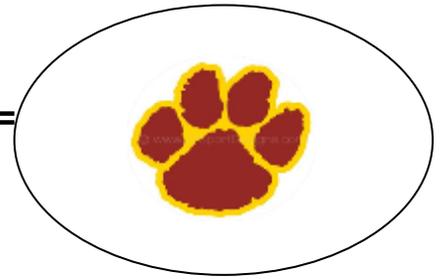


COUGAR COURIER

From the Desk of Dr. Rodney L. Berry, Superintendent



Volume I, No. 32 APRIL 2, 2017



**“APRIL showers bring
May flowers”**

Character Trait of the Month: Good Citizenship

Being a **Good Citizen** involves showing respect, pride, and allegiance for our country. Learning to function and participate in a democratic society. Making positive contributions to our school and community. Citizenship– Social conduct: the duties and responsibilities that come with being a member of a community. Being civil which is the state of being polite. Also relating to what is happening between different citizens or a group of citizens. Doing good things for other people. Accepting social structures such as not being rude, but being polite and courteous.

Reflections...

As I was watching the Final Four Basketball Tournament this past weekend, the upcoming championship game between UNC and Gonzaga reminds me that each day I am grateful to work with you on our team here in Nottoway. There is strength in our unity. Through working together, wonderful things are continuing to happen for our students. Homer, the Greek philosopher who is famous for the epic poems The Iliad and The Odyssey, once wrote, “Light is the task where many share the toil”. In essence this quote says that you can do great things when you work together as a team. When you work together as a team, you can only be as strong as your weakest link. Working together as a team will move a group from just being a good team, to being a great team. And, what makes a team great? Clearly, it’s the commitment of the individuals within the team to the group. Because, for a team to be great, it must have talented and capable individuals within the group. More importantly, those individuals must; **1.** Recognize the value of the team, **2.** Be willing to contribute to and build upon each other’s strengths, **3.** Ask for help when needed, learn from each other, and **4.** Thoughtfully put the needs of the team above the personal needs of each team member. Our strength as a school division lies and will continue to lie, not only in those talented individuals that we have on our staff, but also in the willingness of all of us to collaborate. So, as you reflect upon your contributions to our team, and how it relates to us reaching our goals of reaching full accreditation as a division for this school year, ask yourself, “What more can I do for our students? **Go Cougar Nation!**”

“Light is the Task Where Many Share the Toil”



APRIL is:

**National Autism Awareness
Month**

**National Child Abuse
Prevention Month**

Math Awareness Month

National Poetry Month

**National Youth Sports Safety
Month**

School Library Media Month

**World Habitat Awareness
Month**

**Focus for the Month of
April**

**Continue to communicate the
purpose of your lesson to your
students**

Commendations

Submitted by Mrs. Wood: Dear **Melissa (Chamberlain)**, I just wanted to take a moment to thank you for all you do. It is with great joy that you have joined our Central Office family. You have been learning so quickly and efficiently. It is truly a blessing to having you. Thank you again.

Submitted by Coach Andrews: We had approximately 130 kids from Crewe/Burkeville and Blackstone Saturday. Darlings age group in the morning and Angels and Ponytails in afternoon. There are more pictures on the Blackstone Recreation Association page. Parents who helped at registration were Carolynn Vermillion and Melissa Falwell, on the grill Bill Dillemath and Ricky Procise. Camp Instructors Dallas Basinger (SO), Hannah Hudson (JR), Hannah Watts (JR), Alexis Dumond (JR), Casie Garrett (SR), Madison Procise (SO), Kelsey Wallace (S0), Amaya Meekins (SO). Coaches Rachel Bartsavach, Jennifer Duff, and Travis Andrews. Contacts at the Rec Assoc. Blakely Senger and Ricky Procise. I would like to thank Blakely and Ricky for helping to get their teams to come out, the parents and players for coming and our girls did a great job with instruction.



What's Happening in the Classroom?

NHS

Submitted by Ms. Patterson: The KTS Club made a visit to the Nottoway Middle School to talk with rising freshman about the "Do's and Don'ts of High School Success". The volunteers represented each of the classes, Freshman through Seniors, currently attending Nottoway High School. Topics covered ranged from academic tips to finding your way to lunch. Nottoway eighth graders asked many great questions of the upper class man about what to expect when they become Cougars next August. All involved agreed these visits will be an annual event.

