



## QUARTERLY NEWS

### PRINCIPAL'S PIECE

*Nancy McCullen, Principal*

The end of the first quarter of the 2018-19 school year brought families into school for parent/teacher conferences. Thank you for taking the time for this important connection with your child's teacher and the school. School and learning is a partnership and we value your critical role. For our part we are committed to:

1. Recognizing your child's strengths and interests, helping him or her use those strengths and add to them to overcome challenges and connect learning to his or her interests;
2. Making sure your child knows he or she is a valued member of our school community;
3. Ensuring your child receives high quality instruction in a safe and supportive environment; and
4. Communicating with you about your child's progress as well as keeping you informed about what's happening at school.

To support your child's success in school, you should:

1. Make sure your child attends school each day, on time (School starts at 7:45 and ends at 2:30.);
2. Show enthusiasm and model a positive attitude about learning and school;
3. Stay informed about what is happening at school through your child's weekly folder, the school and class website and Twitter accounts, and by subscribing to the weekly school Moosletter (email [redhillmoos@gmail.com](mailto:redhillmoos@gmail.com) to subscribe);
4. Communicate with the teacher when you have questions or concerns; and
5. Participate in school events such as parent/teacher conferences and attending performances and school-wide events.

The classroom teacher should be included in information you need to share or concerns you need to express. Most of the time, he or she should be your first point of contact. That said, many others are also here to support you and your child. Do not hesitate to contact the school nurse, the school counselor or me if you have questions or need support related to your child's well-being at school.

## FALL, 2018

### DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

**Nov 19-Dec 10:** Snowflakes of Cheer

**Nov 21-23:** NO SCHOOL

**Dec 1:** Book Fair and Pancake Breakfast

**Dec 4:** 3/4/5 to the Paramount

**Dec 10 – 17:** Mason's Toy Box collection

**Dec 14:** Activity Day & Hat Day

**Dec 19:** PK Winter Celebration

**Dec 19:** 3/4/5 Music Program

**Dec 20 - Jan 2:** Winter Break – NO SCHOOL

**Jan 11:** January Dance

**Jan 18:** Half Day for Students

**Jan 21:** Holiday: NO SCHOOL

**Jan 22:** Teacher Workday



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### FROM the SOUTH GARDEN ROOM

*Beth Kavounas & Chris Marshall, Kindergarten Teachers*

The kindergarteners are off to a great start! The past few months have been full of new discoveries and fun adventures! Kindergarteners have been working hard to learn new schedules, routines, and expectations. We are working hard to create joyful classrooms that are full of happy and engaged learners. We start our day with exploration and a morning meeting, giving us all an opportunity to share, connect, and laugh. It is a really positive way to start each new day. One highlight from the first quarter was our trip to the Monticello Trail and Carter Mountain Orchard. Hiking, hayrides, and apple picking made for a perfect fall day! Connecting our lessons at school to real life experiences makes learning more meaningful and exciting. We also work to bring new experiences out to Red Hill for the students. Scientists from UVA recently visited each kindergarten class to conduct hands on experiments. Students became the “scientists” and learned how their 5 senses help them learn about the world. Next month we have a musician visiting us for some hands-on musical fun!

We have begun more individualized reading instruction based on your child’s needs. Students are learning how to participate in small group work and be in charge of their own learning during literacy centers. We appreciate your support from home and ask that you continue reading and reviewing with your child each day. A nightly read aloud is a great way to spend quality time with your child in the evenings. Please talk with them about their school day and support them as they navigate the academic and social side of school. Asking, “What did you do at school today?” can often lead to a brief and vague response. Try to be a little more specific with your questioning. Here are some ideas to get the conversation started... “Tell me about the book your teacher read today.” “What centers did you work on today?” “What kind of problem solving have you been doing with Jiji?” “Tell me about what you did on the playground today?” “What did you play during exploration today?” Your interest and excitement about your child’s school day will show them how important their efforts in kindergarten are! We look forward to an enjoyable and productive year together!

Please check out the kindergarten website and take a look at our photo blog often. This is another great way to stay informed and start up school conversations at home with your child. Our kindergarten blog documents through pictures the exploration and learning happening in our classrooms. We update it weekly! You can receive updates when a new blog post is made by following us on Twitter.

<http://redhillkindergarten.weebly.com/the-rhk-blog>

[twitter.com/RHkindergarten](https://twitter.com/RHkindergarten)





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### FROM the NORTH GARDEN ROOM

*Tina Bolen, Matthew Killham, Holly Shiflett: 1-2 Teachers*

First and second grade got off to a great start making new friends and renewing old friendships. We spent a lot of time on how to be a good citizen in our school and in the world. We took a virtual field trip to Uganda, which allowed students to see how similar they are to children all over the world. Mr. Killham had a lot of interesting stories about his time in Africa. We discovered and learned about critters that live in our community. Students got to show their creative side during Creation Station while making connections to our curriculum. Culminating our study of life cycles, we visited Chiles Orchard in Crozet. We had a great time picking apples and pumpkins. The apple cider donuts were the highlight of our trip!



