



THE BUGLE

MT. BETHEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1210 Johnson Ferry Road • Marietta, GA 30068 • 770-578-7248 • <http://mtbethel.blogspot.com>
 Georgia School of Excellence • National School of Excellence • Georgia Platinum Award

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 Principal



READ-A-THON 2015: ADVENTURE AWAITS

There are only a few days remaining for Mt. Bethel PTA's 5th Annual Read-A-Thon. Please remember to read, read, and read. Fundraising is critical for a successful event, but **READING** is our main goal! We have great incentives for all participating students and classes – a list of prizes is shown below. Also, encourage your student to participate in the individual essay contest to earn extra minutes and a chance to win the essay contest.

All students who enter their reading minutes and donations on PTA Toolkit will receive a Read-A-Thon bag tag and a Willy's Mexicana Grill bookmark with a coupon for a free kid's meal. All students who raise a minimum of \$40 will also receive a Yogli Mogli coupon as well as a coupon booklet for The Avenue shops worth \$400 in savings!

Encourage your child to read books at an appropriate level. Students receive credit for time spent reading (or being read to by an adult if in Kindergarten or 1st Grade). Reading for **HOMEWORK** counts. Please track your time reading at home, on the bus, at ASP, but do **NOT** count time reading during regular school hours. All donations and minutes will be recorded online this year through the Mt. Bethel Toolkit at <https://mtbethelpta.membershiptoolkit.com>. Review our online payment instructions to learn more and visit our Mt. Bethel PTA blog for additional information <http://mtbethel.blogspot.com/pta/read-a-thon.html>. All donations are tax deductible.

IMPORTANT DATES:

August 24 – August 30: Read-A-Thon Reading!

September 2: Last day to submit reading minutes and donations online and to submit essays to teachers.

September 15 & 16: Yogli Mogli Ice Cream Parties for Winning Classes.



We hope you will support this worthwhile fundraiser. If you have any questions, please email Heidi Bozzelli and Kirsten Gant at fallfundraiser@mtbethelpta.org or visit the blog at <http://mtbethel.blogspot.com/pta/read-a-thon.html>.

Most Time Read	100% Classroom Participation	Individual Essay Contest
1 st Place & 2 nd Place Classes Per Grade Level	\$25 Target Gift Card	One Winner Per Grade Level
Yogli Mogli Ice Cream Parties	<i>For teacher to use toward a classroom item</i>	\$25 Target Gift Card

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LOOK FOR OUR TEACHER FEATURE SECTION NEXT MONTH AND FIND OUT WHAT EACH GRADE HAS BEEN DOING!

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The Bugle is prepared by Editor Stephanie Patel, bugle@mtbethelpta.org and distributed by Vicky Rice.

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION



FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

Dear Buccaneer Families,

We have had an outstanding beginning to the 2015-16 school year! Our teachers have waited all summer for the moment the kids were back – and they took time to “sharpen the saw” and fine-tune their craft through multiple professional learning opportunities. Twenty-four teachers participated in this year’s Homegrown Institute led by Columbia College’s Readers and Writers Project master professional developers. The focus of this intense week-long Institute was implementation of the Readers Workshop Model within a balanced literacy framework. We were able to provide this training thanks to generous funding from the Foundation. You may see some shifts in instructional practice as we work to help our students read and think at deeper levels as our staff begins implementation of the Lucy Calkins Units of Study and Readers Workshop framework! Our focus for professional learning will be reading this year. The ability to read and comprehend at deep levels is a gift that will last our students for a lifetime, impacting their academic success across all areas. Our focus on reading fits in perfectly with our Superintendent’s Priorities as well.

Superintendent Chris Ragsdale has articulated three priorities for Cobb County Schools this year. These priorities will be woven into all school improvement decisions that we make for our unique Mt. Bethel population. The success of our school and community depends on a clear, simple, and strong foundation for teaching and learning and Mt. Bethel has constructed a strong foundation to continue our vision of EXCELLENCE IN ACTION!

Superintendent Priorities	Cobb’s Actions	Mt. Bethel’s Actions
Ensure that Cobb is the best place to lead, teach and learn.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addressing pay scale competitiveness (4% or more raise!) Boldly advocating for our teachers and leaders from state and federal mandates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support from our PTA and Foundation for teachers and students. Celebrations of staff accomplishments. Protected time for collaboration and professional learning.
Simplifying and strengthening our foundation for teaching and learning in order to prepare for innovation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on foundational skills in math and literacy. Focus on learning engagement strategies. Investing in Education Excellence (IE2) Model of Flexibility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear focus on reading instruction Readers Workshop Model training and support. Focus on standards implementation and learning content at high levels. Curriculum support from Jill Hawes, School Leadership Intern. Specialized instruction support from Jaime Davies, Support and Service Administrator. Increased collaboration and implementation of innovative service models through our Advanced Learning Program Department.
Use data to make decisions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of an assessment system in core academic areas. Formulation of the Cobb Teaching and Learning System (CTLIS). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support in assessment strategies and how to use data to plan re-teaching and acceleration. Implementation of Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) as pre and post-test to determine growth. Implementation of a face-to-face reading assessment for all students.

