety for children which enables them to focus on learning. With all of the school related tasks that get added to teacher plates in the spring, they must pace themselves and take time for self-care. Likewise, for children to have the stamina to perform well in school, they need to be well rested and maintain a healthy diet. Lastly, it is important that teachers continue to provide meaningful learning activities. Extra recess, busy work and free time sends the message that there is nothing more to learn or more important to do. For your part, please continue to stay engaged in what’s going on at school and in your child’s class, support homework and prioritize school attendance. This will let your child know that you value the learning that they do at school.

Rather than wish the year away by yearning for summer, I hope that the remaining days and weeks of this year go by slowly. We don’t get time back. And there is plenty of time left in the 2018-19 school year for students to continue to learn, grow and make lasting memories. Together let’s savor the fourth quarter of your child’s year whether he or she is in preschool or fifth grade.

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Apr 17: Kids Care Club to the Laurels
Apr 19: Parent Portal opens to view report cards (after 4)
Apr 24: PK to Open Gate Farm
Apr 24: Walton Orientation for 5th graders & parents
Apr 25 - 30: Book Fair
Apr 26: Class Pictures
Apr 26: Engineering Club to UVA
May 1: Drama Club Performs
May 3: 5th grade vs. Staff Kickball Game
May 4: Red Hill 5K & Color Run
May 8 - 24: SOL Testing 3-5
May 21: PK & K Orientation
May 24: 1-2 to Frontier Mus.
May 27: No School
May 29: K Music Performance
May 31: K to Wildrock
June 4: Field Day
June 7: Last Day of School (Half Day)
FROM the COVESVILLE CORRIDOR
Sylvia Jenkins, PK Teacher

Our preschool participated in the Day of the Young Child on April 11th. The Week of the Young Child is a national event celebrating young children, families and educators. Red Hill Elementary School hosted this special event and many of our Albemarle County preschool programs joined together at our school to participate in this event honoring our youngest learners. We began the event with a concert by Mary Gordon Hall and then enjoyed an outdoor picnic lunch. The transportation theme gave children an opportunity to explore police cars, a fire truck, rescue squad, police motorcycles, boat and scuba gear, farm equipment and farm animals, construction vehicles and equipment, ride a train, eat donuts from a food truck, receive a free book from Book Baskets, and see the Pegasus Critical Care Transport.

FROM the SOUTH GARDEN ROOM
Beth Kavounas & Chris Marshall, Kindergarten Teachers

Spring is an exciting time for our Kindergarteners. Science is a main focus for us as we explore plants, animals, life cycles, natural resources, matter, and light/shadows. Scientists from UVA will be coming for another visit focusing on experiments with water and students are participating in a variety of planting projects. Earth Day gives us an opportunity to learn more about our role in caring for our natural resources. We will also be visiting Open Gate Farm, the Ivy Creek Natural Area, and Chiles Orchard this spring. These trips will support our scientific explorations at school.

You can help your child think like a scientist at home! Here are a few ideas...

• Science is not simply about knowing information. Science is also a way of making sense of the world. Encourage your child to ask questions about what they see in the world around them. You don’t have to have the answers to all their questions. You can ask your child “Why do you think that is happening?” or “I wonder what would happen is we tried this?” or “What do you think?”

• Start exploring and experimenting! Explanations do not always help. Children learn science concepts best through “doing”. Take a nature walk- look for leaves, animals, anything in nature. Talk about what you see and hear. Cook together- let your child help with mixing and creating. A lot of matter conversations can happen in the kitchen. Grow a garden- planting, observing, and caring for living things will help your child see and understand change.