### FROM the HEARDS MOUNTAIN ROOM

*Tyler Croson, Veronica Brennan, Ali Summers, Susi Page: 3-5 Teachers*

During the first quarter, the Heards Mountain room has been busy! Across the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades, students have focused on building a community in their "Beaver Den," "Tulip Garden," and Heards Mountain Room as a whole. Students have been learning what it means to be a Writer, Reader, Scientist, Historian and Mathematician. There have been many opportunities to cross over into more than one subject at a time so that students can see how they are all related!

In September, we celebrated International Dot day by thinking about how we will all "leave our mark" on the world. The 5th graders took a field trip to Monticello to learn about Thomas Jefferson and see all of the cool artifacts that are basically in our backyard! In October, all 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders took a trip to UVA to witness the amazing Orchestra performance and take in the beauty of the theater. Students also had fun on our Read-A-Thon/Pajama day where they got to read across all subject areas and buddy up with a friend from another class to read. Mr. Palmer Sweet, a retired geologist made his annual visit to share his rock collection and talk about that geologists do-the students learned that the state rock is Nelsonite, found right here in Nelson County!

As the second quarter begins, we said farewell to Ms. Smith and welcomed back Mrs. Campbell from maternity leave. We will miss Ms. Smith but are excited to have Mrs. Campbell back in the Red Hill halls!



Red Hill students are collecting Box Tops and dimes as our school fundraiser this year! Last year, students raised \$398. Our goal this year is \$500. Help us by collecting your Box Tops and dimes at home. Students should turn them in to their Homeroom teachers. They will be collected monthly and added to our school total. Thanks for your support!



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### FROM the COVESVILLE CORRIDOR

*Sylvia Jenkins, PK Teacher*

The Pre-K classroom is a busy place during the first few months as children are seeing many new faces and familiarizing themselves with a new environment. The children are adjusting to new routines and having lots of fun exploring our indoor and outdoor spaces. Our outdoor learning space is in the second phase with new additions being added to make it a much more engaging and charming space. We have a dedicated PTO with highly industrious parents working together to see the project finalized. The preschoolers are not only making new friends within the classroom, but with our community members as well. We met officers from the Albemarle County Police Department that took time to teach us about bike safety and gave us bike helmets so that we may ride our tricycles during the warm months. We also met members of the North Garden Volunteer Fire Department during Fire Prevention Week and learned about fire safety. We were thrilled that we were given an opportunity to use the large water hose! Our class also went on our first adventurous field trip to Chiles Orchard to pick pumpkins and apples. Preschool is a fun place to learn and play with our friends whether we are indoors or out!



### FROM the BUNDORAN GYM

*Matt Ewen, PE Teacher*

It has been a great start to the year in physical education. The kindergartners have been practicing locomotor skills like running, skipping, and galloping. They have also been getting plenty of exercise in tagging games and in obstacle courses.

The first and second grade have been practicing soccer skills. Ask them show you foot dribbling or an instep pass. They have been playing a game called Bean Bag Switcheroo. This game practices the underhand throw and dodging objects.

The third, fourth, and fifth grades have completed fitness testing. There are five tests included in Albemarle County's fitness test. We also did a unit in soccer, and are finishing up a unit in floor hockey.

### FROM the DUDLEY MOUNTAIN ART/MAKER SPACE

*Christine Kelly, Art Teacher and Gifted Resource Teacher*

Earlier this quarter Mrs. Kelly wrote a DonorsChoose grant proposal to replace old art materials and purchase some new art technique materials to expose students to more ways of creating. Due to the generosity of a single donor, most of the grant was funded... The next day another donor completed the requested funds. We have already started to receive the materials requested. Coming up in the art room.... Square Art projects will start in late February and be on the lookout for some amazing clay projects we have been working on with several grade levels.



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### FROM the GREEN MOUNTAIN MUSIC ROOM

*Tracy Brown, Music Teacher*

Students explored many musical pathways during our first nine weeks of school. Heard's Mountain students are preparing for their winter performance on **Wednesday December 19th**. Our show "In the Groove," will feature folk, rock, and jazz selections. Heard's Mountain students also attended a concert performed by the UVA Symphony Orchestra. Students heard several classical selections and saw how the four orchestral families work together with a conductor to perform music. Our 3-4-5 students are also learning to read music through playing recorder. First & Second graders are sorting instruments by orchestra families. Kindergarten students are exploring louder and softer music through movement. Below are highlights of our learning:

**Sorting Instruments of the Orchestra**



**Composing Rhythms in Groups**



**Working in Groups to Compose Fall Rhythms**



**Attending Charlottesville Orchestra Concert**



**Playing Xylophone Parts to Accompany a Folk Song**



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### FROM the RABBIT VALLEY MEDIA CENTER

*Debbie Rondeau, Library Media Specialist*

It's hard to believe one quarter is finished already. Happy Autumn! Time to pick apples, pumpkins, play in leaves, and read by the fire. I hope you and your children like all the new books we've been able to purchase. My goal and purpose: to promote reading for pleasure, and with the soft seating, comfy pillows, and lots of new books, I hope it's working! Overdue notices are being sent out but first rule of thumb: if your child is still reading it, let me know and I'll renew it. I'd rather they finish a good read first.

