

# Catoctin Courier

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**May 4 through May 8 is Staff Appreciation Week!**

## SOL Testing Schedule for May/June

Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) tests are quickly approaching for grades 3 through 5.

Here are a few tips to help ease any test anxieties and to prepare your student for the test:

- Encourage your child with lots of positive reinforcement.
- Make sure your child is rested and well fed at test time.
- Help your child develop a strategy for the test so he/she will feel a sense of control (use the scratch paper provided, narrow down your answer choices, skip questions that are too hard and come back to them later, create a multiplication chart, and remember how much you have accomplished this year)!
- Remind your child that this test will not influence the report card; it's just a measurement for us to see how much they learned this year!
- Remind your child to ignore the other students.
- Encourage your child to shake off the test once finished.
- Most importantly, let your child know you're behind him/her all the way!

### May/June SOL Testing Dates:

| 3rd Grade          | 4th Grade       | 5th Grade       |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Reading Day 1—5/13 | VA History—5/15 | Reading—5/12    |
| Reading Day 2—5/14 | Reading—5/20    | Math Day 1—5/18 |
| Math Day 1—5/27    | Math Day 1—6/1  | Math Day 2—5/19 |
| Math Day 2—5/28    | Math Day 2—6/2  | Science—5/26    |

### Throughout May/June:

5/5: Kindergarten Field Trip to Temple Hall

5/6: Special Education Advisory committee (SEAC) 7:00pm—Admin Bldg

5/7: Variety Show Dress Rehearsal @ Simpson MS, 4p

5/8: PTA Variety Show @6:00pm Simpson Middle School

5/10: Mothers' Day

5/12: PTA Muffins for Mom 7:00am, Cafeteria

5/13: Interims go home; Loudoun Education Alliance of Parents (LEAP) 7:00pm - Admin Bldg.

5/14: 1st Gr. Field Trip to Nat'l Zoo; 2nd Gr. Field Trip to Bull Run

5/20: Minority Student Achievement Advisory Committee (MSSAC) 7:00pm - Admin Bldg

5/21: Annual LCPS Staff Retirement Dinner, 6:00pm - 800pm. Lansdowne Conference Center and Resort

5/25: Holiday, Memorial Day

5/28: Loudoun Education Foundation (LEF) 8:00am - Admin Bldg

6/5: 4th Gr. Field Trip to Richmond; 5th Gr. Field Trip to Hemlock Adventure Links

6/8: Gr. 4-5 Career Day, 8a-11a

6/9: Science Fair Expo, 6p

6/10: Battle of the Books, Gr. 3-5; Mrs. Fleming's ECSE Graduation, 10a

6/11: Last FUTURA Day

6/12: Doughnuts with Dad 7:00am; K-5 Field Day

6/15: Field Day Rain Date

6/16: Step Up Day Program, 9a; Last Day of School for students

6/18: Last Day of School for Teachers

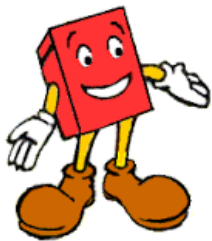


# Music - Worth News From Ms. Olejer

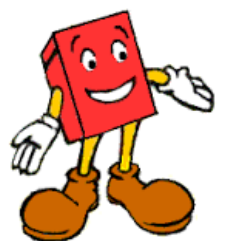


Welcome to the music room! The Standards of Learning for music education are varied and great. Our students work on accomplishing these standards throughout the year through many activities. Our composer of the month for May is Antonio Vivaldi. All students will be learning about his life and music in music class, as well as listening to music composed by him. 1<sup>st</sup> grade will be learning about a new note "la." 2<sup>nd</sup> grade is learning about the music staff and composing their own songs. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade is singing rounds and reviewing the do-re-mi scale. 4<sup>th</sup> grade is learning about the instruments of the orchestra and learning about changed and unchanged voices. 5<sup>th</sup> grade is learning about the bass clef, accidentals and major and minor keys. All grade levels will continue to learn about notes and rhythms, which they practice every day.

~ Mrs. Olejer



## MR. SHANNON - MRS. MOATS



There have many exciting things happening in the library! There are four Battle of the Book Teams meeting once a week to prepare for their June Battle. Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades have been learning about the works of Eric Carle. 3rd, 4th and 5th grades are listening to Wonder, by R.J. Palacio, Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing, by Judy Blume, and/or Crash, by Jerry Spinelli. We have also created a special Facebook page for our library titled "Friends of the Catoctin Elementary Library". If you are on Facebook, please "like" our page. The page will be used to showcase work and special events sponsored by the library as well as to streamline communication concerning the library.





# SEARCH



## CREATIVITY IN SEARCH

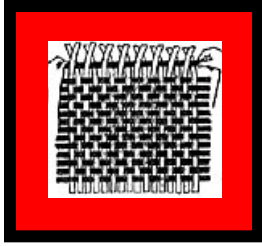
Although we as a society value the products of creative people, we often don't know how to recognize it or encourage that creativity in children. In the LCPS SEARCH program, teachers use Thinking Keys to guide students in using different kinds of thinking for different SEARCH lessons. Those keys, Perceiving, Connecting, Reasoning, Evaluating, and Creating, align with Bloom's Revised Taxonomy: Remembering, Understanding, Applying, Analyzing, Evaluating, and Creating. Because we all recognize that different tasks require different levels and types of thinking, we want to give students the opportunity to explore many avenues for successful problem solving in the classroom.

