

BOBCAT BANNER

Buena Vista Elementary PTA Newsletter



Letter from Mr. Burgess

Hello Bobcats! Finally, we are back! I can't wait to see you all. This past week has been so exciting to have our teachers and staff back at school getting everything ready to go for an amazing school year. While some things may look a little different, Buena Vista will continue to be outstanding in all aspects, and we all look forward to sharing in this experience. It was fantastic to see so many of you in our virtual Meet Your Teacher sessions this past week.

We are so fortunate at Buena Vista to have such an outstanding staff. As you heard and witnessed at your Meet the Teacher session, our staff has put together academic programs and experiences beyond expectations. As you are also aware, we have outstanding Buena Vista teachers that are assisting families in the Virtual program. We are so proud to have the following 11 staff members meeting our virtual family needs: Mrs. Pitman, Miss Cole, Mrs. Rahn, Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Howard, Mrs. Bloom, Mrs. Cook, Miss Shah, Mrs. Kramer, Mrs. Garrett & Mrs. Gibson. As you can see, the Buena Vista experience will continue to have an outstanding impact on all of our students.



I want to take this opportunity to say thank you for your support in taking surveys, responding to District and school requests, and most importantly, being safe. My number one priority has been to ensure Buena Vista is a safe bubble for all of our Bobcat community. We have received a fresh coat of paint throughout our interior and cleaned better than ever. Our school district has provided us with all the safety supplies and equipment needed to be ready to open our doors.

LEAP week, starting Monday, is a critical week for all of us as we will be distributing Chromebooks, textbooks, and other materials that our students will need for school. It is also very important that we have an opportunity to administer a pre-test to each of our students so that we have a better understanding of each students' needs. If you have not signed up to attend LEAP week as of yet, don't fret, we still want you! Please give us a call to let us know that you are coming on your assigned color day. If that day does not

work, let us know and we will schedule your child for another day. To further meet your needs and ours we will be open Friday from 7:00am - 7:00pm for those that could not make Monday - Thursday work for you. Looking forward to seeing all 800+ of you during this LEAP week and starting school on Monday, August 24th!!!

The mission of Buena Vista Elementary School is to educate students while supporting them socially and emotionally as they develop into responsible 21st Century learners.

PTA

everychild.onevoice.®

Buena Vista Elementary
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Greer, SC 29650
864-355-2200

www.bvpta.net
ptabuenavista@gmail.com



Let's all join the healthy party and have some fun with this experience. Looking forward to seeing all the creative fun masks while we wash our hands and maintain social distancing. Do you have your Bitmoji?



Are You Receiving our Weekly Newsflash?

The BV PTA's Newsflash email is the BEST way to receive up-to-date information and communications coming from Buena Vista staff and PTA volunteers. Don't miss out on important announcements and info! "Opt In" to this newsletter by entering your email address at the bottom of the home page on www.bvpta.net. Or email Keri Dille at keridille@charter.net.

Safety Updates from Our Assistant Principals

Welcome back, Bobcats! The safety of our students is a top priority at BVE. Please review the safety reminders below to ensure the safety of all of our students:

- Please remember to follow the dress code found in the student handbook. Wear your mask when you are traveling throughout the school.
- If your kindergarten or first grade student is going to **ride the bus home from school or walk**, you will need your dismissal card to get them off the bus or pick them up from the front or back path.
- Students can be dropped off via the front carpool line between 7:00-7:45am. **Do not drop students off before 7:00am**, there will not be an adult to supervise them prior to 7:00am. Please always follow the signage for driving in our parking lots.

We look forward to making this the best year yet!

Mrs. McFadden and Mrs. Gilliard



Welcome New Staff Members

We are excited to welcome new staff members to Buena Vista this year:

Lauren Baker — Instructional Coach
Alexis Williams — Music

From Attendance Clerk Ann Schockling



Students need to be in school every day so that they can achieve to their highest potential. If students are ill with a fever, remember to keep them at home until they have been fever-free for a full 24 hours without fever reduction medication. South Carolina has a compulsory attendance law which requires students who are absent to abide by the following:

