

March 14, 2014 - Staunton City Schools Tip Sheet

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LEE ACADEMIC TEAM ENJOYED SUCCESSFUL SEASON

Robert E. Lee High School's Academic Team has enjoyed much success this season. The team placed second at the district match held at Riverheads High School, where they defeated Wilson High School, East Rockingham High School, Nelson County High School, and Buffalo Gap High School to reach a best-of-three match with conference leader Riverheads High School. Lee lost the third match in a close contest, but by placing second in the district match, the team advanced to the regional competition held in Richmond in mid-February. At the regional competition, Robert E. Lee High School's Academic Team defeated Goochland High School, Prince Edward High School, and Clarke County High School to finish the day in fourth place, with a 3-4 record.

Members of this dynamic team include: Bryce Colson, Emma Diduch, Moses Farley, Gus Hollberg, Sam LaClair, Michael Laterza, Mahek Mehta, Sarah Riddle, Justice Spencer, Kyle Vanhoy, Evan York, and Collin Yurish. The team is coached by Tom Metzger and Monica Roth. Tom Metzger complimented this year's Lee Academic Team saying, "We have been very happy with the commitment of our team. Not only did more students join the team, but their commitment to practices, matches, and strategies has been great. They have had so much fun honing their skills - we have experts in literature, poetry, geography, history, sports, math, biology, chemistry, and all sorts of other subjects, and they're very proud of the individual skills they contribute to the team. These students are a great representation of Lee High through their dedication, cooperation, and intelligence."

On March 15, 2014 the team will travel to Washington, D.C. to compete on the television show, "It's Academic", which will air on NBC-Channel 4 later in May. We congratulate the Lee Academic Team on a great season and wish them much success in Washington!



Members of the 2013-2014 Robert E. Lee High School Academic Team smile after a successful season.

BESSIE WELLER'S FOURTH GRADERS ENJOYING A GREAT BOOK

Bessie Weller fourth graders are reading Gary Paulsen's book, *Hatchet*. The power of the printed word is made obvious to these young readers through the skilled guidance of their teacher, Mrs. Hostetter. As they examined chapter three (spoiler alert!), the vivid detail of the plane crash scene and its cliff-hanger chapter's end evoked gasps and grimaces from the attentive readers. The students sat totally absorbed by the story, but were allowed no peeking until tomorrow's lesson though, as the class is reading the book as a group and waiting together is part of the fun.

At strategic points, the teacher paused to allow spontaneous discussions with partners to erupt. On signal, hands shot into the air as eager students requested their turn to share their ideas with the entire group. For those who appeared a bit timid, Mrs. Hostetter deftly drew them into the reading group by offering occasional fact-based questions which could be answered with confidence. These are some of the questions the students were led to consider: What emotions did the character show as the events unfolded? What sensory details did the author include? What effect did the details have upon the reader? Through the author's description of the plane's behavior, what can the reader infer about the character's level of distress? How can an author's word choice change the intensity of a scene? What predictions can be made about the next chapter? What evidence can you find to support your predictions?

In the near future, local libraries are likely to see an increased demand for the next books in this series. These young readers are learning to love great books!

MCSWAIN CELEBRATES 101 DAYS OF SCHOOL

With some fun math centers and great photos, first graders at McSwain recently celebrated the 101st day of first grade. Did you catch that? -- The one hundred FIRST day of FIRST grade! Using the *101 Dalmatians* as a way to tie the activities together, children wore black and white clothes, moved through a variety of activities based on the number 101, chose dog names and put them on their dog tags. Following the theme, students counted 101 black and white beads to make dog collars, put 101 Dalmatian dots on dog ears, and had their pictures taken inside a dog house. To get practice estimating, an Estimation Station with doggie treats was included in the activities. Some children walked 101 steps down the hall to see how far they traveled. To practice addition, there was a game of rolling dice to reach 101. Other activities included making a Dalmatian snack of mini-marshmallows and chocolate bits and reading a math story based on *101 Dalmatians*. Several parents were able to join the fun to help out with centers and pictures. It was a busy day full of counting, figuring and fun!



On the 101st day of classes, Mathew Moon and Ms. Lachance calculate the next number in the dice game.