In SEARCH, we emphasize that creativity is a series of steps that can be practiced and, with perseverance, can be increased. Many lessons ask students not only to create, but then to go back and find ways to enhance and elaborate on their work. As they continue to work on projects, their confidence in their ability to "be creative" increases.

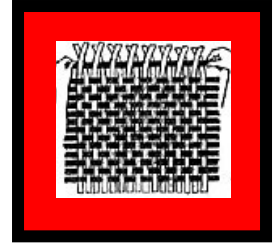
"Traditionally, creativity has been viewed as an easy process, something that people with certain traits were able to do while others without those traits could not. As our views of creativity have become more informed, we have come to appreciate the role of hard work and revision in the process." Joyce VanTassel-Baska, Ed.D., College of William and Mary, 2004

Paul Torrance, the "Father of Creativity" identified four elements to creativity which he believed could be used to identify both creative thinkers and creative products: Fluency (the number of ideas generated), Flexibility (variety of ideas), Originality (uniqueness of ideas), and Elaboration (details of ideas). Both in school and at home, children can be encouraged to look at tasks from different perspectives, to continue to work on improving an idea, and to add details and elaboration.

For further reading: [http://blogs.edweek.org/teachers/unwrapping\\_the\\_gifted/2011/07/creative\\_thinking.html?qs=gifted+is+not](http://blogs.edweek.org/teachers/unwrapping_the_gifted/2011/07/creative_thinking.html?qs=gifted+is+not)



## ART NEWS FROM MS. BENNETT



We have been working on several painting lessons and color theory. Painting techniques and brush care have also been a focus. Keeping brushes from looking like they have had a “bad hair day” is difficult when first learning about painting and how to use a brush properly.

May is going to be filled with weaving. Any yarn, ribbon, raffia, etc that you might want to donate will gladly be accepted for our weaving projects.

Enjoy the warmer weather, go outside, and sketch nature!  
Ms. Bennett

### FROM THE DESK OF THE ATTENDANCE SECRETARY

#### AN IMPORTANT REMINDER

If your child is going to be absent please remember to call the absentee line, 571-252-2941, to report their absence.

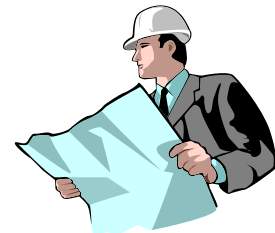
When taking your child to the doctor/dentist, please don't forget to get a doctor's note.



*Students must be in their classrooms by 7:50 ready to learn. Otherwise, they will be marked “tardy.” Excessive tardies will be referred to the Attendance Officer.*



# COUNSELOR'S CORNER - MR. LOTZ



## Catoctin Career Day 2015

On **June 8**, from **8:00-11:00 a.m.**, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will be participating in Catoctin's annual **Career Day**. During this event, students will have the opportunity to hear from parents and other members of the community as they discuss their careers.

We have a limited number of spaces available for parents of 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> graders who would like to volunteer to share with our students. Each presenter will be assigned to a classroom and will speak to each of the seven 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes for about 25 minutes per class.

We request that presenters discuss daily duties, essential skills, and training/schooling requirements. We also request that presenters reserve at least five minutes at the end of their presentation for questions from students.

If you are interested in joining us on June 8 from 8-11:00, or if you have any questions about Career Day, please contact Mr. Lotz at 571-252-2940 or [George.Lotz@lcps.org](mailto:George.Lotz@lcps.org) by May 22.





## READING NEWS-SABETTO AND MARTINO



As we enter the busiest time of the year with spring sports and activities, we want to remind you of how important it is to read with your child each night. Not only does it improve their vocabulary, but it gives them time to make predictions, connections, and inferences which are all items found on their spring testing. It also gives them quality time spent with someone they love. Even five minutes a night makes a BIG difference.

At the beginning of June, we will be meeting with the classrooms to discuss the annual summer reading program at Catoctin. Stay tuned for more information!

Happy reading,  
The Reading Ladies



## FITNESS MATTERS



Wow! It almost seems impossible that April is over. We are still motivated and dedicated in Physical Education. This year we have covered a lot of great things with your wonderful students. In these coming weeks, we will be covering basketball, fitness testing, gymnastic, attitude/behavior, etc. We also will continue incorporating muscles, nutrition, and the pacer/pacing in our curriculum. Once again, we are very excited and enthused about Physical Education.

We hope students will bring some of the activities and knowledge of healthy practices home with them to share with their families. If you have any questions/concerns or are interested in helping out at Field Day feel free to call or email. As always, thank you for all of your support, time, and effort. It is always appreciated!