- There are only 10 absences allowed for each student each year. These absences may be excused or unexcused.
- When a student is absent, either lawfully or unlawfully, a parental written excuse, including date and reason for absence, is expected on the child's first day back to school. E-mails and/or phone calls to the teacher are not acceptable forms of excuses.
- Excused may be submitted through the Attendance tab on the school website.
- On the 11th non-medical absence and every absence after the 11th, the student must present a doctor's note to validate the student's absence from school.
- A student may be considered for retention in their current grade if excessive absences accrue.
- If a student has 3 consecutive unexcused absences, school intervention is required.
- If a student has a total of 5 unexcused absences, school intervention is required.
- Please know that family trips or vacations are not excused absences from school.
- If a family needs a special request for excused absence from school, a written request must be made to the principal, Dave Burgess, in advance of the absence.
- Attendance policies are subject to change due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Greenville County Schools' Ignore the Door Campaign

At Buena Vista, various safety measures including safety plans and strict check-in procedures are in place to help keep our school safe. While those safety measures are important, the most crucial element is everyone's involvement. One simple, yet important effort is for everyone to ensure all exterior doors are locked and closed at all times AND never opened to allow anyone to enter the building. This will ensure that all visitors must enter the school through the main entrance. This safety effort is being stressed in all Greenville County schools through the Ignore the Door campaign that includes signage on all exterior doors with the following wording:

Ignore the Door! Keep Your School Safe!
Never open a door to let anyone in the building – Even if it's someone you know!

The safety of our students and others requires *everyone* working together. Please do your part by supporting the school's safety efforts and *Ignore the Door!*



NEVER open a door to let **ANYONE** in the building – **EVEN** if it's someone you know!

COVID-19 Protocols

Due to the recent pandemic, additional health and safety precautions have been put in place until further notice:



- All students and staff are required to wear a **cloth mask** when 6-foot social distancing is not possible, including during the transition into and out of the school. Please see the [Greenville County Mask Guidelines](#).
- All employees will have their temperature taken and answer health and exposure screening questions upon arrival. **No one may remain in the building with a temperature at or above 100.4.** Any 'yes' to a screening question must be clarified and evaluated before allowing entrance.
- Students and staff should be **excluded from school if they have any one (1) of the following symptoms with or without fever:**
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing -or -
 - Loss of taste or smell -or -
 - New or worsening cough
- **No visitors or volunteers are allowed past the front office.** The number of visitors in the office area will be limited and social distancing maintained. If circumstances require the visitor to move past the office area, the visitor will undergo the same screening process as employees to be allowed entrance, will be escorted at all times and a mask will be required. When possible, visitors should contact schools prior to arrival to determine need, timing, protocols, and expectations.
- The nurse can no longer provide extra clothes for accidents, etc. (e.g. fall into mud outside). It is recommended that **every student (K-5th) keep an extra change of clothes** in their classroom for any unexpected needs.
- **Students will eat in their classroom** for all meals on Attendance Plan 1 or 2. Pre-orders are only required for Attendance Plan 0 and GCS Virtual. Students will pick up breakfast in either the gym or atrium depending on arrival location. Lunch will be delivered to individual clusters/teachers. Take home meals will also be available for pick up 10-15 minutes prior to dismissal in either the gym or atrium. For more detailed information on Food Services for each Attendance Plan, click [HERE](#).
- For answers to additional questions you didn't even know you had, refer to the [Parent Resource Guide](#).

A Word from our PTA President

Happy 2020-2021 school year, Bobcats! ☺ Welcome back to all returning families and a big WELCOME to all new families. It is my pleasure to serve again as your PTA President, and I am ready to tackle this "interesting" year alongside an amazing group of parent volunteers, a dedicated PTA Executive Board, wonderful teachers, and a fantastic administrative staff.

This year might look a little different than we would like, but rest assured that even though we aren't allowed in the building we are working VERY hard behind the scenes to make this a fantastic year! ☺ We ask for your support in continuing to make resources and learning opportunities available to our students. The PTA works together with teachers, staff, parents, and our community to support all of the amazing programs here at BVES, which in turn really does make it "Someplace Special." Thanks to your overwhelming support, last year's funds (raised through Friends of Buena Vista, the Bobcat Bash carnival, and the Bobcat Fun Run) helped us begin this school year with a slight surplus – and given the uncertainty that the virus around us has created, what a great position to be in!

