

December
18th, 2020

WWW.SPRINGBLUFFPIRATES.COM

573-457-8302
adanz@springbluffpirates.com



No Early Release Fridays this Year

Upcoming Events

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Early Dismissal @ 12:30 pm | 12/22 |
| No School—Winter Break | 12/23-1/4 |
| Classes Resume | 1/5 |

This Weeks Attachments:

- Reading Connection



Congratulations 6th Grade Girls Basketball team for winning Consolation in the Bourbon Tournament on December 12th.

Winter Break

December 23rd—January 4th

Classes resume January 5th



Spring Bluff is getting into the Christmas Spirit. Students are welcome to participate in the following theme days:

- Monday 12/21: Cozy Christmas Socks or Slippers
- Tuesday 12/22: Holiday PJ's



School Board Candidate Filing

Filing for two, 3 year positions will be open on Tuesday, December 15th, 2020 @ 8:00 a.m. and will end Tuesday, January 19, 2021 @ 5:00 p.m. The current incumbents are

Mr. Matt Montee and Mr. Jared Schmidt.

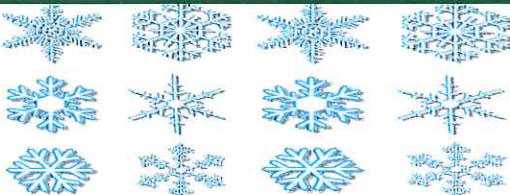
Filing may be completed during regular business hours, Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (except as noted below.)

Filing will not occur on the following dates:

- Wednesday, December 23, 2020
- Thursday, December 24, 2020
- Friday, December 25, 2020
- Monday, December 28, 2020

Friday, January 1, 2021 and any day the office is closed due to inclement weather or health related reasons.

Ballot placement order of filing will be on a first-come basis.



Spring Bluff Pirates

If my child is not ill but there is a positive COVID individual in our household, what should we do?

- Everyone in the house should quarantine and your child(ren) will attend school virtually. Contact the school and notify them that your child is in quarantine due to a household exposure. The health department will reach out to you when they receive your lab results with more instructions and when quarantine ends for everyone in the house.

If my child has received a positive COVID test result, what should I do?

- Notify the school immediately, 573-457-8302.
- If you receive results after school hours, please email jjenkins@springbluffpirates.com. Contact tracing will begin immediately to eliminate further spread in the building. Your Child will learn virtually while on quarantine.

The health department will notify parents when the positive child can return to school.

What does it mean if I have been notified that my child is a close contact to someone with COVID?

- Your child has been within 6ft for 15 minutes or more of an individual who tested positive for COVID.

Are your students dressed for the weather?!?

Our weather seems to be changing daily and difficult to keep up with. Please help your child prepare for the unpredictable Missouri weather and make sure they have a coat, hat, and gloves everyday. As long as the wind-chill is 25 degrees or above, students will go outside for recess and enjoy some fresh air.



Find us on
Facebook

@springbluffpirates

Website:

<http://www.springbluffpirates.com>

Basketball Game Schedule

Games and Tournaments are always changing. Visit our School Website for the most recent updates on the 2020-2021 Basketball Schedule.



Go Pirates!

Sporting News & Events



Monday, December 21st

5B/7B/8B @ OLL 5:30 pm

Sat-Sun, January 2nd-3rd

4B/5B Tournament @ Bourbon TBA

Tuesday, January 5th

5G/8B @ Home vs. St. Gertrude 6:00 pm

Thursday, January 7th

6G/8G @ Home vs. IC 5:30 pm

Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

December 2020

Spring Bluff Elementary School

Mrs. Jeannie Jenkins, Superintendent

Book Picks

Read-aloud favorites



■ *Earmuffs for Everyone! How Chester Greenwood Became Known as the Inventor of Earmuffs* (Meghan McCarthy)

Chester Greenwood is credited with inventing earmuffs. But he wasn't the first person who designed a product to keep our ears warm. This book shows how inventors often stand on the shoulders of those who came before them.