We've been exploring "best books" to read, finding books that are both interesting, and at the appropriate reading level for enjoyment and practice. We know how to hunt and search for books, and what the purpose of bookmarks and looking sticks are. Our OPAC (online public access catalog) is easy to search, and you can even search from home. Our primary students have been taking part in the Global Read Aloud- meeting other students in other states and countries, and sharing the same stories. It's fun!

One of our Fall special events is Book Character Day. We hope you and your child enjoyed the special SWMM day and parade. Please mark your calendars: Holiday book fair coming...November 29-December 11. There will be wonderful choices for holiday gifts for students, families, and teachers! Stop in anytime! (Pancakes that Saturday. Yum!) The online book fair begins November 16. Check out the BookFair homepage which is linked from the Red Hill homepage online.

Kids become lifelong readers for all kinds of reasons. Sometimes there's that one special book that captures a kid's imagination and opens him/her up to the exciting world of fiction. In some cases, parents influence their kids by sharing their own love of books and showing their children habits and smart reading behaviors -- always having a book to read, taking books on vacation, reading before bedtime, making regular trips to the library and bookstore, etc. There are many ideas to help children become lifelong readers and thinkers. Here are a few from *How to Raise a Reader* by [Regan McMahon](#)

- **Count on the Classics:** Books are called classics because they continue to engage readers for many generations. Try introducing your kids to books you loved as a kid and see which ones click. Some good ones to try are [Dr. Seuss](#), [Narnia](#), [Charlotte's Web](#), and [The Secret Garden](#).
- **Find Books About the Things Your Kid Loves:** If your kid adores horses, try [Black Beauty](#), or any horse titles. If he's wild about cars, trucks and trains, check out the many vehicle books. Librarians, booksellers, and Internet searches will help you find books on any favorite topic.
- **Comics Are OK:** Graphic novels are the most checked out books in my library, and they can get kids hooked on reading. Kids may start with [Squish](#) and [Babymouse](#) and move on to some historical fiction more complex comics.



Bottom line: Read, Read Read! (And enjoy!) 📖



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### FROM the COUNSELING OFFICE

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

This year as a school we are focusing on the Responsive Classroom approach of CARES: cooperation, assertion, respect & responsibility, empathy, and self-control—key social skills children need to learn and practice if they are to succeed socially and academically. We will be making each one a theme for our morning meetings. In September our theme was Cooperation. During Kindergarten Core Curriculum we talked about cooperation through kind words. We looked at words that wrinkle our hearts and words that lead to people wanting to work with us. In 1-2 we talked about the benefits of working together and practiced creating something as a team. In 3-5 we participated in a variety of cooperation challenges where working together was a requirement for success.

In October, our theme was Assertion and it tied in perfectly since October is also Bullying Prevention Month. The Olweus definition that we use in Albemarle County is that *“Bullying is when someone says or does mean or hurtful things to someone else who has difficulty defending their self. It is repeated, intentional, and involves a power imbalance.”* We spend time looking at the difference between a conflict and bullying. While both can be problems, the response may be very different. For one, a conflict involves both students engaging in problem solving; while bullying is about consequences and safety.

We spent time talking about being assertive by being an “upstander” for self and others. We explored strategies for holding on to your personal power and not allowing another person to take that away from you. And we talked about building communities where we take care of each other. Kids without friends are more likely to be picked on and when we make sure everyone is included, bullying is much less likely to happen. I encourage them all to be a friend that speaks up when something is wrong. In the next quarter we’ll be focusing on Respect, Responsibility, and Empathy. For more details on these lessons, I invite you to visit my blog at [counselorpayne.blogspot.com](http://counselorpayne.blogspot.com).



**The *Snowflakes of Cheer*** is an annual project that makes Christmas much brighter for some of our Red Hill families. Paper snowflakes will be posted on November 19. The snowflakes include written information about gifts needed. For example, a snowflake might include *Boy, age 7, size 6 shoes;* or *Girl, age 10, size 8 outfit*. There are two ways to choose a snowflake.

1. Come by the school, look over the snowflakes, and sign out one (or more!) that you and your family would like to sponsor, or....
2. Write a note and send it in with your child asking for a snowflake to be sent home with your child. You can indicate a preference, such as boy or girl, and type of clothing or grocery gift card.

Purchase the items. Wrap them and attach the snowflakes. All gifts must be to the school by Monday December 10.