We thank you for your continued engagement in our school and community. We know that Mt. Bethel is the best place to lead, teach, and learn because you send us the best raw material each and every day! We look forward to continuing to partner with you to make this our best school year yet for our 1,100 plus Buccaneers!

Your Proud Administration,

Jessica Appleyard
 Jessica Appleyard, Principal

Faith Harmeyer
 Faith Harmeyer, Assistant Principal (3-5)

Maria Clark
 Maria Clark, Assistant Principal (K-2)

Jamie Davies
 Jamie Davies, Support and Service Administrator

Jill Hawes
 Jill Hawes, School Leadership Intern

FROM THE PTA CO-PRESIDENTS:

Dear Mt. Bethel Families and Friends,

Welcome to the 2015-2016 school year at Mt. Bethel Elementary!

As parents, we are very fortunate to be part of an environment where teamwork among teachers, staff, and volunteers is such a priority, all with our children's success in mind. It is the purpose of the PTA to be a resource for your family and to be a strong advocate for your children's education.

The Mt. Bethel PTA is made up of 60 committees that work to enhance the education and lives of our students and community. This year our primary goals are to support student success and to increase family engagement through our numerous programs and events. Please join us in working to achieve these goals. If you have not yet joined PTA, please contact membership@mtbethelpta.org to find out how you can become a partner in your child's education.

Right now we're in the middle of our Read-a-Thon fundraiser! PTA Board Members Heidi Bozzelli and Kirsten Gant have been hard at work this past summer to organize a program that not only encourages our students to read, but also raises critical funds to support the programs of the Mt. Bethel PTA. Nearly 95% of the proceeds will go back to Mt. Bethel PTA to help fund:

- ◆ Classroom periodicals, teacher stipends, grade level support & counseling programs;
- ◆ Support for Music, Art and P.E.; Health Education and Character Education Programs;
- ◆ Visiting Authors, Healthy Habits, Outdoor Learning, Reflections, Challenger Publishing, Family Engagement, Cultural Arts/Awareness, and much more!

The dedication and hard work of our many volunteers make it possible to provide our school and families with Back to School services such as pre-sale, online school supply ordering, spirit wear, class T-shirts, calendars, directories, room parents, kindergarten helpers, and a newcomers' welcome coffee. Thank you to all of the volunteers who made these services possible this year!

If you're looking to get involved at your child's school but aren't sure how, please reach out to us! There are countless ways to be involved, and our involvement is another way we show our children the value of education. There are volunteer opportunities for everyone, small and large time commitments, and in many different areas of interest. Together we can make a difference at Mt. Bethel!

To stay informed about what's going on at Mt. Bethel, make sure you're receiving and reading the e-Minder that arrives in your Inbox every Sunday night at 8:00 p.m. If you want to know about other ways to stay informed, go to the school's main website, mtbetheles.com, where Principal Appleyard has provided a great summary of communication avenues.

We look forward to working with you this year as we all support our children's education.

Sincerely,



Lisa Kelly

Shawn Lieth

Shawn Lieth, PTA Co-Presidents

Mt. Bethel Elementary
PTA[®]
everychild. one voice.[®]



PTA MEMBERSHIP

WHAT IS THE PTA? WHY SHOULD I JOIN?

The PTA is made up of more than 5 million members, including parents, grandparents, mentors, educators, neighbors, and community leaders. By joining the PTA, you are an advocate for children everywhere – at the national, state, and local levels. If you have not yet joined the PTA, please contact membership chair Heather Lloyd at membership@mtbethelpta.org to find out how you can become a partner in your child's education! An individual membership is just \$5, and a household membership is \$10. In addition to getting connected with the PTA, you will enjoy substantial benefits including discounts and offers from member benefits providers and sponsors, magazine subscriptions,

leadership training, e-newsletters and much more. For less than 3 cents a day, you can become a PTA member, joining people who share your interest in issues affecting children. Click our school's [website](#) to see the local discounts you will enjoy with a Mt. Bethel PTA membership! Join today!



BUCCANEER BRIEFS

TRAINED PARENT VOLUNTEERS

While teachers attend grade level planning meetings, two Trained Parent Volunteers help out in the classroom. This is a great way to help teachers and participate in your child's classroom. Becoming a TPV is very easy! In order to volunteer even once during the school year as a TPV, you **MUST** attend one of the training sessions. After that, you can sign up to cover one of the teacher's meetings! Upcoming training date: **September 29 from 8:00 - 8:30 a.m. in the cafeteria.**

If you have any questions, please contact Gina Laney at tpv@mtbethelpta.org.

ATTENTION MT. BETHEL DADS!



