



Cougar Cubs Are Special!

Principal's Corner

Greetings Cougar Cub Families! In this whole new world of virtual learning, you have supported each other and Surry Elementary School. I would sincerely like to **THANK YOU** for...

Technology...for learning how to use Class Dojo, Canvas, Zoom (and everything else!)

Helping... for the daily support you give your children

Accommodating... changing **your** schedule to adapt to your child's virtual schedule

Nurturing... being a caregiver, teacher (and everything else!) to your child

Kindness...giving grace to yourself and your child's teachers

Your... perseverance; never giving up, even when the internet is not working well (or not at all!)

Optimism...for encouraging your child to do his or her best...always

Understanding...for knowing we are all in this together and for being an integral part of our Cougar Cub TEAM in this "Whole New World"!

Sincerely,

Ann Marie Nelin

Principal



Calendar of Events

December

Dec 21-Jan 3 Winter Break

January

4-School Reopens

12-School Board Meeting 7pm

18-School Closed for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Day

28-1/2 Day for Students

29- 1/2 Day for Students

February

1-1/2 day for students

2- 3rd Nine Weeks Begins

9-School Board Meeting 7 pm

12-1/2 for students

15-Closed for Presidents Day

2nd-4th Packets and Flash Drive Pick-up

Fridays

*Encourage Your Child to
READ, READ, READ More!*

SURRY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1600 Hollybush Road
Dendron, VA 23839
(757)267-2558

**We are on the web—
surryschools.net**

CHARACTER COUNTS

Each month we put focus on character building.

September - Respect

October - Responsibility

November - Trustworthiness

December - Kindness

January - Forgiveness

February - Love

March - Perseverance

April - Honesty

May - Sincerity

June - Honor



Like us on Facebook!!
<http://tinyurl.com/naz9y48>



Scan the QR Code to be taken directly to our Facebook page.

Surry Elementary School is Fully Accredited! The school's report card may be viewed at:

<http://www.surryschools.net/education/school/school.php>

or on the VA Department of Education website:

<http://www.doe.virginia.gov>

Pre-K Team

WOW

Wonder of Wonders

Wow has been a word that many of us have used many times during the course of this year.

We want to say **Wow** because when we all thought we knew what to expect,

we were given the unexpected.

And now we say **Wow**

Wow for attending Zoom lessons

Wow for wanting to attend Zoom meetings

Wow for picking up learning packets

Wow for getting school supplies

Wow for wanting to get school supplies

Wow for all the things we have learned; **Wow** for hanging in there and

Wow for hanging on :)

Wow to you (students, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, villagers) for all that you have done!

Wow

Kindergarten Rocks!

Kindergarten has been very busy this year! While we are learning virtually, that hasn't stopped our hard work! Thank you to all of the students who have been working so hard! However, the kindergarten team would like to especially give a shout out to the parents, grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, and everyone in between for assisting your kindergartener, this year and your child's success could not be achieved without you! **THANK YOU!!**



Mrs. Stewart



Ms. Godette

While we are virtual, we have worked hard to learn routines, make friends, learn the virtual classroom rules, and adapt to online learning. We have learned a variety of material from the Virtual Virginia modules and from our teachers and we keep practicing the skills we learned like our letters and letter sounds. During reading we practice letters, sounds, writing our letters, and sight words. For phonics we learn about the order of sounds to make words and concept of word. We learn and practice our numbers, comparing numbers, patterns, and even how to write the numbers 0-30 during math. Social studies has us working hard too as we learn about community helpers, holidays, American symbols, position words, and needs and wants. Science teaches us about the scientific method, weather, five senses, seasons, and physical properties of objects. We have used those skills to design and build things in STEM. We have designed new popsicle containers, buildings, a foil penny boat, Santa's new sleigh, and even robots! While we cannot be in school for a winter celebration, we are working on winter and holiday themed activities to review the skills we have learned so far this year. This year is different, but we have adapted and persevered! We hope everyone has a safe, happy, and healthy holiday season! As we bring 2020 to a close and enter 2021, we will continue to do our best to learn and grow!



Ms. Whitehead



Mrs. Edler

Happy Holidays
from the kindergarten team!

First Grade News

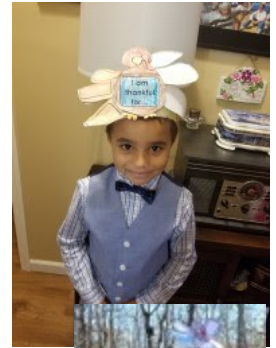


First grade is rocking the virtual scene! First graders have learned how to Zoom, submit assignments and record themselves reading. Learning to skip count, recognizing sight words, and building good citizenship skills have all been a part of the first grade curriculum. Reading graphs, writing personal narratives and learning about our neighbor, Jamestown, is included in our virtual learning experiences.

In preparation for Thanksgiving, first graders wrote what they were thankful for on colorful feathers and glued them to their turkey hats.

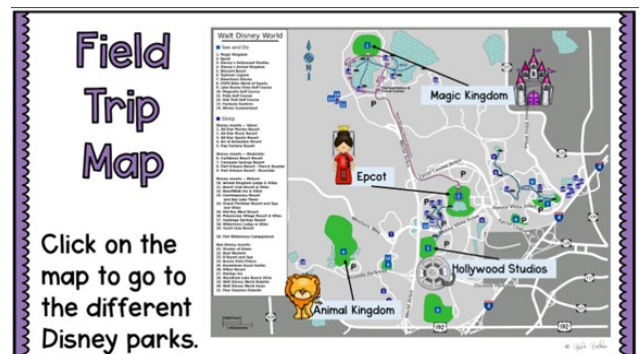
Throughout the school year, please continue to encourage your child to read, read, read and then read some more! After reading, students can access Accelerated Reader (AR) from Mrs. Bell's Canvas page. Students can make the virtual Accelerated Reader Wall of Stars once they earn at least 5 AR points (with 80% reading accuracy).