In order for the BVPTA to be effective and truly representative of the school, everyone's participation is essential. Will you help support us by joining our PTA? It is a minimal cost (only \$5) and easier than ever, as we have moved memberships online to MemberHub. More information on joining the PTA and other ways that you can help us make this year a success financially will be sent electronically through your teachers during the first week of school. And, while the hybrid schedule that we follow will make it difficult to hold monthly board meetings, you can ALWAYS stay informed by subscribing to our weekly newflash at www.bvpta.net. It takes less than 10 seconds! ☺

We have a lot of FUN things planned for this school year! Please visit the PTA website often to keep up-to-date on BVES events, like us on Facebook ([@buenavistapta](#)) and follow us on Instagram ([@bvpta](#)) or Twitter ([@bvpta](#)). On behalf of the entire BVPTA Board, I thank you in advance for all your support. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us. This year is certain to be somewhat of a roller coaster ride, but at least we're all on it together – and hopefully our hands are in the air! ☺

Melissa Bache
melissabache1@gmail.com

BVPTA NEEDS YOU!

JOIN US IN PROVIDING:



Fundraisers

Friends of Buena Vista

When you give to Friends of Buena Vista, 100% of the money stays at Buena Vista and is spent on your child in the current school year. Any dollar amount is appreciated and welcomed. Individuals, families, or businesses with a cumulative donation of **\$100.00** or more will be recognized in a weekly Newsflash and will receive a "Friends of BVES" car sticker. All donations will be made online this year through [MemberHub](#). Your donation is tax deductible and your emailed receipt can be used for tax purposes. Our Friends of BV Fundraiser runs through September 23rd. Be on the lookout for more information in our weekly Newsflash and on our website. Thanks in advance for your support of BVES!

Annual Fall Fundraiser

Mark your calendars... the Buena Vista Annual Fall Fundraiser will begin on **October 1st** and run through **October 15th**! We are excited this year to use the company Charleston Wrap. Charleston Wrap offers the best quality wrapping paper, useful tools for the kitchen, and fun decorations for the home. They also offer high quality, personalized products that include bags, pillows, and jewelry. Be sure to check out all the new products! Friends, neighbors, relatives and coworkers will love Charleston Wrap as it has something for everyone. All orders will be made online and items will be delivered to your home in plenty of time for the holidays.

PTA Membership



Be a STAR on the PTA Hall of Fame! All memberships must be purchased online through MemberHub by **Wednesday, September 23rd**. Membership is not a fundraiser - it helps us with awards and grants and shows support of our school. Our 100% membership goal is based upon our student enrollment - one membership per student and not one per family. Please consider purchasing \$5 memberships for each of your children. Parents, students, neighbors, grandparents and friends are also invited to join our PTA. Memberships can be purchased from buenavistapta.memberhub.store.

BV Business Partners



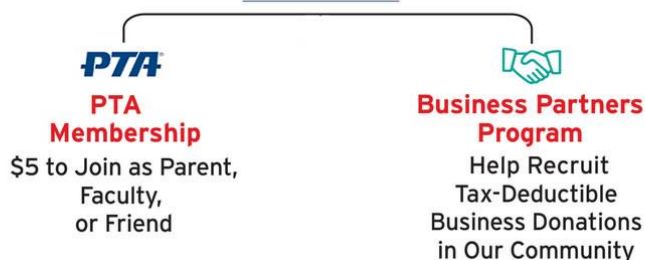
Do you or someone you know have a business that they would like to advertise? Join our corporate sponsors! We offer many levels of sponsorships for you to choose from. This is a great way to promote your business and help the kids have a wonderful school year! Please contact Brad Doyle (bradley.c.doyle@gmail.com) or Windi Cooper (windicooper@charter.net).

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED TODAY?

Support



Donate



Birthday Celebrations

We are excited to celebrate each young bobcat's birthday this year, although it will look a little different from years past. This year your child can look forward to receiving a fun treat bag from the PTA for their birthday. Your child will receive their treat during their birthday month. July and August birthdays can expect to see them in September and our June birthdays will receive them in May.



Birthday Celebrations

Support BVE While You Shop Shopping Rebates

Shopping Rebates are an easy way to donate money directly back to Buena Vista. Each time you grocery shop at Publix or Lowe's Foods, a portion of your sales can be donated back to BV! Please sign up for both of these programs – they **must be renewed each year!**

Publix has raised over \$50,000 for BV to date. If you are a Club Publix member, please associate Buena Vista Elementary as your [Publix Partner](#). Lowe's Foods also donates to BV through their Back2Schools program. If you are a Lowe's Fresh Rewards member, please enroll in their [Cart to Class](#) program and associate Buena Vista Elementary to your card.

