

April 9,  
2021

WWW.SPRINGBLUFFPIRATES.COM

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# Spring Bluff R-XV

Upcoming Events	Date
4th quarter Midterm	4/14
Midterm Reports Go Home	4/16
MAP Testing	4/19-5/7
8th Grade Banquet	4/30
Kindergarten Graduation	5/17
8th Grade Graduation	5/18
Last Day of School/Field Day **Full Day **	5/19

**Come join the fun!**

**Summer School**

May 24-June 17

You can register your child(ren) through the link on the district's website.

Students currently enrolled in kindergarten –seventh grade are eligible to attend.

**Kindergarten camp will be held for incoming students in August.**

### This Weeks Attachments:

- Home & School Connection
- Middle Years



### **Tips From Title I**

#### **Focusing on the Facts!**

It is extremely important that elementary students develop basic math fact fluency early on. Math fact fluency refers to the ability to recall basic math facts in all four operations accurately, quickly, and effortlessly. Math facts fluency leads to higher order mathematics, less confusion, and affects performance in all subject areas, and it will also lead to less math anxiety. Spend a few minutes each evening practicing those facts with your child. Flash cards are a great way, but there are also a lot of great apps out there that can be downloaded for free. Next week I will share some more helpful tips on supporting your child's math fluency.



### Student Attendance

Student attendance is critical to their learning and preparing for the next grade level. Students do not have the daily option of choosing if they will learn in seat or from home.

We ask all parents to assist us with making sure students are at school everyday. If your student is quarantined, they will continue to have the option to learn from home this year.

We appreciate your assistance with this.



## Counselor's Corner

Katie Richarz  
School Counselor  
kricharz@springbluffpirates.com

### 2021 MAP Testing 4/19 - 5/7

- ◆ Ensure your child goes to bed early and gets enough sleep.
- ◆ Talk to your child about eating breakfast at home or at school.
- ◆ Ensure your child's Chromebook is charged every night so that it is ready for testing in the morning.
- ◆ Ensure your child is at school on time.

## GRADUATION NEWS

**KINDERGARTEN GRADUATION:** Will be held Monday, May 17th @ 7:00 p.m. in the school gym.

**8TH GRADE GRADUATION:** Will be held on Tuesday, May 18th @ 7:00 p.m. in the school gym.

**MORE INFORMATION TO COME!**



Mrs. Bullock's 1st grade class

### The Kids Heart Challenge winners for the 2020-2021 Fundraiser Event are as follows-

Top three classes

1. Mrs. Bullock's 1st grade class- \$2,422
2. Mrs. Stumpe's Kindergarten class-\$1,550
3. Mrs. Tolliver's 3rd grade class- \$1,029

Top Fundraiser

Aubrie Bishop- \$ 801.63



The event was held in February with all amounts now being calculated. A special thank you goes out to Spring Bluff's staff and students and also to our community for helping to raise the funds totaling \$9,274.90 for this year's American Heart Association campaign.



Mrs. Stumpe's Kindergarten class



Mrs. Tolliver's 3rd grade class



**Top Fundraiser**  
Aubrie Bishop



Mrs. Vassallie's 8th grade class

# Home & School CONNECTION<sup>®</sup>

Working Together for School Success

April 2021



Spring Bluff R-XV School

Mrs. Jeannie Jenkins, Superintendent

## SHORT NOTES

### Family show-and-tell

Show-and-tell builds your child's speaking and presentation skills—and it's not just for school! Schedule special time each week or month for everyone to share a belonging, talent, or memory. Your youngster could share the stuffed animal he got for his birthday or read a poem he wrote, for example.

### The definition of me

How kids see themselves plays a big role in their self-esteem. Ask your youngster to write a dictionary-style definition of herself that includes things she's proud of. ("Ellie: a 9-year-old girl who is friendly, loves to read, and has a good sense of humor.") *Idea:* Suggest that she write positive definitions for other family members.

### Current events

While it's important to become informed about current events, the news can be upsetting for children. Turn it off when you're not watching. If you'd like to let your youngster see the news, record it and watch together. That way, you can pause to discuss events, which will help him put them in context.

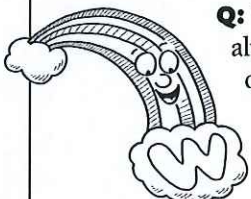
### Worth quoting

"Happiness is a perfume you cannot pour on others without getting a few drops on yourself." *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

## JUST FOR FUN

**Q:** What will you always find at the end of a rainbow?

**A:** The letter W.



## Get your child to listen—the first time

What you say and how you say it can make a world of difference when you need your child to listen. Consider these tips to curb nagging and encourage better listening.

### Get close

Your youngster is more apt to listen when you're face-to-face. So try not to shout instructions from another room or across the yard—or to text them to her. It's also a good idea to get her attention before you start talking ("Hey, there's something you need to do ..."). Then, have her repeat your instructions ("I'm supposed to put my scooter in the garage") so you know she has heard and understood you.

