

January 11, 2013 –Staunton City Schools Tip Sheet

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BESSIE WELLER MEETS READING GOAL

On November 2, Bessie Weller Elementary School kicked off the “Bee a Reader” program and challenged every student to meet their grade level reading goal for a chance to slime the school’s principal, Mr. Bryant. Each student was given a bookmark indicating a specific number of books to be read. Each time the bookmark was filled, students received a “honeycomb cell” to put on the school’s “beehive.” Bessie Weller’s goal was to have each student fill at least one bookmark, and for the student body as a whole to read a total of 3,445 books by December 14. The students accepted the challenge, read many great books, and exceeded the goal on the last day, logging a total of 3,502 books. Everyone enjoyed the celebration as the top readers from each homeroom class were given a cup of green, gooey slime to pour on Mr. Bryant. “It was lots of fun and great motivation for the students,” said Mr. Bryant.



Bessie Weller student, Toni Hurdle, puts up her “honeycomb cell” with the help of Mrs. Stinnett.



Bessie Weller student, JaSontay Smith, reads a book to kindergarten student, Shayla Wright. Shayla said “It was lots of fun reading all those books together.”



Bessie Weller Principal, Chris Bryant, allowed students to slime him in recognition of meeting the school-wide reading goal.

MCSWAIN STUDENTS USE MATH SKILLS TO BUILD CARS

Fourth grade students at McSwain Elementary worked in pairs to build and race cars. The students were given the challenge to build the best aerodynamic car within a given budget. Each pair of students was asked to determine what their car needed to run and to go the farthest. Rubber-band energy was used to power the cars. To stay within their budget, the students had to do many calculations using math skills they had learned. Once the cars were built, the students held a race to see which car would go the farthest. The winning car, created by partners Benjamin Briggs and Lena Harris, went 146 cm.

BESSIE WELLER STUDENTS STUDY MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Bessie Weller’s kindergarten students in Mrs. Shifflett’s class used technology to enhance their lessons about Martin Luther King, Jr. Students wrote down their own dreams and read them aloud while recording their voices. Mrs. Shifflett attached a QR code, a type of matrix barcode, to each child’s work. When this code was scanned using an iPad, iPod, or a mobile phone the student’s voice could be heard giving their very own “I have a dream” speech. The students learned a great deal about Martin Luther King, Jr. and had lots of fun recording and listening to their own speeches.



Bessie Weller kindergarteners wrote about their dreams and created recordings of their “I have a dream “ speech during their studies about Martin Luther King, Jr.



NO BRAIN FREEZE AT WARE

On the last day of school in December, Ware Elementary School gave each student a "Stop Winter Brain Freeze" packet. The packet was designed to encourage kids to continue practicing reading, writing, and math over Winter Break. Each grade-specific packet contained a snowman reading log, math facts for quick review, winter writing activity, and bonus activities for winter science and art fun. These activities help students to keep their great school habits in place so they don’t forget the skills they have learned in class while they are on Winter Break. Ware had over 100 students in grades K-5 complete the packets. In doing so, the students earned a spot on the Winter Hall of Fame banner and a freeze-pop celebration at the end of one school day.



Over 100 Ware students, one from each grade level pictured, earn a spot on the "Winter Hall of Fame" banner by completing the Stop Winter Brain Freeze packet. From left to right: Ashley McCutcheon (5th), Andrew McFarlane (1st), Alayia Robinson (4th), Frederick Acosta (3rd), Ariann Bennett (K), and Makenzie Moyers (2nd).