Instructional Focus for the Month of April

Lesson Planning Tips

Lesson Plans should include:

1. SOL Objectives
2. Leveling of your students. They should be “personalized” for high (enhanced), medium (targeted), and low (prerequisite) students.
3. Differentiating from bell to bell.
4. Independent assignments
5. Student directed assignments
6. Teacher directed assignments
7. Leveling of homework for high, medium, and low students.



Athletic Schedule

MONDAY, 4/3:

Varsity Baseball - @ Prince Edward - 5:00 (depart 3:30)

JV Baseball / Varsity Softball - Prince Edward - HOME - 5:30 (Page, Johnson)

Boys Soccer - Amelia - HOME - 5:00 (Klag)

TUESDAY, 4/4:

Track and Field - Central/Bluestone - HOME - 4:30

JV Softball / Varsity Baseball - @ Amelia - 5:00 (depart 3:30)

JV Baseball / Varsity Softball - Amelia - HOME - 5:30 (Patterson, Powell)

WEDNESDAY, 4/5:

Girls Soccer - Cumberland - HOME - 5:00 (Taylor)

Boys Soccer - Cumberland - HOME - 6:30 (Bartasavich)

THURSDAY, 4/6:

JV Baseball / Varsity Softball - @ Cumberland - 5:00 (depart 3:15)

JV Softball / Varsity Baseball - Cumberland - HOME - 5:30 (Yeatts, Christopher)

Submitted by Ms. Harlow: Unity Gold and Maroon Winterguard presented their showcase Wednesday night for family, friends and community members. Unity Maroon ended their season earlier in March with the score of 55.230....an increase of 20 points from their previous show. Unity Gold competed this weekend in the 2017 AIA Championship Finals. After being promoted into a higher class at their first competition of the season...Unity Gold placed 3rd overall at finals and received bronze metals. This is the first time in over 5 years Nottoway Unity Winterguard has placed at Championships. Kendal Denny a senior and 3 year veteran on the team was awarded an AIA scholarship.

Teaching Tip of the Week:



**Picture of Erin Gruwell
(Author of the Freedom
Writers)**

For the next few weeks I will be sharing teaching tips from Erin Gruwell, author of former #1 bestselling book The Freedom Writers. I had the pleasure of meeting her a few years ago...

Teaching Tip of the Week:

Make learning come to life.

"Ms. Gruwell can never do things the simple way. She always has some big teaching scheme even when we are nowhere near a classroom." -
Diary 116

I was fascinated by this diary entry. Even when she was nowhere near a classroom, this teacher was always focused on making sure her students were learning. Learning wasn't about looking at a book or completing a worksheet. It was about how what's happening around us and what the learning resources "out there" have to teach us about the



Submitted by Nurse Davis: Nottoway Interact club has completed nominations for the Interact Board for next year. We look forward to voting on the nominees at the meeting on Friday, April 7th. The club is currently helping with sign-ups at lunch for the Spring blood drive that will take place on April 10th at Nottoway High. This blood drive is open to the community. The more participation, the better. Having support from the community will help NHS get scholarship funds from Virginia Blood Services.

NMS

**Submitted by Ms. Calhoun:
Teacher of the Month: Ms. Alissa Baldwin**



Staff of the Month: Mr. Gregory Vandromondt



curriculum (and ourselves) “in here.” I also found it telling that this student recognized that learning outside the classroom didn’t happen by circumstance. Erin willfully and purposefully constructed outside experiences to be learning experiences that were meaningful to her students.