Hospitality

During these unprecedented times, teachers and staff will need our support and appreciation more than ever! Unfortunately, COVID restrictions do not allow food donations from families. Instead, we are looking into other creative ways to feed and support our staff this year. One big way to help would be to become a Friends of Buena Vista donor through [MemberHub](#). Any donation amount is welcome and will be used to support all of our PTA Student and Staff Programs this year. Or, if you feel inclined to make a small donation to a particular Staff Appreciation effort, keep an eye out in our Newsflash for updates on these Hospitality programs. Details will be provided on how to support each of these efforts.



Appreciation
Meals & Treats

Backpack Buddies

Backpack Buddies is looking forward to another great year helping out kids in our own Buena Vista family. Our committee provides food items that are sent home every weekend with students that qualify for free and reduced lunch. We accept food and financial donations to help meet our needs. We rely on our volunteers for packing and inventory. We meet weekly on Friday mornings to assemble and distribute packages to the children. The program will start at the end of September. Please contact Barna Gupta at family@thegupta.com or Mary Latrick at marylatrick@gmail.com to help in any way.



Backpack
Buddies

Keeping Your Children Safe To and From School

Drivers

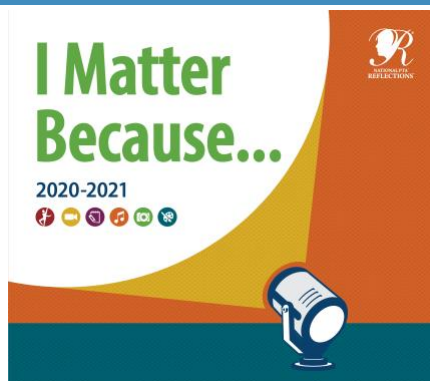
- Be aware of children walking to/from school and children waiting for their bus.
- Near school zones and bus stops, slow down and take extra caution.
- Be aware of school start and dismissal times.
- Obey traffic signals, signs and crossing guards.
- Never drop a student off on a side road, like Enoree Rd. To ensure the safety of our students and not disrupt the steady flow of traffic, all students should be dropped at a safety patrol.

Students Walking to/from School

- An adult should supervise child until child demonstrates traffic skills and judgment.
- Parent should walk with child at least once to ensure the child follows the safest route.
- Obey traffic signals, signs and crossing guards.
- Before crossing any road, look left, right, and left again. Only cross at corners, using crosswalk when available.
- Walk, do not run, while crossing and look both ways.
- Do not enter the street from behind bushes or from between parked cars.
- Walk on the sidewalk. If no sidewalk, walk single file, facing traffic.
- Watch for cars that are turning or backing up.

Students Riding the Bus to/from School

- Ensure that supervising adults/older children have the bus tag card to pick up kindergarten and first grade students at the bus stop at the appointed time!
- An adult should supervise child until child demonstrates traffic skills and judgment.
- Parent should walk with child at least once to the stop so the child knows the safest route.
- Leave home on time to ensure you are at the bus stop before the bus arrives.
- If bus stop is across the road, look left, right and left again before crossing.
- Walk on the sidewalk. If no sidewalk, walk single file, facing traffic.
- Do not play and run at/near bus stop.
- Stand as far away from the road as possible.
- Never run to catch the bus or walk behind the bus.
- Enter the bus only after it has made a complete stop; remain in seat while the bus is in motion.
- Be aware of traffic when exiting the bus.
- Parents should wait on same side of road as bus stop.
- Students should wear a mask and practice social distancing when appropriate.



PTA Reflections – “I Matter Because...”

Calling all artists! The National PTA is looking to recognize some outstanding artists, and your student might be one of them! Each year, the PTA sponsors the Reflections contest to encourage students to express themselves through art. This school year's theme is “I Matter Because...” We encourage every Buena Vista student to explore what the theme means and submit an entry. The Reflections contest has six categories: dance choreography, film production, literature, musical composition, photography, and visual arts. Look for more information on the contest rules and deadlines on the Buena Vista website and the PTA's Newsflash in the coming months, but in the meantime, inspire your students to explore their artistic side!