• Model curiosity! Wonder aloud: “I wonder what will happen to this pudding mix when we put milk in it?” “I wonder where we should plant our seeds so they will get plenty of sunlight?” “I wonder what things this snail eats?” “I wonder if we could find something that was heavy, but still able to float in water?” If your child says something scientifically incorrect, try to provide them with the opportunity to discover what is correct on their own through exploration before stepping in with a correct answer.
FROM the NORTH GARDEN ROOM
*Tina Bolen, Matthew Killham, Holly Shiflett:  1-2 Teachers*

PHEW! The North Garden Room has been happily busy this third Nine Week period. Our main focus in Reading, Social Studies and Science has been exploring non-fiction text. In February, students heard read alouds about important people and their historical contributions to our country through Biographies. The month of March brought student research and technology about Critters and plant life in addition to the Music Performance *Squirm*. In Math, first and second graders have practiced numeracy skills including addition and subtraction through games and pattern counting. First graders have also worked on measurement skills, comparing numbers and fractions while second graders worked on using a variety of measurement tools. The third quarter held several special events like 100th Day, Valentine’s Day, Wildrock Play Van, attended a Paramount Play and an Activity Period that had a focus of kindness where students were engaged in multi-age small group activities to display acts of kindness around the school! We look forward to wrapping up the school year with more fun and exciting learning activities!

FROM the HEARDS MOUNTAIN ROOM
*Veronica Brennan, Tyler Croson, Ali Summers, Susi Page: 3-5 Teachers*

During the third quarter all of the students in the Heards Mountain Room have been working hard! The students have been getting in quality learning in and out of the classroom!

In February, the students got to participate in Jump Rope for Heart. The students got to participate in fun activities in P.E. in order to raise money and awareness for a good cause. The students also had their second activity day. The students got to sign up for an activity that related to kindness. The students all had fun participating in these activities and enjoyed being able to see other students and teachers during this time. Travis Koshko, the weatherman, got a chance to video chat with some of the Heards Mountain students. He explained what it was like to be a weatherman, and showed the students around the studio! At the end of the month, Wild Rock came to Red Hill and set up a pop up bus. The students got to be creative and explore the outdoor activities!

In March, the students had an assembly with the Rootstone Jug Band. They performed a variety of songs using different instruments, and the students had fun listening and learning about their music! We had our show what you know night, where students were able to show projects and assignments that they have been working hard on during the quarter. At the end of the month, the students got to go on a field trip to the science museum in Richmond. At the museum, the students got to go to a fun and interactive presentation and had time to explore the museum with their groups!

The Heards Mountain Room is excited for all of the learning opportunities in the last quarter! Be sure to keep checking our website to get the most up to date information!

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Greetings Red Hill Families! Spring is finally here! Students are singing, dancing, & playing their way to warmer weather! Drama Club is preparing for their upcoming play Annie on Wednesday, May 1st at 1:10 and 6:30pm. Kindergarten students are preparing for their upcoming show “Lemonade” on Wednesday, May 29th at 9am & 6:30pm. First & second grade students just performed a terrific show “Squirm” last month. Students sang, created movement, & developed a deeper understanding about spiders, snakes, bats, & worms & how they contribute to our environment. Select fifth grade students performed in All-county Honors Choir with 150 other fifth graders from Albemarle County on March 20th. They performed folk songs, a rock tune, & other selections for a concert at Monticello High School. Fourth & fifth grade students had the opportunity to hear guest musicians from UVA! Below are highlights of our learning:

North Garden Students (First & Second Graders) Perform “Squirm”

Charlottesville/UVA Symphony Musician Performs for Heard’s Mountain Students (Fourth & Fifth Graders)
Red Hill Students Perform in All-County Honors Choir

FROM the DUDLEY MOUNTAIN ART/MAKER SPACE

Christine Kelly, Art Teacher and Gifted Resource Teacher

The art room has been very busy this past quarter. Students worked on original art for a Square 1 project. We worked on portraits and illustration drawings. Younger grades worked on creating passion art using various tools. Kindergarten has been working on landscapes and cityscapes. Their work is displayed on the large bulletin board in the school hallway. Selected students participated in the Virginia Fine Arts Festival. Their work is also on display in the hallway. Five pieces were chosen to be on display at the Central Office Building the entire next year. The unit we have just started is entitled Colors. Students will know and use the primary colors, secondary colors and tertiary colors. They will use the Art Design Process to create unique art pieces incorporating various uses of color.
So hard to believe the school year is three-fourths over already. We hope your children have continued to enjoy reading for pleasure. When I have students tell me, “Do you have to teach today, can’t you just read to us. I love when you read!” then my heart sings! Nurturing a love of reading is one of our most primary concerns, both parents and teachers alike. Common Sense Media helps us with some great tips for nurturing a love of reading that can last a lifetime:

**Read aloud:** This comes naturally to lots of new parents, but it's important to keep it up. Snuggle bedtime reading, non-fiction, classics, are all wonderful choices. Make it awesome family time. Many parents think that as soon as their kids learn to read on their own, they no longer need to be read to. But kids still love and benefit from it as they hear the rhythm of the language, learn pronunciation and sentence structure, and get to relax and take it all in.