### Slow down

Too many instructions at once can overwhelm your child. Instead of rattling off a bunch of tasks (put away your laundry, do your homework, take out the trash), give her one at a time. Or



suggest that she write them down and check off each one as she completes it. She can come back and proudly show you her finished list.

### Give options

Say your youngster often procrastinates when you tell her to get dressed in the morning. Instead of nagging, you could ask, "Are you going to wear sweatpants or jeans today?" Or if you find yourself repeatedly telling her to eat her vegetables, you might try, "Do you want carrots or broccoli?" Giving her a say will make her more apt to listen and respond.♥

## A world of nonfiction

It's exciting to read about real people and places! Ask these questions to help your youngster pick out nonfiction books he'll want to read.

**"Who would you like to meet?"** Your child might read biographies of people who intrigue him, like his favorite baseball player or an explorer he learned about in history class. How does "getting to know" these people influence his opinion of them?

**"Where do you want to go?"** Nonfiction can transport your youngster anywhere in the universe—and even back in time. Maybe he'll read about a tropical rain forest, the International Space Station, or medieval times. Encourage him to imagine himself in the place or time he reads about.♥



# Celebrate Earth Day

Show the Earth some love on April 22—and every day. Here are activities that will help the planet *and* boost your child's math and research skills.

**Calculate and conserve.** A typical showerhead sprays out 5 gallons of water per minute. Have your youngster time his next shower and multiply the number of minutes by 5. If his shower took 8 minutes, he used 40 gallons of water ( $8 \times 5 = 40$ ). Encourage family members



to time their showers, too. Then, ask everyone to trim 2 minutes off their showers, and let your child calculate how much water your family saved.

**Try plant-based foods.** Eating less meat is an eco-friendly habit that's also healthy for your youngster. Ask him to research plant-based alternatives to some of the meat-based foods your family eats. He might find recipes for black bean burgers, shiitake mushroom "bacon," and eggplant "steaks." Make and try them together. *Idea:* Consider committing to one meatless day per week. Your child can choose the recipe—or come up with his own.♥

## ACTIVITY CORNER DIY stickers



What makes stickers ... well ... sticky? Your youngster can find out with this art project.

**1. Draw stickers.** Let her make lines to divide a sheet of white paper into 12 equal boxes. Encourage her to use colored pencils to draw a picture (taco, star, heart) in each box.

**2. Make glue.** In a bowl, have your child stir together 1 tbsp. cold water and 1 packet unflavored gelatin. Meanwhile, boil 3 tbsp. water. Pour it into the gelatin. Now she can add  $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp. sugar and stir until dissolved. She made glue! Help her use a paintbrush to coat the back of her paper with the glue.



**3. Stick.** When the glue dries, she can cut out her stickers along the lines. To use, she should moisten the backs with a damp sponge. Then, she could stick them on papers, binders, notebooks, and more.♥

## End-of-year volunteer

As the school year winds down, consider these ideas for helping your child's teachers.



● **Assist with projects.**

Offer to bind student-made books or frame children's artwork. You might also put together a slide show of photos the teacher took during the year.

● **Participate in special events.**

Ask the teacher how you can lend a hand during in-person or virtual events, such as end-of-year parties, awards ceremonies, or graduation.

● **Drop off boxes.** Find out if teachers need boxes to pack up their books and supplies. You could call grocery stores and dollar stores to see which ones donate boxes, then volunteer to pick them up and drop them off at the school.♥

## Q & A Promote hopefulness

**Q:** *I don't want the negative events of the past year to keep my son from being hopeful. What can I do?*

**A:** Hope is contagious! Encourage your son to "catch" it from you. Share your plans for future good things. For instance, you might talk about fun things you hope to do this summer, like go camping or watch a fireworks display. Ask your son what he hopes for, too.

Taking action is another way for your

son to feel more hopeful. Whenever possible, let him do things to make a difference. For example, if he's worried about people needing food, the two of you might grow vegetables to donate to a food pantry.

Remember, you know your child best. If your son talks about feeling hopeless, or you are concerned that he might be suffering from depression, talk to his school counselor or doctor.♥



**OUR PURPOSE**

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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# Middle Years

Working Together for School Success



## Short Stops

### Proofreading tip

Get your middle grader in the habit of proofreading her essays and reports carefully with this idea. Suggest that she look over graded papers she gets back and make a list of common mistakes, such as writing *affect* instead of *effect*. Then, she should check for those errors—and others—before she turns in her work.

### Be a good digital citizen

Downloading music and movies illegally is considered stealing since it robs entertainers of payment for their work. Ask your child how he would feel if he didn't get paid for a job. Then, tell him to steer clear of "peer-to-peer sharing" sites. Explain that not only can he get in legal trouble, he might also download viruses or spyware onto his laptop or tablet.

### Nothing like a good laugh!

"Inside jokes" can be handy tools for lightening up tense moments. For example, saying "No good will come of that" in a silly-dramatic voice might become a family catchphrase when someone's doing something they shouldn't. Or when a conversation gets heated, try freezing, walking backward three steps, and calling out, "Rewind!"