Upcoming Important Dates

This info is subject to change. Please refer to the Calendar on our website, bvpta.net, or the Newsflash for updates.

AUGUST

- 8/12 – Virtual Meet the Teacher (K5, 1st & 2nd)
- 8/13 – Virtual Meet the Teacher (3rd, 4th & 5th)
- 8/17-21 – L.E.A.P. Days
- 8/23 – PTA Board Mtg East Riverside Park 2pm
- 8/23 – Bobcat Boulder Reservations Open 8pm
- 8/24 – FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
- 8/24 – PTA Membership Drive Begins
- 8/24 – Friends of BVES Fundraiser Begins
- 8/24 – Welcome Back Bobcat Spirit Wear Sale Begins
- 8/27 – Traditional School Challenge Online Meetings
- 8/26 – GCS Virtual Challenge Online Meeting 6pm

SEPTEMBER

- 9/7 – Labor Day, NO SCHOOL
- 9/14-18 – Backpack Buddies Food Drive
- 9/23 – PTA Membership Drive Ends
- 9/23 – Friends of BVES Fundraiser Ends
- 9/23 – Welcome Back Bobcat Spirit Wear Sales End

OCTOBER

- 10/1 – Charleston Wrap Fundraiser Begins
- 10/3 – Fall Pictures
- 10/15 – Charleston Wrap Fundraiser Ends
- 10/12-14 – CogAT Testing (Grade 2)
- 10/15-16 – Iowa Testing (Grade 2)
- 10/22 – End of 1st Quarter
- 10/23 – Teacher Work Day, NO SCHOOL
- 10/26-30 – Red Ribbon Week
- 10/29 – 1st Quarter Report Card

NOVEMBER

- 11/3 – Election Day, NO SCHOOL
- 11/16-20 – Backpack Buddies Food Drive
- 11/25-27 – Thanksgiving Break, NO SCHOOL



CONNECT WITH US:



@buenavistapta



@bvepta



Weekly Newsflash

Greetings from the Bobcat Café

School meals will be available for all students in all school-opening scenarios, including the 100% eLearning option (Attendance Plan 0) and for those that register for the Virtual Program. The cost of the meals are as follows:

BREAKFAST		LUNCH	
All Students	Free	Full Pay	\$2.50
Adult	\$2.20	Reduced	\$0.40
		Adult	\$3.80

Breakfast and take-home meals will be distributed in both the gym and atrium. Payment can be made for all meals at either of these 2 locations, or may be made through online deposits. For menus and to make online payments, visit the FANS website at gcsfans.com or you may download the [Food and Nutrition Science App](#) and search for 'Greenville County Schools.'

In order to qualify for free or reduced meals, parents must complete a **new free and reduced meal application** for the current school year. Online applications are now available at greenville.school lunchapp.com for the 2020-2021 school year. While paper applications will be provided for parents when they return to school, the online applications are by far the most accurate and efficient method to apply for Free or Reduced Priced Meals. On average, online applications are processed within 24-48 hours of completion. We highly encourage all parents to take advantage of this simple to use and fast process. If you have any questions about the Free and Reduced Price Meal Application process please contact Bonnie Hogue, Free and Reduced Project Manager at 864-355-1251 or by email at bhogue@greenville.k12.sc.us

Notes from Our Nurse

All medication must be delivered to the School Nurse by the student's parent or legal guardian. At NO TIME may a student carry ANY medication on their person without permission. The proper [Medication Authorization Forms](#) must accompany all medication. Over-the-counter medication needs parent signature only. Prescription medication needs a physician's signature. Parents will need to call the nurse to schedule an appointment before bringing in the medication and completed forms.

School Nurse – Kris Ploch (864) 355-2207

Online School Store

Welcome back fellow BOBCATS and new friends!! We are looking forward to a great 2020-2021 school year! Due to COVID restrictions, we won't be opening the school store in-person, but we're excited to announce our BOBCAT SPIRIT WEAR Online Store at www.bvpta.net/shop! Our "Welcome Back Bobcat Spirit Sale" will go through September 23rd. Be sure to stock up! Now more than ever, we need to support our school by showing off our Bobcat spirit wear... plus, you'll want to be prepared for some fun and exciting spirit day events; in person and virtual! **Note:** Shirt orders will only be delivered 2-3 weeks after final sale date. All other items are limited. Small online processing fee added to each item.