**Savor the series:** It's common for kids to become book lovers for life after getting hooked on a series, and there are some wonderful series out there.

**Grab onto a genre:** Explore various genre with your kids. They might love fantasy, mystery, science fiction.

**Feed the favorite-author addiction:** Once your kids finds a writer they love, they may want to read all of his or her books – and that is a great excuse for a trip to the library, bookstore or a book swap with friends.

**Count on the Classics:** Books are called classics for a reason: because they have been enjoyed for generations and generations.

**Find Books About the Things Your Kid Loves:** whatever topic it is. Librarians can help.

**Funny Is Fine:** Some parents are unsure about letting their kids read *Captain Underpants*, or *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, and other humorous books about kids getting into trouble. It’s important to talk about the story content, but keep in mind that most kids like these books **not** because they want to be like the characters, but because they can live adventurously through the bad behavior. Humor is a great conduit to book loving.

**Comics Are OK:** Graphic novels are among the most popular and best-selling books in children's publishing, and they can easily get kids hooked on reading

**Make Reading a Family Value:** Actions speak louder than words. Take your kids to the library, check out Barnes and Noble, hunt for low-cost books at used bookstores or second-hand shops, and show kids that finding a good book is like a treasure hunt.

We had an interesting and exciting Literacy Month of March. Our VA Festival of the Book authors did a super job sharing their love of reading and writing. We had books shared from many adults, some of them in outer space, and in other states! Our trivia contests were well received, as was our Find the Pigeon, and Who is Who. We enjoyed buddy reading and sharing favorites on the morning show. Thanks for your support at home. The more you read, the more you know, the more you know, the smarter you grow!

**Upcoming Events:**
BOGO book-fair - April 25-30. Come get two for one and stock up on summer reading!
FROM the COUNSELING OFFICE

Cindy Payne, School Counselor & Sarah Leisersohn, School Counseling Intern

Kindergarten spent March working on a unit on feelings. We will be looked at a variety of book and video sources to help us work on building up our emotional vocabulary (esp. those words beyond mad, sad, & happy). In April, we are discussing personal safety and the rules that help us be safe with our stranger, friend, family and private spaces.

1st & 2nd grade will be working on strategies for the tougher feelings – anger, fear, sadness. We will look at the science behind these feelings as we explore what happens in our brains and discuss self-control in managing them.

3rd – 4th graders have been working on problem solving with Kelso the Frog. Kelso’s rule is that big problems should always go to an adult, but smaller problems can often be handled by using one of 9 choices for problem solving.

4th – 5th graders have been working on school to work skills such as organization, time management, work habits, goal setting, and learning styles.

5th grade is now working on our transition unit getting ready for Middle School. During Core Curriculum, we will spend time answering questions and discussing all those things the kids are both excited and nervous about. We will even practice opening locks – one thing they can check off their list as a worry before they go!

Please note the Rising 6 Orientation at Walton is on April 24th at 6:00.

I invite you to visit my blog for more details on some of these lessons - counselorpayne.blogspot.com.

FROM the BUNDORAN GYM

Matt Ewen, PE Teacher

This quarter in physical education the kindergartners and first graders are practicing changing speeds and use of pathways. They practice these skills in tagging games and in obstacle courses.

Second through fifth grades have been practicing jump roping and cup stacking. Cup stacking is an activity that practices using both hands and develops hand eye coordination. We also talked about goal setting for a sport or fitness activities. The students set goals based on their own interest, and developed a plan on how to meet those goals.

This year Red Hill participated in Jump Rope for Heart. Our School raised over $2,500.00 for the American Heart Association. This was a great total for a small school!

Field Day will be Tuesday, June 4th from 9:00 to 11:30, so mark your calendars. The rain/makeup day will be the 5th. We always need parent volunteers to help run stations. More information will go home closer to the event.