

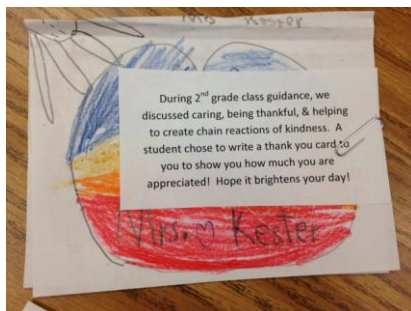
December 12, 2014 – Staunton City Schools Tip Sheet

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Bessie Weller Students Take Time to be Thankful

The students at Bessie Weller honored the season of thankfulness by taking time to thank those among them for the special things they do to make Bessie Weller a wonderful school. During guidance class discussions, the students talked about caring, being thankful, and what they could do to help create a chain reaction of kindness. As an outpouring of those discussions, the students in grades 2 and 5 each chose a staff member and wrote a note card to let that person know why he or she is so appreciated at Bessie Weller. The cards were distributed to staff members throughout the school.

In addition, students in grades 1 - 5 created a "thankful tree" full of colorful leaves in the hallway near the library. On the leaves, the students were given the opportunity to write about something for which they are most thankful. The leaves were read as a part of the morning announcements in late November as a way of including the entire school in the celebration of thankfulness.



Bessie Weller students wrote thank you notes to staff to show their appreciation.



Students included what they are most thankful for on the leaves of the "thankful tree" at Bessie Weller.

Inside the Earth at Ware

Ware's fifth grade classes have been studying the structure of the Earth's interior. To assess the student's knowledge and understanding, the teachers decided to have the students do some fun and creative projects.

Ms. McAllister's class used clay to model the different strata found inside the Earth. They created projects that represent the Earth's interior from both vertical and horizontal perspectives. One of the students, Jackson Smith, shared that this hands-on project has helped him to easily identify the different layers of the inner Earth. Ms. Pultz's class used different cereals to recreate the Earth's interior. Once completed, the students were able to slice their "Earth" in half to see the different layers. The trick for them was in knowing how much cereal to use for each layer, since each layer is not the same depth.

The students enjoyed using their creative skills to make a visual representation of the Earth to reinforce what they were learning in class.



Ware students Connor Harrell and Tyler Spicer work with cereal to create their models of the Earth.

Genesis Teacher Wins Local VFW Award

Mrs. Sarah Morris, social studies instructor at Genesis Regional Alternative Program was recently named as a local winner in the 2014 Veterans of Foreign War (VFW) Teacher of the Year program. Mrs. Morris has been teaching social studies at Genesis for the past six years. She has regularly used the VFW's Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy competitions with her middle and high school students, and many of the students have won the local competitions. Mrs. Morris is being recognized with this award for her continued pursuit of instilling patriotism in her social studies students by teaching about citizenship and about America's history and traditions. Mrs. Morris will now compete for the VFW's state level award. Best wishes to Mrs. Morris in this next step of the competition.



Mrs. Sarah Morris, social studies teacher at Genesis has been named the local VFW Teacher of the Year.