Will Shepard /Bob Curtis  
Physical Education Department  
Catoctin Cardinals



# Notes from the Nurse!

As we quickly approach the end of the school year I would like to provide a few reminders.

- 1) All medications in the clinic must be picked up by PARENTS prior to June 16<sup>th</sup> at 3pm. All medicines not picked up by this day and time must be discarded.
- 2) Students with medication needs, asthma, allergies, seizures or diabetes must submit new signed orders from a physician before the start of the next school year. All forms can be found on the [www.lcps.org](http://www.lcps.org) website. Click on the "parent tab" to find the forms listed under "Medication at School – for Parents". I may not administer any medicines without a doctor's order.
- 3) Students may not be in possession of over the counter or prescription medications at school. Medications must be brought to school by the PARENT and given to the clinic staff. There is a form that must be signed and it too is available at the above website or it can be filled out in the clinic. This does include cough drops.
- 4) All medications must be in their original containers. Over the counter medicines should be provided in unopened packages.
- 5) If you need any care plans I can provide you the paperwork. Please feel free to contact me at (571) 252-2940.

**Rising 5<sup>th</sup> graders** must have a TDAP documented BEFORE starting middle school. Please refer to your pediatrician. I can enter documentation if acquired before the end of the school year. Otherwise, please present it to the middle school your child will be attending.



# PBIS

## April Cardinals of the Week



Every student at Catoctin is expected to be **Respectful, Responsible** and **Ready** at all times. When teachers notice students demonstrating the 3 R's, they may reward that student with a red *Cardinal Cash* ticket!

Every week, one student per class who has earned a *Cardinal Cash* ticket is selected to be the **Cardinal of the Week**!

Cardinals of the Week are recognized during the morning announcements, receive a certificate & wristband, and have their names added to the PBIS display located between Pods 2 & 3.

Catoctin students are also working together with their classmates to earn special class rewards! Every time a student earns Cardinal Cash it is added to their class chart. Each time the class's ticket chart is filled with 100 tickets, the class chooses a reward.

In addition to the class rewards, we are preparing yet another PBIS challenge! During the May 4 - June 5 SOL testing window, any class that is caught demonstrating the 3R's in the hallway will earn a **Mega-Cardinal Cash** ticket. The top class in each grade will earn a prize. If enough Mega-Cardinal Cash tickets are earned, the entire school will receive a reward!

Congratulations to all of the students who were selected as **Cardinal of the Week** during the month of April!

### Kindergarten

Charles Hancock  
Chuck Kern  
Emma Nicholson  
Ivan Gonzelez  
Jack Cassidy  
Makaylah Bannister  
Matthew Mitchell  
Mia Vierkorn  
Michael McIntosh  
Michaela Conteh  
Sandra Gadelsayed  
Syed Mondragon  
Xela Nestel

### First Grade

Anna Herlihy  
Audrey Szebalskie  
Avery Wooten  
Caden Thomas  
Cole Johnson  
David Basil- Barker  
Dylan Johnson  
Elisha Casarrubias  
Eva Moore  
Evan Spunar  
Evelyn Schenck  
Isabella Russell  
Javier Perez-Jacobs  
Jazmin Cotzajay-Alvarez  
Keylin Cruz Monroy  
Koby Assiamah-Damti  
Miles Beal

Owen Picarillo  
Ryan Stultz  
Sophia Dadgar

### Second Grade

Dulaney Luhrs  
Dylan Adu  
Elaina Neumiller  
Gavin Boyd  
Gio Martinez  
Jesus Najera  
Jon Mapa  
Kylee Pett  
Lucero Philips  
Matty VanWeezendonk  
Natalie Schoch  
Nick Cooper  
Sam Frye  
Sean Timberlake Navarro  
Will Senger  
William Hancock

### Third Grade

Faith Fanning  
Nata Cassarubius  
Daniel Robinson  
Zinah Venson  
Dalton Butcher  
Kaylie Garcia  
Isaac McIntosh  
Andy Argueta  
Katelyn Arndt  
Joshua O'Connor

Emma Lambert  
Sean Martino  
Chloe Beal  
Olivia Ramey  
Mariana Gonzalez  
Noah Stultz  
Audrey Arzaga  
Jack Allred  
Tate Drupa

### Fourth Grade

Alexa Sison  
Alexander Stern  
Carlos Escobar  
Daniel Basil-Baker  
Grant Dickersheid  
Hannah Perez-Jacobs  
Henry Hancock  
Jasmin Villeda  
Joshua Chamberlain  
Kalia Solifou  
Kevin Martell-Platero  
Landon Rahim  
Maggie Hyam  
Natalia Rodriguez Gonzalez  
Sarah Zurfluh  
Sophia Shingledecker

### Fifth Grade

Abigail Jacobs  
Abigail Leatherman  
Andrew Titus  
Brennen Rehnier

Caylynn Smith  
Corinne Eisner  
Coro Eddy  
Emily Figueroa  
Emma Healy  
Ethan Jones  
Gabriel Umana Aleman  
Grayson Blake  
Haley Dale  
Jim Vargas Castro  
Keith Inman-Ryan  
Madison Dixon