Bring your Mt. Bethel students and join us for the All Pro Dad's Breakfast at Mt. Bethel Elementary from **6:30 - 7:15 a.m. on Friday, September 11, 2015** in the cafeteria. Team up with other Mt. Bethel dads and kids for a quick, before-school breakfast (available for purchase) and a short program of family topics.

What is All Pro Dad's breakfast about? Dads gather quarterly, with their children and other dads, in the school cafeteria to discuss topics relevant to school age children and take part in fun bonding activities and games. Dads leave with practical parenting tips they can take home and put to use immediately. All Pro Dad is in over 1,000 schools nationwide and partnered with the National PTA. More information regarding All Pro Dad can be found at www.allprodad.com.

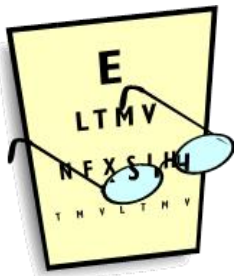
We look forward to seeing you at Mt. Bethel's first All Pro Dad's Day Breakfast of the year. **R.S.V.P. will be required to reserve your breakfast option.** Look for invitations and R.S.V.P. details soon!



Girls on the Run is SO MUCH FUN!

Girls on the Run is a life-changing, character development program for girls in 3rd through 5th grades. The mission is to inspire girls to be joyful, healthy and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum which creatively integrates running. Mt. Bethel will have 2 teams, each with sixteen 3rd through 5th grade girls this fall. We meet two times per week after school to discuss issues like self-esteem, friendship, healthy eating habits, and bullying. The sessions also include a workout in which the girls work up to running a 5K (3.1 miles). Registration for the Fall season opened on August 17 at 9:00 a.m. and is only available on line. The website for registration is: www.girlsontherunatlanta.org.

Please contact Abbie White if you have any questions: Abbiewhite76@yahoo.com.



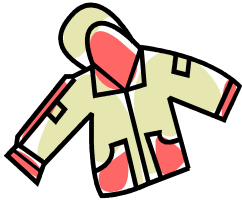
VISION AND HEARING SCREENING

The PTA Vision and Hearing Screenings for this school year will be held **September 15-17**. All 1st and 4th grade students will be screened for vision and hearing. If your 1st or 4th grade child wears glasses, please make sure they have them on the above screening dates. This screening is not a substitute for a complete vision and hearing examination; it is merely a way for Cobb County to recommend further testing for those students that do not pass the screening. Some students who are referred to a specialist for follow-up may have normal exams. If you suspect your child may have a vision and/or hearing problem and your child is not a 1st or 4th grader, please speak to your child's teacher about obtaining a screening at school.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact Kasey Bittner or Susan Sharrow at visionhearing@mtbethelpta.org.



BUCCANEER BRIEFS



LOST AND FOUND HAS MOVED!

Due to space constraints, the Lost and Found has been moved to the Annex Hallway (by the Target classrooms). With the new location, we REALLY need the help of ALL Mt. Bethel Students and Families taking the following steps:

1. **LABEL ALL OF YOUR STUDENTS' COATS/WATER BOTTLES/LUNCH BAGS** with their name and teacher's name! (There are several sites including <http://www.ebay.com/bhp/iron-on-name-labels> or www.stickymonkeylabels.com where you can find inexpensive labels) OR JUST USE A SHARPIE! THIS IS SO IMPORTANT!
2. **PLEASE PAY ATTENTION** to whether your child has brought home all of the items they were sent to school with that day! This will help keep the Lost and Found from getting out of control! If you realize that your child is missing an item, PLEASE check with their teacher and then check the L+F! - ASAP!
3. Because of the lack of space, we will be cleaning out the Lost and Found **MONTHLY!** Due to the overflow of coats and other items that we collect when the weather gets colder, we will be cleaning out the Lost and Found on a monthly basis! IF your student's items have their name in them, we will make sure to get them back to the correct classroom. IF there is NOT a name in them, they will be donated to one of our sister schools.
4. The **FIRST** Lost and Found Cleanout date will be **Friday, October 2nd!** So please put this date on your calendar and make sure that you have checked for ANY missing items before then!

Thank you for your help! - Lost and Found Committee Chairs



29th ANNUAL FUN RUN

Saturday, November 7, 2015

Mark your calendars and start training! The annual 5K, 1-mile, and Kindergarten ½ mile are coming back this fall. There are lots of new and exciting changes this year. Sign up on the Toolkit starts in September. We are always seeking volunteers to help, especially on the day of the race. Questions? Please contact Carrie Pruitt, Gina Laney and Ashley Cook at funrun@mtbethelpta.org.



REFLECTIONS

Reflections entries are due **Monday, October 12, 2015**. Get started today!

PTA REFLECTIONS
40 Years of Achievement in the Arts

This National PTA Arts Recognition program gives students a chance to express themselves, unleashing their talent and creativity in a fun and positive way through the arts. This year's theme is "Let Your Imagination Fly..." All Mt. Bethel students are encouraged to interpret the theme and enter in any or all of the following six categories: *Film Production, Dance Choreography, Musical Composition, Photography, Visual Arts* and *Literature*. All entries must be the original work of an individual student. Registration forms and rules are available on Mrs. Astorga's art blog at mtbethelart.blogspot.com.