Student of the Month: Dyessa Dagner



March Character Counts



All Subjects

- For **Non-English classes** try adding a writing component to your formative assessment to assist English teachers with cross curricular writing.
- Please make sure your **Objectives** are posted on the board! This will assist you in following the Scope and Sequence and the Curriculum Framework.
- Use the **Table of Specifications** to assist you when creating assessments. This ensures reliability and validity.
- Use your respective **Curriculum Framework** to assist you with planning your lessons. They can be found on the Standards of Learning webpage which is located at:
http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/common_core/index.shtml
- You can use these websites as tools to assist you during instruction:
<http://www.readtheory.org/> : (assists with reading and writing)
<http://www.khanacademy.org/>;
<http://edutech4teachers.edublogs.org/>;

Instructional Focus for the Month of April

Writing Objectives

Objectives should include what the student will accomplish during the given lesson, including the:

- **Conditions** under which the students will exhibit those behaviors
- **Behaviors** students will exhibit to show learning
- **Criteria** the teacher will use to determine whether students meet the objective.

For example:

“Given dry cells, wires, switches, bulbs, and bulb holders and general theory about electrical circuit and pathways, students will work in cooperative groups to create a functioning series circuit in which the bulb lights up, and will independently diagram the circuit by correctly drawing and labeling all parts.”

<http://www.edudemic.com/>

- SOL Practice items can be found at the following link:
<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/index.shtml>
- Teacher Direct resources:
http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/teacher_direct/index.shtml
- The Standards & SOL-Based Instructional Resources
http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/
- Questioning Strategies links:
[http://beyondpenguins.ehe.osu.edu/issue/energy-and-the-polar-environment/questioning-techniques-research-based-strategies-for-teachers.](http://beyondpenguins.ehe.osu.edu/issue/energy-and-the-polar-environment/questioning-techniques-research-based-strategies-for-teachers)
http://www.mindtools.com/pages/article/newTMC_88.htm

Math

<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/mathematics/index.shtml>
http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/mathematics/professional_development/index.shtml?utm_source=TD+January+21%2C+2015&utm_campaign=TD+January+21%2C+2015&utm_medium=email

English

<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/english/index.shtml>
http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/english/professional_development/institutes/2014/index.shtml?utm_source=TD+January+28%2C+2015&utm_campaign=TD+January+28%2C+2015&utm_medium=email

Science

<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/science/index.shtml>

History

<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/history/index.shtml>

Special Education

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/special_ed/index.shtml

Classroom Management Strategies

<http://www.schoolimprovement.com/resources/strategy-of-the-week/?hp=strategy-of-the-week>

Jan Richardson’s Research-based Vocabulary Protocol:

Step 1: Provide students with a kid-friendly definition. Do not ask them if they know the word. This wastes time and students remember the first thing they hear. So... if someone says the wrong definition, you've set the students up for misunderstanding. Ex: If the new word is maneuver, say, “Maneuver means to move around.”

Step 2: Connect the new word to students’ background knowledge and experiences. For example, “A soccer player maneuvers or moves the ball around the opponents to get to the goal.” Be sure to use the new word with a kid-friendly definition during your example.

Step 3: Show the students how the word is used in text and direct them to an illustration, if one is provided. Ex: “In this text, you will read how ancient workers maneuvered, or moved large stones without machinery.”

Step 4: Turn and Talk. Ask students to explain the new word to a student sitting next to them. Ex: Talk to your partner about something you can maneuver.”

How to Write Good Lesson Plans

In order to meet **Functional Implementation**, your lesson plans must:

1. Align with the Standards of Learning and Curriculum Framework Essential Knowledge and Skills in both content and cognitive level (evidence of standard unpacked)
2. Link to the unit or curriculum Big Ideas (Questions, Enduring Understandings, Themes, etc.)
3. Outline objective (includes the behaviors students will exhibit to show learning and the conditions under which the students will exhibit those behaviors.)
4. Outline the criteria used to determine whether learners have met the objective.
5. In order to reach **Full Implementation**: Include multiple cognitive levels up to or greater than the standard itself.

- Take time to use student friendly definitions. Stay away from formal dictionary .com or Google definitions. They are not helpful.
- Don't just read the context of the word out loud to students, take students into the book/passage and show them the word in context.
- Pictures and real items (i.e. lid) would be helpful, especially for our ESL students.