### Worth quoting

"There are always flowers for those who want to see them." *Henri Matisse*

### Just for fun

**Q:** What month of the year has 28 days?

**A:** All of them!



## Reach the finish line

Like athletes running a long race, students may lose steam toward the end of the school year. Try these ideas to motivate your child to dig deep and keep working hard so he can overcome any hurdles and sprint across the finish line!

### Hurdle: Self-doubt

**How to overcome:** If your middle grader isn't sure he can do well on his social studies test or finish his English paper, remind him of times he stuck with something even though it was tough. ("Remember when you thought you couldn't play the guitar? You kept practicing, and now you can!")

### Hurdle: Lack of motivation

**How to overcome:** Knowing what he's working toward can make putting in the effort easier. Encourage your tween to list goals for the rest of the school year (ace his science project, participate more in class). Then, have him think about extra benefits of reaching those goals (having a cool story to share at



science camp, getting to know teachers and classmates better).

### Hurdle: Difficult material

**How to overcome:** When your child runs into a challenge, like learning a tough math concept, suggest that he ask himself, "How can I get this done?" Answering the "three Ws" can guide him to a solution: *Who* can help? (A study buddy or teacher.) *What* do I need to do? (Extra practice problems.) *When* will I do it? (Twice a week for 30 minutes.) 👍

## Creative spins on journaling

One way to encourage your tween to write every day is to make it something she enjoys doing. These fun journal ideas will let her express herself while she sharpens her writing skills.

**Nature journal.** Suggest that your child write about the natural world around her. Her journal might include her observations about animals, weather, and constellations. She could also add drawings, quotes, and poems about how being in nature makes her feel.

**Reviews journal.** Tweens have lots of opinions! Your middle grader can write a review each time she finishes a book, watches a movie, tries a new product (like a smart speaker), or orders takeout. She'll practice opinion writing and also have a place to look when friends ask for recommendations. 👍



# Math in daily life

When will your middle grader use math outside the classroom? Every day! Here are just two examples.

**1. Cooking.** Can your tween halve or double a recipe for you? (She'll need to divide or multiply fractions.) Convert the oven temperature in an old family recipe from Celsius to Fahrenheit? (She should multiply the Celsius temperature by  $\frac{9}{5}$  and add  $32^\circ$ .) Figure out how



many baking sheets are needed for 48 cookies if each cookie is 2 inches in diameter and there are 2 inches between cookies? (She will have to find out how many cookies fit along the length and width of a sheet, then multiply the two numbers.)

**2. Shopping.** Ask your middle schooler to help you find the best deals. Can she compare the cost of one coffee maker marked at 15 percent off \$25 and another that's

40 percent off \$38? If you join a store's frequent buyer club for \$25 per year and earn 10 percent off each purchase, how much would you have to spend to recoup your \$25? 🍌

## Q & A Dangers of "edibles"

**Q** I heard that some neighborhood kids were trying marijuana edibles. How can I keep my son safe from them?

**A** "Edibles"—foods and drinks that contain the psychoactive component in marijuana—are sold in specialty shops and medical dispensaries in states where marijuana is legal for adults. Because they're often "sweet treats" like gummies and brownies, they can be appealing to tweens. Kids may also like that the lack of smoke makes using them easier to hide.

Tell your son that edibles carry the same dangers to children as smoking marijuana, including lasting damage to memory and concentration.



In addition, the high from edibles comes more slowly as the body digests them, so people may eat dangerous amounts.

Explain that if a friend offers him candy he's not familiar with, he should read the label to make sure it's really candy. If the package isn't available, he'll need to say no. 🍌

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## Ways to practice gratitude

Inspire your tween to appreciate the good things in life. He'll feel happier and more optimistic with these projects.

### Springtime gratitude tree

Ask your child to fill a large glass jar halfway with rocks, then insert twigs to make a "tree." Next, have him draw and cut out construction paper "leaves." He could write something he's grateful for on each leaf, then poke a hole in the leaf and hang it on the tree. *Idea:* Encourage him to keep a pile of blank leaves nearby so family members can fill in their own "gratitude leaves."



### The ABCs of thankfulness

Give your tween a stack of index cards and a challenge: Write at least one thing he's grateful for each day, starting with A ("Apple pie for dessert") and ending with Z ("Zero trouble with my history test"). He can hole-punch the cards and keep them on a ring. 🍌

## Parent to Parent Learning English at home

Our family speaks Spanish at home. Because our daughter Francisca is learning English in school, she has taught us some vocabulary. Her teacher mentioned that teaching others is a great way for kids to practice a new language.

When we watch TV in English, and I don't understand something, Francisca tries to explain. We keep on the English subtitles so if she needs to look something up she can see the words.

She also downloads audiobooks in English for us to listen to in the car. Francisca enjoys finding books she's already read in Spanish that are available in English to listen to. And we sometimes play games like Hangman and Scrabble in English, or in both languages, and ask Francisca to define unfamiliar words.

We continue to speak mostly Spanish, but our daughter is proud of becoming bilingual and sharing what she learns with us. 🍌

