

May 10, 2013 –Staunton City Schools Tip Sheet

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MCSWAIN HOSTS SOL NIGHT

McSwain Elementary School recently hosted their *SOL Information Night for Parents*. The parents of all students in grades K – 5 were invited to a presentation on rigor and the new Standards of Learning (SOLs). At the beginning of the presentation, the parents were quizzed using an interactive tool known as a ‘clicker’ to see what they thought they knew about the SOL tests. The parents viewed samples of the different TEI (Technology-Enhanced Item) questions that students will see on the SOL tests, and later had the opportunity to go on to the Virginia Department of Education website to work with the practice SOL questions. McSwain’s Principal, Kim Crocker, said, "Our parents enjoyed a bit of humor as they witnessed how much the challenge and rigor have changed from the time they were in elementary school. Following their firsthand experience, they have a greater appreciation for the high levels of thinking our young children are expected to demonstrate."

WARE 4TH GRADERS STUDY ECOSYSTEMS

Students in Ware Elementary’s 4th grade recently took a field trip to Big Meadows, which is located off the Skyline Drive and is a part of the Shenandoah National Park. The students have been studying ecosystems and habitats, and greatly enjoyed the opportunity to experience firsthand the many learning opportunities at Big Meadows.



Ware 4th grade students explore habitats and ecosystems at Big Meadows.



Students from Ware’s 4th grade learn about habitats and ecosystems on a field trip to Big Meadows.