For questions, please email the Reflections chairs at reflections@mtbethelpta.org.



KID CHESS, K-5TH GRADERS

Tuesdays / Art Room: 1st hr: 2:30 - 3:30 p.m., \$195 / 2nd hr: 3:45 - 4:45 p.m., \$149 / Combo Hrs: 2:30 - 4:45 p.m., \$270 / Classes start September 8th

Fridays / Learning Commons: 1st hr: 2:30 - 3:30 p.m., \$195 / 2nd hr: 3:45 - 4:45 p.m., \$149 / Combo Hrs: 2:30 - 4:45 p.m., \$270 / Classes start September 11th

All students, all grades, and all skill levels are welcome. 1st hour is for 1st-5th graders and 2nd hour is for K-5th graders. Learn to play a game that is fun and makes you smarter! Register online [HERE](#) or call 770.575.5802.



BUCCANEER

A huge Buccaneer Bravo to the Meet & Greet Volunteers – **Amy Loggins, Fran Asche, Kasey Bittner, Lisa Pilger, Jill Connor, Jennifer Armstrong, Nicole Fantz, Sarah-Kate Bozza, Sarah Fallaw, Melanie Knopf, Mary Mena, Mara Jacobson, Becky Ensley, Margaret O’Neill, Nicole Mason, Heather Lloyd, Caroline Lowden, Chana Wade, Hilary Keskonis, Angela Knight, Gina Laney, Lindsey Thompson, Amy Berg, Kimberlee Ackerman, Anna Deason, Lenore Willis, Lara Ghioto, Emily Ratliff, Rachel Cavallo, Dara Onori, Jennifer Hickey, Maria MacInnis, Kim Makuch, Ashley Cook, Lisa Kelly, Shawn Lieth, Kristin Erno, Carri Gaudion, Meredith Wesley, Kristine Monroe, Stephanie Patel, Laura Rhea and Paulette Williams!** Your generous service was truly appreciated!

Big Bravos to all of the committee chairs and numerous volunteers who helped to pull off a successful Meet & Greet setting the tone for a fabulous 2015-2016 school year! Special recognition to...**Kathleen Corrao** and **Dayna Teichman** - Meet & Greet, **Maria MacInnis** and **Leigh Mowry** - Spirit Wear, and **Lara Ghioto** - Pre-Sale.

The Hospitality Committee kicked off the year with the “Surf into School” Luncheon for our fabulous teachers & staff! Big thank you to **Amy Berg, Kerri Kenerly, Amanda Poland, Kelly Ivutin, Lindsay McCabe, Hyesung Kang** and **Tina Patel** for volunteering & making this event a HUGE success. Special thank you to Mt. Bethel parent **Emily Sasser** for catering all the delicious food! We’d also like to thank **Publix** for donating the drinks.

The Hospitality Committee kicked off the school year with a fabulous beach-themed luncheon for the teachers and staff. Thank you to our Hospitality Chairs **Ellen Cooper, Rachel Prinz** and **Jessica Nagle** for putting it together!

Big thanks to **Amy Berg** and **Cindy Sprague** for organizing volunteers for lunch and arrival at school for our students and therefore having a very smoothly run first week of school! These two were additionally responsible for the wonderful Newcomers’ Coffee that provided new Mt. Bethel parents with invaluable information (as well as coffee and a light breakfast). Thanks, **Amy** and **Cindy!**

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

See It, Clip It and Make a Difference for Our School!

Box Tops for Education is one of the nation’s largest school fundraising loyalty programs and has been helping schools succeed since 1996. With over 250 participating products, it’s an easy way for our school to earn cash for the things we need. It’s easy to find Box Tops on many products that you know and love. Box Tops can be found on General Mills, Betty Crocker, Ziploc, Nature Valley, Green Giant, Hefty, Kleenex and Scott Tissue products.

When you see a Box Top on a product, clip it and drop them in the Box Tops collection box located outside of the cafeteria. Each Box Top is worth 10¢ which adds up quickly for \$\$ for our school.



Ready, Set, Start Clipping! Go to www.boxtops4education.com for more information on participating products, recipes and coupons! Thank you for your help!

For additional information, please contact Sarah Wilson at boxtops@mtbethelpta.org

COPY CREW

Parents, want the teachers of Mt. Bethel to love you?! Volunteer 1.5 hours a month to make copies for our awesome teachers. They do SO much for our kids, let’s show them some love!

Contact Charity Muldoon at copycrew@mtbethelpta.org to get started.



BRAVOS !!!!!!!



Many, many thanks to **Kerri Kennerly**, **Suja Shiknis**, and **Abigail Robertson** for helping to assemble nearly 1000 PTA member packets. Your willingness to help is much appreciated!

