

October 1, 2014 – Staunton City Schools Tip Sheet

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McSwain Elementary School = Destination Learning

This school year, faculty and staff at McSwain Elementary School have adopted the theme “Destination Learning: Go! Grow! Know! Show!” The theme words provide direction for students as they move toward academic accomplishments: “Go!” - setting a goal; “Grow!” - taking the steps necessary to accomplish the goal; “Know!” - monitoring and evaluating one’s own progress; and “Show!” - celebrating positive results.

Teachers are working with students to set goals for the year and working on skills necessary to make those goals a reality. Particular emphasis is being made on setting short-term or weekly goals that make progress toward the larger objective. Various school-wide activities throughout the year will help focus the students on their goal-setting and working toward being able to celebrate their accomplishments. “We are excited to engage our students as they take responsibility for their learning, celebrating their achievements as goals are met,” said Ms. Crocker, Principal at McSwain Elementary School.

Keeping with the theme in Ms. Maclam’s Physical Education classes, students were given the task of working in small groups to build a “stepping stone path” across the gymnasium. Each student was provided an item to be used as a stepping stone. Members of the group needed to work together to move the stones across the gym to give safe passage to everyone in their group. After navigating the “treacherous waters”, the groups discussed their goal, how communicating was necessary to help their progress, and brainstormed ways to reach their goal more efficiently. Students were then given a chance to try again, using what they had learned in the first exercise.



Serenity, Michael, and Sweekar work together to build a path.



Jack, Debron, Allie and Abby use their tools and communication skills to provide a more efficient second pass.

Student Success Night at Ware

Ware Elementary held its first-ever Student Success Night recently. All students and their parents were invited to attend the evening event. Teachers were available to meet with parents to discuss grade level curriculum and instruction as well as student success goals for the 2014-2015 school year.

After compiling results from a recent parent survey, the faculty and staff at Ware created the Student Success Night as another avenue to provide parents with information regarding instruction. Some of the topics discussed during the event included classroom procedures, homework, math and literacy units, and a general overview of grade level-specific curriculum.

"This was a wonderful opportunity for parents to gain insight and perspective into what we do as a school to help foster our students' growth and academic success," noted Ware principal, Sharon Barker. Student Success Night is a school-sponsored event. Ware plans to continue this event on an annual basis to welcome and encourage parents to be actively involved in their child's education.