

## Paper Mill Elementary School

Ms. Cynthia Kennedy, Principal

# FEBRUARY 2016

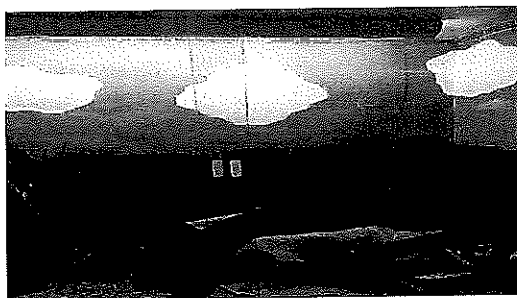
Mrs. Susan Buchanan, Assistant Principal

### Panther Pride

Paper Mill Elementary School was awarded a grant for our Panther Pride project based learning initiative last fall. This funding comes to us through the Westfield Foundation for Education. The project is a multi-year undertaking and is being led by our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) team. We had an assembly the week before February vacation at which our chorus performed a Paper Mill themed song, and we watched a brief video filmed at the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge, outside Naples, FL. Mrs. Buchanan introduced our panther mascot, who is sitting proudly in a show-

case in our front lobby, and the students are voting on a name for our Paper Mill panther this week.

Another part of this project is we have purchased copies of the book, *Felina's New Home*, for each classroom, and will be buying more books for our library that focus on wildlife, habitats, and ecology.



#### 2016-17 Kindergarten Registration Info:

If you have a child who will be entering Kindergarten at Paper Mill in the fall, please give our office a call at 572-6519. We will be making appointments for screenings in April soon.

### Food Play comes to PMES

Students at Paper Mill Elementary School were treated to a production sponsored by the WPS Food Service department, entitled, "Food Play." During this performance, in which music and lots of laughs were a big part of the fun, the topic of nutrition and exercise were discussed. The children learned about making healthy choices for meals and snacks, and the importance of regular physical exercise.



### Save the Date!

The 11th Annual Westfield Into the Arts Festival will be held on Friday, April 29th from 5:30-8:30 pm and Saturday, April 30th from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm, at North Middle School. On display will be artwork from schools around the district and there will be student performances as well. The Paper Mill Chorus will be performing on Friday night. We hope to see you all there!

#### NOTES:

- ◆ Parents who drop off / pick up are reminded that you must park your vehicle in the lower playground lot, and walk your child across the crosswalk to the school.
- ◆ Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. We do go outside for recess unless rain, temperature or wind chill keeps us in.
- ◆ Remember that we have a community food pantry here at PMES. If you or a family you know are in need, please contact Mrs. Burke in the Health Office. All info is kept strictly confidential.

#### IMPORTANT DATES

PMES PTO	FEB
Movie Night	26
PMES PTO	MAR
Meeting 630	2
PMES PTO	MAR
Bingo for Books	11
No School—Good Friday observance	MAR 25

# Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

## Book Picks

Read-aloud favorites

### ■ *Biblioburro: A True Story from Colombia*

What if the library came to your neighborhood on the back of a donkey?

This is Jeanette Winter's true story of a Colombian schoolteacher's traveling library, which brought books to children in remote villages. (Also available in Spanish.)



### ■ *Dragons Love Tacos*

When a little boy discovers that dragons like to eat tacos, he decides to host a taco party for them. But if a fire-breathing dragon accidentally gets a bite of spicy salsa, look out! A silly story by Adam Rubin about a dragon party that turns into a disaster.

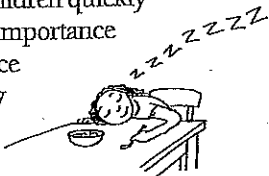


### ■ *Just a Second*

In just 1 second, a bumblebee flaps its wings 100 times and the earth travels 18½ miles. Steve Jenkins's nonfiction book will help your child think about time in fascinating ways. She'll also discover different methods of measuring time.

### ■ *Bedtime Is Canceled*

Maggie and her brother write their parents an official-looking note: "Bedtime is canceled." Somehow, the note blows out the window, lands in a newspaper office, and ends up in a headline. Soon, bedtime really is canceled, and exhausted children quickly discover the importance of sleep. A nice read-aloud by Cece Meng.



## Time for a story

Want to spend time with your youngster, build her reading skills, and help her learn to love books? You can do all three when you read aloud to her. Here are some suggestions.

### Read regularly

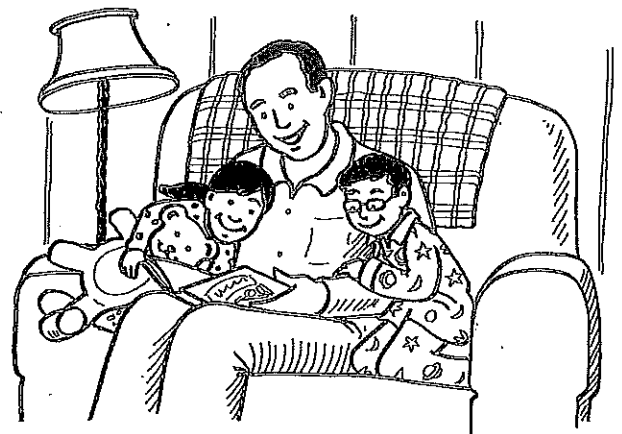
Try to read to your child every day. You might aim for 10–15 minutes of bedtime reading for a peaceful end to the day. Bring along a book, and read to her during a sibling's sports practice. Or curl up together with a book when you get home from work.

### Take turns choosing books

Your youngster may want to hear old favorites again and again. Use your turn for new titles and variety (nonfiction, poetry).

### Let her participate

Ask your child to turn the pages while you read. Also, she can finish sentences that rhyme or fill in words she knows.



Go slowly so she has time to understand the story and look at the illustrations. She'll enjoy read-aloud time more if she plays an active role.

### Be playful

You can use different voices for different characters (a high, squeaky voice for a mouse or a deep, booming voice for a horse). Or substitute your youngster's name for the main character's name, and use family members' names for other characters. *Note:* You don't have to be an expert reader—your child will love it when you read aloud because it's *you*.♥

## Writing that makes sense

When a child first learns to write, his stories may not always make sense to others. Help his writing flow logically with these two ideas.

1. Let him read his stories to you. Ask questions to encourage him to add information ("What did you do with your friends at recess?") or to clear up a confusing part ("Who said, 'Let's go home'—you, or your brother?").

2. Even if he isn't writing sentences yet, he can tell you stories. He might describe the new class pet or something funny that happened at lunch. He'll practice relating events in a logical order, and that can help when he puts his thoughts and ideas down on paper.♥