Big Bravos to **Kim Makuch** for putting in hours upon hours keeping up with our database and the Toolkit program all summer, as well as the first several weeks of school.

Special thanks to **Melissa Pumpian** and **Cindy Sprague** for the beautiful display case!

Bravos to **Gina Laney** for organizing the TPV volunteers.

Bravos to **Natalie Collins** and **Heather Callahan** for getting every teacher lined up with a Room Parent!



Thank you to **Starbucks Woodlawn** for donating the coffee for our Newcomers' Coffee. Mt. Bethel appreciates you!

A huge thank you to our wonderful Kindergarten helpers: **Ellen Cooper**, **Stacey Goss**, **Ellen Block**, **Kathleen Corrao**, **Chana Wade**, **Christi McCarey**, **Erin Diffenderffer**, **Sha O'Neal**, **Nina Greenwood**, **Meredith Wesley**, **Jodi Crane**, **Melanie Knopf**, **Anna Deason**, **Lisa Lu**, **Amy White**, **Hilary Keskonis**, **Mary Mena**, **David Delaney**, **Lindsey Thompson**, **Kerey Toms**, **Dayna Teichman**, **Laurie Goldstein** and **Melissa Pinsky**.

Bravos to **Heather Lloyd**, **Susan Sharrow**, **Lindsey Thompson**, **Suja Shiknis** and **Dara Onori** for their help, which made the Newcomers Coffee such a success. A big thank you to the **Administration**, **Front Office Staff**, **Counselors**, **PTA**, and **Foundation members** who helped welcome, inform and engage our new Mt. Bethel families.



NOTES FROM THE NURSE:

Welcome back to school Mt. Bethel students and families! I hope everyone had a healthy and restful summer. The Clinic has been re-stocked and re-energized, and we're ready to take care of all your health needs. Please stop by the Clinic soon to drop off any medications your child might need throughout the school year. This may deter an extra trip during the school day to bring in pain reliever, cough medicine, etc. for your child who is not feeling well.

Please take note of these few reminders:

- Please be aware that the Clinic is not permitted by the Cobb County School District to administer any medications to your child unless a parent or guardian completes the appropriate paperwork and brings the paperwork and medicine into the Clinic. We do not keep **ANY** medications in the Clinic that are not specifically brought in by a parent for their child only.
- Please **DO NOT** send in any medications, including over-the-counter medications, with your child via backpack, or other methods, to school. These pose a potential danger to other children if found and taken by mistake. These medications will be confiscated and kept in the Clinic.
- Please be sure to advise me of **ANY** medical concerns regarding your child, even if you feel the "problem" has been resolved at home. This information is kept confidential, and only appropriate school personnel are notified. This helps keep the school population's medical concerns contained.
- Please be sure to visit the Cobb County website so you are aware of the guidelines for keeping a sick child at home. Remember, our goal is to keep as healthy a school environment as possible.

I am here in the Clinic from **7:45 a.m. until 2:45 p.m.** to take care of your child's medical needs. The Clinic functions on donations of supplies from you, the Mt. Bethel families. The Clinic is in need of a few supplies to get the new school year up and running:

1) cans of Ginger Ale (not diet); 2) gallon and quart size Ziploc bags; 3) saltine crackers; 4) 5 oz. cups; 5) individual chap sticks.

Keeping Mt. Bethel healthy,
Cindy Steuer, R.N., B.S.N., 770-578-7248, Ext. 255



Counselor's

Helping Your Child with Back to School Jitters

By: Kellie Oakes

The 2015-2016 school year is going to be a great year! The first week of school is always exciting because we get to see the returning students and meet many new students as well. The start of a new school year can be difficult for some children. Often a new class, new teacher, and the start of the school routine can bring about anxiety in kids. It can be frustrating and confusing for parents because it can make for many difficult nights and tear-filled mornings. As counselors, we see it every year and often from students who loved coming to school the year before. We have seen this from students in every grade level, not just our kindergarten students. This is normal and will often subside after the first few weeks of school. For many children there is an adjustment period because they have been with their family all summer and have difficulty with the separation from mom and dad. If your child is having a rough start to the year there are some great books out there to help your child with the transition to school and practical things you can do at home.

Two books I would recommend for younger students are The Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn and The Invisible String by Patrice Karst. The Kissing Hand is about Chester the raccoon who doesn't want to go to school because he doesn't want to leave his mother. She teaches him about the kissing hand, which allows him to keep her kiss with him all day even when she isn't there. The Invisible String helps kids who are having a difficult time with separation as well. In the story a mother explains to her children that we are never truly alone because we are all connected to those that we love by an invisible string. Another book that I would recommend for older children is a workbook that can be done with a parent. What to Do When You Worry Too Much: A Kid's Guide to Overcoming Anxiety by: Dawn Huebner and Bonnie Matthews is great for children who tend to let their worries get the best of them.