■ *Smashy Town* (Andrea Zimmerman and David Clemesha)

Follow Mr. Gilly on an eventful day of work at a construction site as his machines crush buildings to make room for new ones. Colorful illustrations and onomatopoeias (words like *vroom* and *hiss* that sound like what they describe) make this an exciting story for budding readers.



Nature isn't just something that's only outside. From houseplants to sunlight streaming through windows, nature is indoors, too. This inspiring story describes how nature can be a friend to people and encourages readers to appreciate it wherever it's found.

■ *Thank You, Omu!* (Oge Mora)

Omu means *queen* in Igbo, the language of the author's parents, and it's the name she called her own grandmother. In this story, *Omu* can't wait to eat her delicious stew. But when visitors follow their noses to her door, *Omu* shares every drop. A final knock brings a special surprise. (Also available in Spanish.)



Let's tell stories

Add excitement to story time by making up your very own stories. Not sure where to start? These activities will turn anyone into a storyteller—and build your child's speaking skills and creativity.

Read and tell

What would happen if Wilbur the pig from *Charlotte's Web* met the Three Little Pigs? Read two familiar books with your youngster, and together, make up a story that combines elements of each. Maybe the little pigs will live on Wilbur's farm, safe from the Big Bad Wolf. Your child will stretch her reading comprehension as she thinks of ways to connect the two plots.

Share family tales

Children love to hear stories about when they were "little"—and these tales of her past are nice examples of nonfiction. Ask your youngster to pick a memory (say, her first trip to the beach), and begin a story: "Stella saw the ocean for



the first time when she was five years old." Now take turns adding details. ("She built a big sandcastle.")

Make story dice

Let your child make three giant "dice" out of empty cardboard boxes. Help her write nouns (*cereal*, *house*) on one die, verbs (*fly*, *dance*) on another, and adjectives (*tasty*, *striped*) on the third. Take turns "rolling" the dice and telling a short story using all three words you roll. ("Once upon a time, I got to *fly* over my *house* in a *striped* hot-air balloon.")♥

How to build a snowman

Whether it snows where you live or not, your youngster can build a snowman with this idea for writing instructions.

First, have your child cut snowman parts out of construction paper: three circles for the body and head, plus eyes, nose, mouth, buttons, and hat. Now he can build his snowman by gluing the parts on a big sheet of paper. As he adds each one, help him write an instruction beside it for building a real snowman. ("Step 1: Roll up a big snowball." "Step 2: Put a smaller snowball on top." "Step 3: Add an even smaller snowball for a head.")

Then, if it snows, he could use his instructions to make a snowman outside!♥



All kinds of lists

List making lets your youngster practice writing and recording his thoughts. Here are different types of lists he might create.

Favorites journal. Have your child fill a notebook with lists of his favorite things. He could write a different topic (books, foods, animals, toys) at the top of each page, then add items as he thinks of them. *Idea:* Suggest that he invite a friend or relative to do the same, and they can compare lists to see what they have in common.



Screen-time alternatives. Show your youngster that lists are practical. Listing screen-free activities he likes can help him cut down on using electronics. He might include “Collect acorns and pinecones,” “Make a maze in the hallway with streamers,” and “Read a book to the dog.”

Questions collection. Encourage your child to keep a list of questions he has, like “Why are clouds different shapes?” or “Why do our eyes close when we sneeze?” He could use his list to pick out library books that might have the answers or post his list by the computer so you can research his questions together online.♥

Q&A Virtual read-alouds

Q My daughter’s favorite part of school is when her teacher reads books in class or on video chat. Now she wants to watch more online read-alouds. Any suggestions?

A Consider setting up virtual story times for her with grandparents, aunts, and uncles. She’ll get to hear different reading voices, and everyone will discover it’s a great way to stay in touch!



Also, the internet is full of high-quality read-alouds these days. Your local library may offer online story hours—call or visit the website to find out.

Your child might also watch authors read aloud online. Some children’s writers, like Dav Pilkey, Mo Willems, and Susan B. Katz, provide free virtual readings on their websites or social media pages. Help your youngster search for specific book titles or authors followed by “read-aloud.”♥

OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ways to promote their children’s reading, writing, and language skills.