Parents and first graders, the first grade team thanks you for your continued patience and support. We wish you the happiest of holidays and wonderful New Year!



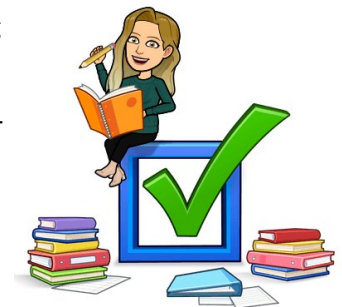
Second Grade

To reward the second graders for their hard work the first nine weeks, the second grade team set up a virtual field trip for students. The students were able to virtually take a field trip to Walt Disney World. On the field trip they learned a little history about each park and some of the rides. Throughout the virtual field trip students were able to ride rides and meet characters via YouTube videos.



Third Grade

Third grade is working hard! In reading we are working on nonfiction summaries. Our third graders work hard each day going through their Virtual Virginia Modules and we love doing the virtual activities together! In writing, we are learning about past and present verb tenses. We have done some sorting activities and the students have done so well with this topic so far. In math, we are working on word problems. Our students are taking time to read carefully! In science, we are learning all about the six simple machines and how humans can use machines to make life easier! Our Cougar Cubs have been working really hard, and we just want to say as a team that we are so proud of the effort we see each and every day. Keep it up!!



Fourth Grade

The fourth grade students have been involved in some new, fun activities! In math, students have participated in "Escape Room" activities, building their skills. For reading, students found text features using a Black Friday advertisement. They have also started meeting in their reading groups each Monday and Wednesday. Students are getting a virtual look at Jamestown with the "Guardians of Jamestown" video series for Virginia Studies. Finally, students are getting some much needed social time with other classes in our weekly "Lunch Bunch" Zoom parties! This virtual experience has been very different for us all, but we are making the most of it! GO COUGAR CUBS!

MUSIC NOTES

It was very easy to feel overwhelmed by all the things we can't do in Virtual Music Class. But I had to switch my mindset and focus on all the things we CAN do. I have learned to enjoy this new way of teaching. I feel a bit like Mr. Rogers. We are learning songs, reading music, learning folk dances and body percussion sequences, and sharing our favorite music with our friends.

I have loved being able to communicate with students and parents in this new format. Some parents have even said they watch my music class together as a family! That's exactly why I teach music. In this difficult time of isolation, I hope that making music together can help make everyone feel more connected.

I wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season.

In Harmony,

Mr. Cook



Library News

The Surry Elementary School Cougar Cubs accepted the 1,000,000 Word AR Challenge and blew it out of the water. The challenge was for students to read 1,000,000 words (evidence was shown through taking AR tests on the books read) before Winter Break. I am proud to announce that the 1,000,000 words were reached by November 30th. Be on the look out for a new challenge in the New Year.

Thank you to all students who are Zooming with me. I love to see your smiling faces. If data is a problem, all of my lessons are in Library Canvas. Almost all of the stories I share are Accelerated Reader books so feel free to let your child take an AR test on them. Please make sure you listen to an audio book more than once before testing because we retain more when you read it yourself.

Remember, the Blackwater Regional Libraries in Surry, Claremont, Wakefield, Waverly, and Smithfield are open for check out and they also have eBooks that can be checked out for all ages.

Happy Holidays and Stay Safe!

Mrs. Bell



Physical Education (PE)



Winter is almost here but Physical Education stays hot all year long! I have been thrilled with everyone's participation with the online PE class! Thank you so much to everyone for working with me and for putting up with me. I know life is real hard right now so I want the class to be enjoyable and educational. I hope it has been. I have been learning how to do virtual learning with you all at the same time as you. We are doing this together. If anyone has any ideas for class please let me know. Also, please make sure you all make time for yourself. Take care of yourselves and each other. Plan to get enough exercise and rest, and eat your fruits and vegetables. Do all your school work to the best of your ability, listen to your parents and teachers, make sure you learn something new every day and take time to read, it really is so great for you in so many ways. Take time for yourself to have fun, laugh and relax. Stay close to your loved ones, but not too close. I am looking forward to a happy holiday and a better new year in 2021!

Nurse's Office

Cub Den Notes

This year, our school is partnering with Kinsa's FLUency School Health Program to stop the spread of illness at our school. You can sign up through the Kinsa app to get a FREE smart thermometer now by texting the word **FLUENCY** to the number **900900**. Check your inbox for a confirmation email afterward to make sure your order went through! We hope you participate to keep our school healthy this year, and we are looking forward to distributing all of your free thermometers! If you have already done this and **NOT** received confirmation of your thermometer being ordered, please follow these steps.....

Leave your School Group:

1. Open your Kinsa app. Click on the Settings gear in the top right corner of your app.
2. Click on your school's name under "School/Organization."
3. Uncheck the people that you have added to your school. Click DONE. Click Yes.

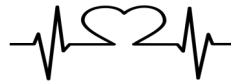
Rejoin your School Group:

1. Click on the Settings gear in the top right corner of your app.
2. Click "Join my school group" under "School/Organization."
3. Search for your school's name.
4. Select the family members you would like to add to your school. Specify their School Role and Grade. Tap SAVE. Tap DONE.
5. Fill out the thermometer order form that pops up.

Once our shipment of thermometers arrives at SES, I will contact everyone who placed an order and set up a safe way to have them distributed. I am so excited about this program and cannot wait to start this journey with each and everyone of you! Here's to a healthier school year!

Check out this video on how to set up your Kinsa Thermometer once it arrives!

<https://vimeo.com/474833595>



Nurse Debbie