If your son or daughter is experiencing some anxiety related to the start of the year, do your best not to feed into his/her fears and worries. As a parent, we want to be there for our children and listen to them; however, if you allow your child to spend a lot of time talking about the negative, the anxiety will grow. It is important to stay positive when talking to your child about school. When he comes home ask him to tell you 2 or 3 good things about his day and always end with the positive. If he starts talking about the negative, allow no more than 5 minutes. Your child's feelings about school are controlled by his/her thoughts. Encourage your child to think about at least one thing that he/she is looking forward to the following day and have him/her focus on that. Often once a child is at school and in the classroom, those fears will subside.

If you have any concerns regarding your child and would like to speak to your child's counselor, please feel free to contact us: Kellie Oakes - kindergarten and 2nd grade: kellie.oakes@cobbk12.org, Mary Rees - 1st, 3rd, and 5th: mary.rees@cobbk12.org, Kristie Gordon - 4th grade: Kristie.gordon@cobbk12.org.



LEARNING COMMONS:

Ditching Dewey

Welcome back to year TWO of the Mt. Bethel Learning Commons! We are excited to announce a big project that has been brewing all summer and has finally come to be. We have "Ditched Dewey" in our nonfiction section in favor of a more user-friendly, word-based classification system. For example, animal books are now classified in the broad ANIMAL category, then divided into groups that make sense to our students. Bright, color-coded display signs will help even our youngest patrons find the books they're looking for. Additionally, this system encourages browsing, and will help our teachers locate standards-based books even faster! This project is an extension of the Learning Commons model catering to the needs of our users. As we tracked questions from students, teachers, and parents, our number one question was "Where are the _____ (insert topic of interest) books?" We feel that this system, coupled with genre-fying (separating the books into broad, color-coded categories) the fiction and everybody books, will help connect every reader with the book he or she needs.

Heather Kindschy, Teacher-Librarian
<http://www.cobblearning.net/mbmedia/>

Mt. Bethel Elementary, TEL: 770.578.7248 ext. 231
 Twitter: @MBESLC

"Because that's what Hermione does," said Ron, shrugging. "When in doubt, go to the library."
 — J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER

Dear Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and answer some commonly asked questions to the School Social Worker. I am Karen Schwartz and have been working in the Cobb County School District since 2007. As the social worker, I cover five area schools. My role is to assist schools and parents to alleviate barriers to learning. Through this, I often provide community resources, monitor attendance, and work with families on issues impacting their child at home or school. I am excited to be working with this wonderful Mt. Bethel community! I look forward to working with you as we strengthen the already wonderful educational programs here at Mt. Bethel Elementary.

Many of you have questions regarding attendance and what age your child can be allowed to stay home unsupervised. These questions are the most commonly asked of me. Here are some of the county policies in these areas:

Attendance Policy

Excused absences are defined by the State Board of Education Rules. As applied in the District, student may be temporarily excused from school under these circumstances:

- *A child is ill or attendance in school would endanger his/her health or the health of others**
- *A serious illness or death occurs in the immediate family of the child**
- *A child is observing a recognized religious holiday of his/her faith**
- *A child is mandated by order of a governmental agency**

A complete listing of excused absences can be found in Cobb County School District's Policy Administrative Rule JB-R.

*Please note that doctor's and illness notes must be provided within 3 days of the absence in order for it to be marked excused. The District Protocol on notifying parents regarding absences as follows:

- Three Unexcused Absences: The automated phone system will notify parents of the absences.
- Five Unexcused Absences: School will use the automated phone system and/or send an attendance letter
- Seven Unexcused Absences: The school will generate a referral to the School Social Worker to follow up.

*Please note the county policy outlines that at 3 or more absences (excused or unexcused) per semester, the school administrator and/or school social worker may require a doctor's statement verifying illness. You can review this policy at the county's website: <http://www.cobbk12.org/centraloffice/adminrules/J/JP-R.pdf>

In summary, it is always best practice to send in a doctor's note when your child has been out sick and seen their pediatrician. All absences must be accompanied by a note from the parent or guardian regarding the reason for the absence.

Home Alone?

Many parents struggle with the question of hiring a babysitter or leaving their children home alone. Fortunately, the state of Georgia has a policy outlining what the Department of Family and Children Services views as adequate supervision. The policy states the following:

- ◆ Children, ages 13 years old and above, who are at an adequate level of maturity, can act as babysitters for other children, for up to 12 hours.
- ◆ Children, ages 9-12 years old, can be left unsupervised for brief (less than 2 hours) periods of time, but CANNOT serve as babysitters for even 5 minutes.
- ◆ Children who are 8 years old and younger should never be left home alone under any circumstance.

If you need assistance locating a childcare provider, Quality Care for Children (404) 479-4240 can help provide referrals that fit your needs. Have a wonderful Fall!