LEE FORENSIC TEAM MEETS SUCCESS

The Robert E. Lee High Forensic team has enjoyed an exciting and rewarding season. On February 22, the team competed against four other schools for the Conference Championship. In the end, the Leemen earned the 1st place trophy with ten of the members advancing to the regional competition. Victoria Nay and Jared Samuelson earned first and second place in Storytelling. Darby Lucius-Milliman earned 1st place in Humorous Interpretation with Rachel Carlton claiming 3rd place in the same category. The Serious Duo team of Natalie Cascario and Maria Wykes earned 1st place. The Humorous Duo team of Lauren Knight and Whitley Simmons captured 1st place with the team of Jordan Dronebarger and Drea Courtney taking 2nd place. Ruth Clem took the 1st place position in the Impromptu category. Kelsey Sheffer and Sally Abouzied had strong showings in their respected categories.

The Lee High Forensic Team sent eight participants to the Regional Competition, held on March 8 at Madison County High School. After the day-long contest, seven of the eight participants made the final round. In the end, it was sophomore Victoria Nay defending her place as number one Storyteller in the region. Victoria Nay will represent Lee High at state competition on March 29, 2014 at Harrisonburg High School. Last year, Victoria finished seventh in the state of Virginia for Storytelling. The serious duo team of Maria Wykes and Natalie Cascario will be the state alternates, after missing 3rd place by only one point. "They worked so hard, and I really thought that they deserved, at the least, second place, if not first. Once again, however, Victoria Nay is headed to states. I'm so happy for her!" said Coach Brian Shutt. Also competing in regionals this year were Jordan Dronebarger, Drea Courtney, Jared Samuelson, Darby Lucius-Milliman, and Rachel Carlton.

Coach Brian Shutt led the Forensic Team again this year – his second year at the helm. "It's just a lot of fun!" said Shutt. "You get to laugh and cry, sometimes at the same time."



Forensic team members include: Coach Brian Shutt, Jared Samuelson, Kelsey Sheffer, Sally Abouzied, Darby Lucius-Milliman, Victoria Nay, Whitley Simmons, Lauren Knight, Ruth Clem, Maria Wykes, Andrea Courtney, Natalie Cascario, Jordan Dronebarger, and Rachel Carlton.

FAMILY FUN EVENTS AT MCSWAIN

Families and staff from McSwain Elementary School have gotten together for several family fun events this winter. The evening activities are designed to bring students and their families together to have fun while using the concepts the students are learning in their classes.

At the end of January, students, families, and teachers tested their math skills at the McSwain Elementary Family Math Night, which took place at the Food Lion on Coalter Street. Families completed written tasks specific to the grade level of each student. Staff members circulated throughout the store to help students solve word problems, do cost/size comparisons, and various measurement activities. Food Lion Store Manager, Dan Pritchett, provided snacks for the students and their families along with prizes that were distributed by a participant drawing. Everyone enjoyed an evening filled with fun and meaningful learning activities!

For another family fun event, McSwain Elementary families returned to school on the evening of Thursday, February 20 for a Literacy “Camp-In” night. Families visited the Bedford Falls bookfair housed in the school library. They also circulated among learning stations that were facilitated by staff members. Students listened to tall tales, took part in “Fairy Tale Fishing”, and got grooving at movement stations. Other activity centers had students creating acrostic poems from their names, making “Story S’mores”, noodle necklaces, yarn crafts, and estimating total numbers of goodies in camping jars. Gift certificates for the bookfair were awarded as door prizes, in addition to the prizes awarded to the winners of the estimation jars contests. That night, students and their families left McSwain Elementary School “Fired Up About Reading”!



At Math Night, McSwain teacher Kristi Broyles helps second grader Rob Spurlock with computations in the produce department.



Elise Bradley and Clay Stockman stop at the Fired-Up About Reading activity led by Reading Coach, Lori Knicely.



Visiting the craft station during the McSwain Literacy Camp-In, Adalyn Krusz and Stuart Love get some help from 5th grade teacher, Jeanne Webb.

WARE WISHES DR. SEUSS A HAPPY BIRTHDAY

In celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday, Ware Elementary School hosted a series of literacy events that culminated in Read Across America Day. Students from kindergarten to 5th grade enjoyed hearing guest readers share with them their favorite Dr. Seuss stories. Ware was extremely fortunate to have staff from Shelburne Middle School, Lee High School and the Central Office, as well as School Board members and community members, come to read to our students.

Ms. Heather Da'Mes' 2nd grade students enjoy a Dr. Seuss book read by School Board member, Bob Boyle.



School Board member, Bill Lobb, reads to Mrs. Michelle Woolston's 4th grade class for Dr. Seuss' birthday.

