

September 19, 2013 – Staunton City Schools Tip Sheet

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MCSWAIN CELEBRATES GRANDPARENTS DAY

Kindergarten classes at McSwain celebrated Grandparents Day by inviting the students' grandparents in for an afternoon. On Friday, September 13, over 90 grandparents joined the kindergarten classes. The students shared songs and poems they have learned in the first weeks of school. The group then enjoyed refreshments before the students took their grandparents on a tour of their classrooms. A wonderful time was had by all!



Max Becker with grandparents, Carolyn and Tom Rankin, during McSwain's Grandparents Day celebration.

BESSIE WELLER HOSTS FIRST MUSICAL OF THE YEAR

The first musical of the school year was presented at Bessie Weller Elementary School by music teacher, Mrs. Holroyd, and the fifth grade classes. "Be a Star" was the theme of the show and the students were truly shining! "This is going to be awesome," said one fourth grade student as he made his way to his seat. When asked how this group got ready to perform so quickly, Mrs. Holroyd replied, "I couldn't possibly have these students ready to perform without the support of the teachers, staff and parents. Together, our fifth graders have prepared forty-five minutes of music and speaking parts." Mrs. Holroyd always expects the very best from her students and the students all know that she never fails to guide them to unimagined levels of success. The student body was treated to a performance during the school day, with a public performance provided in the evening.



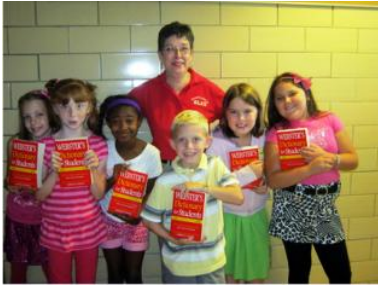
Bessie Weller's fifth grade students perform in "Be a Star," under the direction of Mrs. Phyllis Holroyd.



Fifth graders, Hunter Ralston and Kadin Swisher, sing a duet during Bessie Weller Elementary School's musical production.

ELKS LODGE PROVIDES DICTIONARIES

The students of Staunton City Schools are once again the recipients of the generosity of the Staunton Elks Lodge #351. Mrs. Dickerson, Exalted Ruler of the Lodge, was on hand on Thursday, September 5 to present dictionaries to the third grade students at Ware Elementary School. Students at Bessie Weller Elementary and McSwain Elementary also received the dictionaries. “The students are so excited to have these dictionaries and to be able to use them to expand their vocabulary, to find synonyms and antonyms, and to make their writing more descriptive,” said Mrs. Barker, Principal at Ware Elementary School.



Ware third grade students, pictured with Mrs. Nancy Dickerson of the Staunton Elk’s Lodge #351, show off their new dictionaries.

SVJC STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM BOOK DRIVE

Last spring, Joshua Diamond, adult coordinator of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Youth Council, inquired about the possibility of coordinating a book drive for the incarcerated youth at Shenandoah Valley Juvenile Center. The Youth Council is a youth-led group that works on various service projects throughout the school year, orchestrating community projects such as canned food drives, making rain gardens, cleaning up rivers, and holding youth-led events on racism in the community. Many, if not all, of the youth involved with the program have in some way come into contact with the juvenile judicial system, either personally or through a friend’s experience. They wanted to facilitate a book drive in order to reach out to incarcerated youth, and to let the SVJC students know they were being thought of and supported by their peers in the community.

The Youth Council’s book drive, aptly named “Turning a New Chapter: Books for Incarcerated Youth,” garnered approximately 260 books, which are now in the hands of SVJC’s young people, some of whom rarely read or have never read for pleasure. They gathered a number of books from contemporary young adult authors, and the students were both excited and encouraged by the actions of their peers. Most importantly, it reaffirmed the power of a simple act of kindness, one which will hopefully be paid forward.

