

Knighly News



Spotswood Elementary School

Harrisonburg, VA

434-3429

January 2006

Winter Calendar of Events

2/2

ULTIMATE FRISBEE NIGHT 6:45PM

2/9

FAMILY INDOOR SOCCER NIGHT 6:45PM

2/17 & 2/20

NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

2/23

MONSTER OBSTACLE COURSE 6:45PM

2/25

FUN DAY 11-2

3/2

INTERNATIONAL NIGHT 6PM

3/10

TALENT SHOW 6:45PM

3/16

NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

PARENT CONFERENCE DAY

3/23

SPRING PICTURE DAY

From the Principal's office...

What a pleasure it has been to spend a great first semester at Spotswood. The children are a joy and it has been wonderful getting to know them. We have an excellent faculty and staff dedicated to the teaching/learning process and the support of that process in whatever capacity necessary.

In November, we received some tough news. The school was officially informed by the Virginia Department of Education that we were Accredited with Warning based upon SOL test scores in Spring, 2005. That warning came in the core area of History and Social Sciences. The teachers were already working doubly hard because the school did not make Annual Yearly Progress (NCLB) in English and Mathematics.

What does this mean for our school? In February, we will be visited by an on-site review team. That six member team will review our school systems and processes and make recommendations to us as regards History. Our Instructional Team Leaders have already met several times to prepare a school improvement plan. With their assistance and with the recommendations of the review team, we plan to do whatever is needed to support student achievement not only in History, but in English and Mathematics as well. Spotswood is a great school and all of us will continue to respond to this challenge so that the result is a fully accredited school.

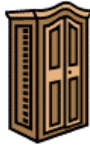
- Mrs. Conners



“Never before have we had so little time in which to do so much.”

- Franklin Delano Roosevelt

32nd President of the United States



The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe

How much do you know? Take the quiz!

- When did Lucy first see the wardrobe?
 - While playing hide and seek.
 - While exploring the Professor's house.
 - While running from Mrs. Macready.
 - While looking for the Professor.
- What does the White Witch give to Edmund to eat the first time they meet?
 - hot soup
 - pizza
 - Turkish Delight
 - Sweets
- What is the name of the White Witch?
 - Lilith
 - Jinn
 - Narnia
 - Jadis
- What does Father Christmas give to Mrs. Beaver?
 - a set of silver plates
 - a new sewing machine
 - a diamond bottle
 - a dagger
- How did Aslan release the statues?
 - He mumbled some magic words.
 - He jumped above them.
 - He did not release them.
 - He breathed on them.

For more quizzes on Narnia, visit www.kidsreads.com/series/narniatrivia.asp

Answers: 1. b, 2. c, 3. d, 4. b, 5. d

FROM THE ART STUDIO

- Mrs. Hathaway

Half the year has now passed but we still have lots more art to make!

Most of the grade levels have gotten their hands into clay. This was a first for so many children. I am very pleased with the projects and every child's enthusiasm! Kindergarten made simple pinch pots. First grade is completing small birds in a nest. Second grade made four-legged animals that are painted in the style of Oaxacan wood carvings from Mexico. They are quite colorful and fun. Tiles will be made by third grade that will be adorned with Egyptian symbols. Fourth grade constructed coil pots and fifth graders are working hard on clay gargoyles. Inspired by the Medieval stone carvings found on cathedrals, these works involve fine construction and unique details. If you are lucky enough to see these pieces, I hope you find them as wonderful as I do.

Simultaneously, some classes have been learning the art of printmaking. Students are making editions of three prints and learning how to sign them like fine artists. All grades work with relief printing- ranging from scratching into styrofoam (first grade) to collagraph prints that involve layering paper (third and fourth grade). Kindergarteners will experience printing with stamping found objects.

February is Black History Month and I look forward to creating projects that will be inspired by African art or the lives and art of African Americans.