If you have any additional questions, or wish to contact me, I can be reached at Karen.schwartz@cobbk12.org

Karen Schwartz
School Social Worker

SPECIALS REPORT:



PHYSICAL EDUCATION:

Starting the year off right with Physical Education at Mt. Bethel Elementary School. Introducing this year, Coach Dietrich who is new to MBPE, but not new to MBES! Coach D. has been a 5th and 4th grade teacher for the past 8 years here at Mt. Bethel. Coach Toole has retired and is visiting with grandchildren, but she will be around the building as a substitute teacher. Please welcome Coach Dietrich when you see him around campus.

3rd, 4th and 5th grade classes have been working on cooperation and teamwork along with fitness training. Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd have been getting reacquainted with procedures and starting to work on our sport skills. SPARK is starting the week of **August 11th**. 4th and 5th grade students may come to the track and walk or run if they do not have P.E. that day. SPARK sessions will be on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from **7:25 until 7:40 a.m.**

PE CLUBS started the week of August 17th: 7:15 – 7:40 a.m. in the gym:

- Monday* - Beginning Unicycle
- Tuesday* - Advanced Unicycle
- Wednesday* - Jump Rope (4th & 5th grade)
- Thursday* - Jump Rope (2nd & 3rd grade)
- Friday* - Juggling Club

Permission slips can be found on the P.E. blog either through the MB web page or cobblearning.net/pecoaches. PLEASE CHECK THE MONTHLY SPECIALS CALENDAR, which is distributed in each homeroom and posted on the P.E. blog so you can be sure to dress properly for each SPECIAL. Coach Collins, Coach Dietrich and Coach Jones all look forward to a great year in MBPE!!!!



ART:

No time is wasted in the art room. We are already busy creating Zentangles, Tessellations, Jackson Pollock action paintings, and many other masterpieces. Please check the art room blog for regular updates on what is happening in the art room. The blog has been updated with fun videos, lessons and new resources: mtbethelart@blogspot.com. If you do not have a parent account with Artsonia, please go to the Artsonia page on the blog and sign up. You won't want to miss your child's art when we publish it to the Mt. Bethel gallery.

I am always looking for volunteers to help in the art room, so please see the Art Room Helper page on the blog. Also, please save plastic containers with lids, Altoid tins, spools, corks and sturdy tubes and send them in with your child. I am always in need of recycled materials for upcoming art projects. Please email me with any questions: rachael.astorga@cobbk12.org.



TARGET

Our team is excited to begin a new year—one that continues to focus on **collaboration, innovation, and creativity**. Our goal is to involve our parents more in the classroom, provide opportunities for parents to learn more about their gifted children and include members of our community in our learning. We will be learning about innovative minds, past and present, and continuing to create inventive projects of our own as we encourage our students to "Imagine the Possibilities!"

Parents, mark your calendars for the following important dates:

Target Open House (for parents of current Target students) - **Wednesday, August 26th in the Learning Commons**
7:45 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. (2015-16 Target Information), **8:15 a.m. - 8:40 a.m.** (Bring Your Own Device Q&A)

Target Information Meeting (for parents interested in the Target program and eligibility) -
Wednesday, September 16th in the Learning Commons from 8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

Please visit the Target blog at mbestarget.wix.com/gifted for more information.



FOUNDATION NEWS:

HURRY! FACT CLUB SPACE IS FILLING UP FAST....

Looking for an after school activity? Check out the FACT Clubs! Space is limited, so sign up today at www.mbesf.org! First day of FACT Clubs - **Tuesday, September 8**. Club times are from 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. and 3:45 - 4:45 p.m. (exception: late SMart Art on Tues/Wed ends at 5:15 p.m.)

****NEW**** To facilitate a smooth transition from classrooms or ASP to FACT Clubs - **ALL students must** use the new Mt. Bethel Transportation Change & Student Bus Pass form to indicate that the student is attending a FACT club for the first week of clubs (9/8-9/14). **Kindergartners** participating in FACT Clubs **MUST** bring in this form on each day they are attending a FACT Club through Monday, December 7 (last day of FACT clubs). The form can be found on the Mt. Bethel website on the links page: <http://www.mtbetheles.com/#!/links/c1smn>

SAVE THE DATE for the 8th ANNUAL SCIENCE FAIR

The Science Fair will be held on **Thursday, October 15th from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.** This fun, non-judged event is open to students in all grades, K-5. Students may work individually or with partners. 4th and 5th grade students who wish to participate in the Science Olympiad must enter an individual project in the Science Fair.

Online registration opens August 21st and closes September 18th. Registration form, complete rules and other information can be found on the Foundation website at www.mbesf.org. Looking forward to seeing all of your projects at the Science Fair on October 15th!



LIKE the Mt. Bethel Elementary School Foundation Facebook page to stay up to date on FACT after school programs, Science Fair, Patron Drive and all Foundation sponsored events!



WHAT'S NEW IN THE COMPUTER LAB?

We are off and running with Technology for another year! Mrs. Cooper has been busy updating our software databases. She will also be busy with SLO testing in August. Mrs. Frey has been working with the students resetting their passwords, logging into Type to Learn 4 with the 2nd and 3rd graders, introducing the computer to kindergartners and Bookflix to 1st graders, working in Word with 4th graders, and discussing internet rules with the 5th graders.