Upcoming Meetings

Burkeville Elementary School

1. **Faculty Meetings** - 2nd Monday of the month
2. **Team Meetings** - weekly during common planning
3. **Data Meetings** - Beginning, Mid-Year and End of year with administrators
4. **Leadership Meeting** - 3rd Thursday of the month

Blackstone Primary School

1. **Leadership Meeting** – 4th Friday of the month
2. **Faculty Meetings** – 2nd Mondays of the month
3. **Team meetings**- weekly during planning
4. **Data meetings** - 2nd and 4th Wednesdays

Crewe Primary School

1. **Leadership Meetings**-1st Monday of the month
2. **Faculty Meetings**-2nd Monday of the month (Sometimes 3rd)
3. **Team Meetings**- Every Wednesday during grade level planning
4. **Data Meetings**- Quarterly or as needed

Nottoway Intermediate School

1. **Leadership Meeting**- 4th Monday of the month
2. **Faculty Meetings**- 2nd Monday of the month
3. **Team meetings**- weekly during assigned time (lunch, planning, after-school)
4. **Data meetings**- after benchmark assessments (within 2-3 days of completion)

Nottoway Middle School

1. **Faculty Meetings** – 3rd Monday of each month (except for 4th Monday in January and February)
2. **DREAM Department Meetings**- 3rd Monday of each month

Nottoway High School

1. **Faculty Meetings** –2nd Monday of the month
2. **Department Meetings**- 1st Wednesday of the month w/ principal

Amelia/Nottoway Technical Center

1. **Faculty Meetings** - 1st Thursday of the month at 2:30 pm
2. **Team/PLC Meetings** - 2nd Thursday of the month at 2:30 pm
3. **Leadership Meetings** - 3rd Thursday of the month at 2:30 pm
4. **Joint Board Meetings** - 4th Thursday of the month at 7 pm

School Board Office

1. **SBO Senior Level Team Meeting**- Every Monday
2. **Tech Team**- First and third Wednesday each month.

A LOOK AHEAD:

Apr 3-7	Classroom Observations and Walkthroughs
Apr 4	NIS McDonald's Night
Apr 4	Principal's Meeting @ NHS
Apr 5	5th Grade Ag Day-VA Tech Research Center
Apr 5	Insurance Committee at NHS Mini Auditorium @ 3:30 pm
Apr 11	Community Advisory Meeting @ SBO
Apr 12	Progress Reports go home
Apr 12	NHS Career Fair
Apr 12	SAC @ 10 am/ TAC @ 2 pm @ SBO
Apr 13	Spring Building Walkthroughs Begin
Apr 13	School Board Meeting @ 7pm
Apr 13	Student Advisory Council Meeting @ NHS @ 2pm
Apr 13	Spring Building Walkthroughs End
Apr 14	School Ends at 12:30 pm
Apr 16	Easter
Apr 17-21	Spring Break
Apr 26	NIS SOL Kick Off Party
Apr 22	Earth Day
Apr 217	Staff Meeting @ NHS @ 9am

Announcements and Reminders

- Try **sharing your lesson plans and curriculum documents** with your students. This gives them a roadmap of where you are headed.
- Try a **“No Worksheet Day”** once a week. This will give you an opportunity to give authentic and creative assignments.
- Please **remind your students to study each night**. Research shows that elementary students should study- 30 mins., middle school students- 1 hour, and high school students should study-1 ½ hours per night.
- Please make sure that you are **teaching from bell to bell**. We cannot afford to waste instructional time.
- This is a reminder to post your **3 Essential Questions of the Day** daily using the appropriate level of Bloom's. We will be checking on this during our observations this week.
- Submit your **lesson plans weekly** to your school administrator
- Use **instructional strategies** daily (see CRISS ex. to the left of newsletter)
- Core teachers please submit your **lesson plans** to your inclusion teachers in enough time that they can complete their plans on time. They will need samples of the worksheets and tests/quizzes to make accommodations. Thank you for working together!!
- If you have an opportunity, **video record yourself teaching**. It is a great way to improve your instructional pedagogy.
- Let your administrator know if you have a **special lesson** that you would like for the instructional department to observe and highlight in the *Cougar Courier*.
- Remember to use your **Bloom's verbs** to guide what is written in your lesson plans, taught in class, and assessed on tests.
- Focus on both the **Cognitive Level** and **Content** to create your objectives & assessments. Use the Table of Specifications to help.
- **Grades are expected to be updated weekly**. You should record at least 2 grades weekly (18 per 9 weeks). This will assist our parents and students with knowing their academic performance thus far.
- **Please limit field trips during the SOL Testing**. This time should be focused on upcoming assessments.
- **Annual Field trips requests** need to be turned in to the SBO by December 5, 2016 so there is time to get the bus approval from central office.
- All planned **field trips** for the school year should be submitted to the School Board office by December 5, 2016. These field trips represent those trips that you take annually; such as Jamestown and Washington, D.C. Field trips other than those that are planned for the year need applications submitted at least thirty days prior to the date of the trip.
- For Safety and Security, **please wear your ID badges** at work.
- To save energy, please **turn off all lights, shut down all monitors, and computers** especially when you leave in the afternoons