School Tips for Parents

- Check and sign the assignment book nightly.
- Check, read and sign the Tuesday Communication folder each Tues.
- Talk with your child about what he/she learned each day.
- Check out www.greenville.k12.sc.us/bvista for news and visit teacher web pages for classroom news and updates.
- Have your child read, or be read to, for at least 15-30 min a night.
- Routinely check your child's basic arithmetic facts. Use computer flashcards or the Compass Program...they love it!
- Watch the school district's cable show – Cable Channel 99.
- Help your child practice skills used in the "real world"...count change...read the newspaper.
- Maintain close contact with your child's teachers through e-mail, notes, calls or conferences.
- Have your child make-up his/her work when they are absent.
- Show your child how you use math and English skills in your everyday life. Be sure to promote your own use of algebra skills and writing every day.
- Talk with your child about his/her successes and help him/her explore alternatives when they encounter problem situations.
- Visit <https://ed.sc.gov> for an overview of the statewide assessments.
- Remember to give yourself a pat on the back...you are the best parent your child will ever have!



Where did your BV PTA Monies Go in 2019-2020?

Classroom Supplies (\$250 per teacher, blue communication folders, paper)	\$ 14,600
Curriculum/Classroom Support (Artist visits, grade level programs and publications, curriculum enhancement/tech, teacher mini-grants, PE equipment)	\$ 14,300
Student Programs (iREAD, Backpack Buddies, Reflections, Red Ribbon Week, 5th Grade celebrations, student activities)	\$ 4,200
Field Trips	\$ 2,900
Birthday Celebrations	\$ 700
Student Agendas	\$ 1,375
Staff Appreciation	\$ 3,000
Grounds	\$ 1,900

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Thanks to your generous support, PTA has also been able to provide additional funds to the school beyond our budgeted items for special projects and needs.

2019-20	
Reserve Carryover to Supplement 2020-21 Fundraising due to COVID Restrictions	\$23,000
2018-19	
Literacy Instruction Materials	\$24,000
2017-18	
Media Center	\$15,000
3-D Printers	\$8,000
2016-17	
Playground Project	\$48,000

Bobcat Boulder

Send out a special message for all to see on the Bobcat Boulder! Your child would love to see a birthday or other positive message personalized just for them. Due to COVID-19 Protocols and visitor restrictions on campus, **only the Car Line Boulder is available for reservations** until further notice. Reserve your spot well in advance, as days book up quickly. It costs only \$10 a day. **Reserve at your own risk, rain or shine and regardless of Attendance Plan**, as refunds are not available. You bring your own paint and paint the reserved rock after 3:00pm the day before your specific reserved date so your message is ready to view the next morning.

Sign up online beginning **Sunday, August 23 at 8:00pm** on the PTA website. Please only recognize students on the Bobcat Boulder. Teacher birthdays will be recognized on the electronic sign out front. Questions? Email Sarah Whitmire at snwhitmire@gmail.com.

BV Making Memories



Keep a lookout in the Weekly Newsflash and on our website for details regarding Yearbook sales, as you don't want to miss out on the only way you are guaranteed a yearbook full of this coming year's adventures! Sales are all online this year by credit card. We appreciate everyone's support and also welcome your pictures. Links will be shared in the Newsflash and on our website throughout the year for you to upload your photos. We are looking forward to another great year! If you have any questions, feel free to contact Dana Lanning at dana.lanning@gmail.com, or Erin Benfield at erinmbenfield@gmail.com.

Be an iREADer!!



The iREAD Program rewards students who read for 20 minutes on at least 20 days during the school months with a small prize and by entering them into BVTV's monthly grade-level drawing for a \$10 bookstore gift card! Furthermore, 2nd-5th graders who complete a simple iREADer Book Review are eligible to be invited to record a book recommendation video to be shown on BVTV! K5 and 1st grade may write a simple sentence or draw a picture to be eligible to read the book to a member of Administration. All monthly winners receive an iReader book tote bag as well. The class with the most reports receives \$15 for classroom books. October will be our first month! Look for your Calendar to come home and start recording, reading, and encouraging book reviews! This year, calendars will be sent and submitted via Google Classroom. For further info, please email katiemyershill@gmail.com.



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