Fourth Grade News

We have been working hard in fourth grade these past six weeks. During math we learned long division and practiced our multiplication facts. Long division was a difficult concept for the students to understand. It would be helpful if students continue to practice division and review multiplication facts at home on a regular basis. In science we studied force and motion, where we conducted experiments about friction, speed and graphed our results. In social studies we learned about Virginia's first permanent settlement, Jamestown. We learned the reasons why England came to America and why they chose Jamestown as their location. During our study of Jamestown we also learned about the hardships the colonists faced.

This month students competed in the annual fourth grade spelling bee. Several of our fourth graders advanced to the fourth and fifth grade spelling bee. Congratulations to all those students who participated and advanced to the next round.

Parents, please remind your students to complete their assignments on time and keep on reading every night.

Spotswood's WISH LIST!

Do you have any of the following items?

Donate to your child's elementary school!

We are in need of:

- **Area rugs**
- **Bookcases**
- **Gently used children's books**
- **New or used tennis balls**

Health and Wellness

Benefits of Physical Activity

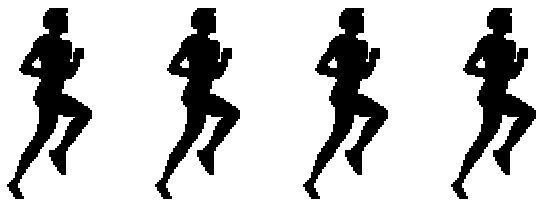
What exactly is physical fitness? Being fit means having more energy to do daily tasks, being more active, and not tiring as easily during the day. Being fit also helps to build a positive self-image and feel better about yourself.

You do not have to spend hours in a gym to be physically active. Every time you and your child throw a softball, swim a lap, or climb up a flight of stairs, your health and fitness levels are improving.

And physical activity has many proven benefits. When you are physically fit, you feel and look better, and you stay healthier. Physical activity can help:

- Prevent high blood pressure
- Strengthen your bones
- Ward off heart disease and other medical problems
- Relieve stress
- Stay active as a child and an adult
- Maintain or achieve an appropriate weight for height and body build

A major benefit of physical activity is that it helps reduce stress. Learning to cope with stress is an important part of healthy living. Family problems, conflicts with friends, and job pressures can cause stress. Major life changes, such as moving to a new home, are also sources of stress. Exercise helps by causing physical changes inside your body that help it react to and handle stress. Physical activity also has many other health benefits, such as helping to ward off heart disease. Coronary heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States. Research has shown that your risk factors as an adult for developing heart disease start during your childhood. A lack of physical activity is one of the major risk factors influencing heart disease, such as high blood pressure, and other medical illnesses.



SCA News

The student council has been very busy these last few months. They've held two bake sales, raising money for Hurricane Katrina students in Gautier, Mississippi. Over \$200 was raised from these bake sales and now we are sponsoring a uniform drive for our adopted school, Gautier Elementary School in Gautier, Mississippi. Their town and school were completely destroyed by the hurricane and students are having classes in trailers on another school's campus. We would like to help them get back into uniforms without the added expense of the families being burdened with the cost. Students have two options. They can either bring in money to buy a uniform or they could bring in an actual uniform. Wal-Mart has a selection of uniforms labeled khakis in the boys' section. The shirts have to be short or long sleeved polo shirts with no emblems on them, but pockets are fine. The colors are red, white, or blue. The pants are tan or navy blue khakis. The uniforms range from size 6 to 18 youth. Prices range from \$6.00 - \$7.00 for shirts and \$9.00-\$13.00 for pants. Stop by the display case close to the office to see examples of the uniforms. Also, you will notice a graph, displaying which classes have brought in the most uniforms. The classes who win will be rewarded with a pizza party at the end of the month. Help support the SCA.!



Cooking Kids! Cupid Cupcakes

You'll be sure to love these heart-shaped cakes!

You Will Need:

- 1 package of cake mix
- frosting
- sprinkles
- cupcake pans
- aluminum foil

Directions:

1. Follow the directions to make cupcakes from the mix.
2. Line cupcake pans with baking cups.
3. Fill the cups halfway with batter.
4. Place a ½ inch ball of aluminum foil between each liner and the side of the tin. This will push the paper into the batter to form the heart shape.
5. Cool, frost, and decorate!