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Fun with Words

Alphabetical order

Send your child on these missions that will encourage her to read words around the house and arrange them in ABC order. *Bonus:* She’ll help to keep things organized!

Organize the pantry

Let your youngster sort foods in the kitchen by type of container (boxes, cans, bags, jars), and arrange each section in alphabetical order. When you need an item, ask her to use her ABCs to find it: “I need a can of beans—where would it be?” She might say the *beans* are between the *artichoke* hearts and the *carrots*.

Arrange colors

Ask your child to put crayons or markers in ABC order. She’ll need to look beyond the first letter of each color word (**black, blue, brown**). As she puts each crayon in its spot, she can say the first letter and read the color word. (“G is for *green*.”)♥



Parent to Parent

Neighborhood book exchange

One day my son Aiden and I found a book on our porch. A note from our neighbor was attached: “My son just read this and thought Aiden would love it!” And with that, our neighborhood book exchange was born.

Aiden and I emailed neighbors to see who would be interested in lending and borrowing books. Several people replied with book titles they

were willing to share—for children *and* adults—and I helped my son type titles we could lend. Now anyone can request a book from someone else and have it delivered to their porch.

Aiden and I enjoy reading new-to-us books, and it feels good to share with neighbors. Sometimes, before we return a book, my son writes a note to tuck inside. He’ll thank the person for the “share” and tell what he liked about the story.♥



Reading Connection

Working Together for Learning Success

December 2020

Spring Bluff Elementary School

Mrs. Jeannie Jenkins, Superintendent

Book Picks



■ *The Dragon with a Chocolate Heart* (Stephanie Burgis)

In this magical tale, Aventurine the dragon breaks her family's rules and sneaks away from her cave. When she's offered a sip of hot chocolate, the brave dragon is turned into a human girl. With no dragon powers left, she has to figure out how to survive as a human.



■ *Earth Verse: Haiku from the Ground Up* (Sally M. Walker)

Science and poetry come together in this beautiful book of haiku. Readers will learn about Earth, minerals, rocks, fossils, volcanoes, and more with haiku, illustrations, and a fact-filled section at the end.



■ *The Extraordinary Mark Twain (According to Susy)* (Barbara Kerley)

This biography of author Mark Twain is based on the journal entries of someone who knew him well: his 13-year-old daughter, Susy. The author weaves together Susy's original writings with information about the lives of both father and daughter.

■ *Comeback Catcher* (Jake Maddox)

Meet Eddie Jackson from the Jake Maddox Graphic Novels series. He's in a band and also plays baseball. But baseball becomes tricky for Eddie when he gets nervous every time he's up to bat. Find out how Eddie overcomes his fears. Includes a glossary with baseball terms. (Also available in Spanish.)



Winter reading traditions

Short days and chilly weather make reading a great indoor winter activity. Use these suggestions to encourage your child to snuggle up with good books.



Pajama party

On a weekend night, put pillows and sleeping bags in the living room and share a book of short stories. Pass the book around and take turns reading to each other by flashlight. Or use the cozy time for everyone to read their own books. *Tip:* Ask a librarian or your child's teacher for book recommendations based on your family's interests.

have each person try to recite the poem from memory. The family member who comes closest to the original chooses the next poem.

Game night

Suggest that your child invent games that involve reading. For example, he might suggest a poetry contest. One person could pick a short poem from a book and give everyone five minutes to memorize it. Then, close the book and

Comedy fest

Read jokes for an evening of laughter. Have each family member find a book of jokes or riddles from the library, browse through them, and mark favorites to share. Everyone can vote for the funniest jokes. *Idea:* Your youngster could write his own jokes and do a stand-up comedy set. ■

Story ideas: Look here!

Does your family's junk drawer tell a tale? Is there a story behind a lost-and-found notice or a song on the radio? When your youngster has a creative writing assignment or writes just for fun, suggest that she find inspiration in one of these places.