Please visit the Technology Tidbits blog at www.cobblearning.net/carolyncooper for additional information.

BUCCANEER SPIRIT NIGHT

Mark Your Calendar For Our Upcoming Buccaneer Dates:

⇒ Tuesday, October 13th:	Zaxby's	5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
⇒ Monday, November 2nd:	Cheeky	5:00 - 9:00 p.m.
⇒ Monday, December 14th:	Chick-fil-A	5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
⇒ Tuesday, January 12th:	Zaxby's	5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
⇒ Tuesday, February 9th:	Uncle Maddio's Pizza	5:00 - 9:00 p.m.
⇒ Tuesday, March 8th:	Willy's	5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
⇒ Monday, March 28th:	Yogli Mogli	6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
⇒ Monday, April 18th:	Chick-fil-a	5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
⇒ Monday, May 2nd:	Cheeky	5:00 - 9:00 p.m.
⇒ Monday, May 9th:	Yogli Mogli	6:00 - 8:00 p.m.



Mt. Bethel Elementary



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MENU

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
August 31 Cheese Stuffed Breadsticks w/ Marinara Sauce *** French Toast Sticks w/ Omelet *** Chicken Caesar or Vegetarian Caesar Salad	September 1 Popcorn Chicken w/ Roll *** Baked Potato w/ Toppings *** Popcorn Chicken or Vegetarian Chef Salad	September 2 Grilled Chicken or Chicken Filet Sandwich *** Corn Dog *** Grilled Chicken or Vegetarian Fruit Salad	September 3 Pizza *** Soup & Sandwich *** Chef or Vegetarian Chef Salad	September 4 Tacos *** BBQ Chicken Sandwich or Fish Sandwich *** Taco or Vegetarian Taco Salad
September 7 LABOR DAY NO SCHOOL	September 8 Chicken Nuggets w/ Roll *** Pasta w/ Marinara or Alfredo Sauce *** Popcorn Chicken or Vegetarian Chef Salad	September 9 Nachos *** Garlic Bread w/ Marinara Sauce *** Grilled Chicken or Vegetarian Fruit Salad	September 10 Pizza *** Sub Sandwich *** Taco or Vegetarian Taco Salad	September 11 Hamburger or Cheeseburger *** Mac & Cheese w/ Shrimp *** Chef or Vegetarian Chef Salad
September 14 Cheese Stuffed Breadsticks w/ Marinara Sauce *** French Toast Sticks w/ Omelet *** Chicken Caesar or Vegetarian Caesar Salad	September 15 Popcorn Chicken w/ Roll *** Baked Potato w/ Toppings *** Popcorn Chicken or Vegetarian Chef Salad	September 16 Grilled Chicken or Chicken Filet Sandwich *** Corn Dog *** Grilled Chicken or Vegetarian Fruit Salad	September 17 Pizza *** Soup & Sandwich *** Chef or Vegetarian Chef Salad	September 18 Tacos *** BBQ Chicken Sandwich or Fish Sandwich *** Taco or Vegetarian Taco Salad
September 21 FALL BREAK NO SCHOOL	September 22	September 23	September 24	September 25
September 28 Cheese Stuffed Breadsticks w/ Marinara Sauce *** Asian Chicken w/ Brown Rice *** Chicken Caesar or Vegetarian Caesar Salad	September 29 Chicken Nuggets w/ Roll *** Pasta w/ Marinara or Alfredo Sauce *** Popcorn Chicken or Vegetarian Chef Salad	September 30 Nachos *** Garlic Bread w/ Marinara Sauce *** Grilled Chicken or Vegetarian Fruit Salad	October 1 Pizza *** Sub Sandwich *** Taco or Vegetarian Taco Salad	October 2 Hamburger or Cheeseburger *** Mac & Cheese w/ Shrimp *** Chef or Vegetarian Chef Salad



DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Sept. 7: Labor Day, NO School
- Sept. 11: All Pro Dad breakfast, 6:45 a.m.
- Sept. 12: East Cobber Parade, 10:00 a.m.
- Sept. 15: Spirit Night Willy's, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- Sept. 15-17: Vision and Hearing screening (1st and 4th grade)
- Sept. 17: Rally Foundation Staff Kickball game, 2:30 p.m.
- Sept. 21-25: Fall Break, NO School
- Sept. 29: TPV training, 8:00 - 8:30 a.m.
- Sept. 29-Oct. 1: CogAT testing, grades 1 & 3

WILLY'S® MEXICANA GRILL BUCCANEER SPIRIT NIGHT AT WILLY'S



Tuesday, September 15, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 15th is Mt. Bethel Night at Willy's Mexicana Grill at Pinestraw Place from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Please include Willy's in your dinner plans on Mt. Bethel Night! Our school will receive a percentage of the profits and families will benefit from the healthy choices Willy's has to offer. Be sure to join the fun!

Next Month: Zaxby's!