- To enhance school spirit, Friday's will be considered **Maroon** and **Gold** day throughout the division. At the discretion of your school administrator, please feel free to wear jeans along with our school colors on Fridays!

Healthy Lifestyles Tip of the Week

Learn proper portion size. To avoid eating too much of even the healthiest foods, keep track of how much you're eating. For most people, meat servings should be about the size of a deck of cards and other servings vary by the type of food.

Recipe of the Week

Cinnamon Rolls

Ingredients

1/4 cup warm water
1/4 cup butter, melted
1/2 (3.4 ounce) package instant vanilla pudding mix
1 cup warm milk
1 egg, room temperature
1 tablespoon white sugar
1/2 teaspoon salt
4 cups bread flour
1 (.25 ounce) package active dry yeast
1/4 cup butter, softened
1 cup brown sugar
4 teaspoons ground cinnamon
3/4 cup chopped pecans
1/2 (8 ounce) package cream cheese, softened
1/4 cup butter, softened
1 cup confectioners' sugar
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 1/2 teaspoons milk



Directions: In the pan of your bread machine, combine water, melted butter, vanilla pudding, warm milk, egg, 1 tablespoon sugar, salt, bread flour and yeast. Set machine to Dough cycle; press Start. When Dough cycle has finished, turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface and roll into a 17x10 inch rectangle. Spread with softened butter. In a small bowl, stir together brown sugar, cinnamon and pecans. Sprinkle brown sugar mixture over dough. Roll up dough, beginning with long side. Slice into 16 one inch slices and place in 9x13 buttered pan. Let rise in a warm place until doubled, about 45 minutes. Meanwhile, preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Bake in preheated oven for 15 to 20 minutes. While rolls bake, stir together cream cheese, softened butter, confectioners' sugar, vanilla and milk. Remove rolls from oven and top with frosting.

Sometimes We Need To Laugh!



Poem of the Week

An April Day

by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

When the warm sun, that brings
Seed-time and harvest, has returned again,
'T is sweet to visit the still wood, where springs
The first flower of the plain.

I love the season well,
When forest glades are teeming with bright forms,
Nor dark and many-folded clouds foretell
The coming-on of storms.

From the earth's loosened mould
The sapling draws its sustenance, and thrives;
Though stricken to the heart with winter's cold,
The drooping tree revives.

**Congratulations
To All Faculty &
Staff Members
with April
Birthdays and
Anniversaries!**



The softly-warbled song
Comes from the pleasant woods, and colored wings
Glance quick in the bright sun, that moves along
The forest openings.

When the bright sunset fills
The silver woods with light, the green slope throws
Its shadows in the hollows of the hills,
And wide the upland glows.

And when the eve is born,
In the blue lake the sky, o'er-reaching far,
Is hollowed out and the moon dips her horn,
And twinkles many a star.

Inverted in the tide
Stand the gray rocks, and trembling shadows throw,
And the fair trees look over, side by side,
And see themselves below.

Sweet April! many a thought
Is wedded unto thee, as hearts are wed;
Nor shall they fail, till, to its autumn brought,
Life's golden fruit is shed.

Quote of the Week

It's spring fever.... You don't quite know what it is you DO want, but it just fairly makes your heart ache, you want it so! —Mark Twain

“Don’t undertake a project unless it is manifestly important and nearly impossible.”— Edwin Land

“Everything is possible for one who believes” – Galatians 5:22