- **The junk drawer.** Let her pick a few random items, such as an old key and a business card. Maybe she'll imagine that the key unlocks a secret room at the address on the card.
- **Online posts.** Show your child posts on neighborhood forums. She might write about a lost dog being reunited with his owner or a girl who starts a successful snow-shoveling business.
- **The radio.** Your youngster can use a line or a verse from a song to make up her own story. For instance, a song about traveling on a plane may prompt a tale of a trip to a desert island. ■

A guide to taking notes

Being able to take notes quickly and accurately is a skill your child needs now. Plus, it'll come in handy in later grades as well as in college and on the job. Share these strategies for your youngster to become a first-rate note taker.

Before. Have your child prepare to take notes on new material by reading the previous day's notes. At the beginning of class, she should label her notes with the date and topic (12/11/20, American Revolution) so it's easier to put them in order for studying.



During. Suggest that your youngster use abbreviations and symbols for faster note taking. *Examples:* T for *the*, V for *every*, > for *more*. Point out that she should always write down dates, formulas, and definitions exactly as they're given. When the teacher says, "This is an important point," your child could highlight that section in her notes. Finally, she might leave extra lines so she has room to add comments or questions later.

After. Encourage your youngster to go over her notes and underline main points. If the notes are hard to read, it's a good idea to rewrite or type them. Copying them not only makes the notes more legible, it will help her remember the information better.

Parent & Parent

Editing out loud

My son Lucas used to rush through writing assignments and make a lot of careless mistakes. When I asked his teacher what to do, she suggested that we have Lucas edit his work by reading it aloud. She said hearing his words out loud would help him hear his mistakes.



We started by having Lucas read his writing to me. I pointed out what I liked about it and asked questions about parts I didn't quite understand. And Lucas noticed that he used some of the same words over and over and caught a couple of grammatical errors. Then, he used our feedback to edit his paper.

Now Lucas regularly reads his papers aloud to himself. He seems to be catching more mistakes—and he's getting better grades on his written assignments.



An occasion for reading

Turn gift giving into an opportunity for your child to read. Here are some ideas:

- Book reviews will help her choose novels as gifts for others. Your youngster can look at library book lists or newspaper reviews. Encourage her to check for words and phrases such as "a must-read" or "action-packed."
- Suggest that your child make a craft for someone. She might create finger puppets, a mosaic, or a bracelet. To find possibilities, she could look through craft books (*The Best Craft Book Ever* by Jane Bull) or check online (craftsforkids.com) and then read them as she follows the instructions.
- Young bakers can use cookbooks to prepare homemade treats like cookies and muffins. Let your child select recipes and write a grocery list. Then, remind her to carefully read recipes again before she starts baking.



Fun with Words

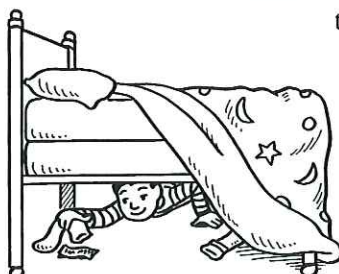
Read the clues, find the treasure

Treasure hunts are fun for all ages. And figuring out the clues will help your youngster learn to infer, or read between the lines.

First, hide a treasure (a new book, a small toy). Then, hide a set of clues that will lead your child to it. The first clue should give instructions for finding the second clue, which should lead to the third, and so on, until your youngster discovers the treasure.

Try to come up with clues that give hints—but make your youngster think. For example, if you want him to look under his bed, you might write, "Find the next clue in a place socks like to hide." Or get him to open an end-table drawer with "Look under the lamp and coasters."

Once your child tracks down the treasure, have him create a treasure hunt for you or a sibling.



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UPDATED 12/16/2020

Basketball Picture Schedule
2020-2021

Thursday, December 17th

6th Girls (4:15)

7th Boys (4:30)

Monday, January 4th

8th Girls (6:30)

8th Boys (6:45)

Monday, January 25th

4th Boys (5:00)

5th Girls (5:15)

5th Boys (5:30)