

# SHUTTLE EXPRESS

*January 2020 edition*

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## **From the Principal's Desk**

Hello Challenger Families,

We want to wish Welcome to the New Year!!! We hope you all had a wonderful, festive holiday season. We look forward to welcoming all our smiling faces back to McAuliffe where we continue to reach our vision of all "Challengers Reaching Excellence."

As a school, we spent time enjoying December. I enjoyed reading a special book with your students. They participated in the school Sing-along. Grades 2-5 attended a presentation of the Nutcracker. Multiple grade levels went to the Hylton Planetarium. We also had an assembly about "Filling Your Bucket" which discussed how to be kind to others and lift them up. Kindergarten attended a presentation of the Polar Express. Our PTA was busy with the Holiday Store and distributing the Believe Fund Raiser.

Mrs. Monique Mink joined our third-grade teaching team.

As the weather can be tricky this time of year, we ask that all students come prepared with cold weather apparel. We try to get the students outside for recess as much as we can during this season.

**Illness:** We want everyone healthy at McAuliffe. As a reminder to help keep our McAuliffe family healthy, if your child is vomiting or running a fever, please keep them at home for 24 after all medicines have been given.

**Weather Alerts:** Please pay close attention to weather alerts during this season. If school is on a 2-hour delay, the students will start school at 11:00; a 1-hour delay means the doors will open at 10:00. If your child attends AlphaBest and school closes early, please make sure AlphaBest and the front office staff know how your students should go home. Prince William County School weather alerts are distributed through multiple means: Facebook, Twitter, TV News, the radio and the Prince William County Schools Website.

## **Calendar**

January 24, 2020: Early Dismissal 12:20 Parent Teacher Conference Day

January 27, 2020: No School - Teacher Workday

Thank you,

Mrs. Herritt, Principal

## Fitness Team

With the start of a New Year, we at McAuliffe have made our own New Year's resolution. We want to promote and encourage exercising during these cold winter days. Here are some fun indoor exercises for the whole family.

- 1. Headstands:** A great activity for your core muscles and to get blood going to the brain. Kids are often naturals.
- 2. Jump rope:** If you have downstairs neighbors who complain, go in the hall or outside your building. For more fun, pick up a book of jump-rope rhymes.
- 3. Obstacle course:** Create a furniture course in your apartment or take chalk and make a course outside. Add in specific mental or physical challenges to keep them guessing.
- 4. Wheelbarrow, crab, and bear-walk races:** Holding one of these tough positions gives you a real workout.
- 5. Animal races:** Hop like a bunny or frog; squat and waddle like a duck; and so on.
- 6. Balloon ball:** There are endless ways to play with balloons indoors. Try to keep it off the ground or just play catch. Mix it up with balloon tennis!
- 7. Follow the leader:** Add to the workout with energetic movements such as jumping, stomping, and squatting.
- 8. Dance party:** Turn on the music and shake your groove *thang*.
- 9. Freeze dance:** When the music stops, freeze in your pose and hold it until the music begins again.
- 10. Scavenger hunt:** Write up clues and hide them around the apartment. Kids can race to find each clue for a small prize at the end.
- 11. Jumping jacks:** Simple but good for coordination and they get your heart going. When my kids can't sleep, I have them do 25 to tire out.
- 12. Parachute:** This kiddie gym standby can be re-created at home with sheets. Each kid takes an end of the parachute or sheet and fans it upward while one of you runs underneath.
- 13. Bubble wrap attack:** If you get bubble wrap in the mail, jump on it until it's all popped.
- 14. Clean-up race:** Set a timer or put on a song to see who can tidy the room the fastest.
- 15. Tickle tag:** Chase your children. When you catch them, it's tickle time.
- 16. Temper tantrum:** Have a fit for the fun of it. Flail, stomp, and scream.

17. **Carnival:** Set up carnival games such as "Knock Down the Milk Cans" (we used Tupperware).
18. **Hallway bowling:** Fill up water bottles and use any ball you have.
19. **Hopscotch:** Use chalk or tape to make a game on your floor or outside your building.
20. **Pillow fight:** No explanation needed.
21. **Sock skating:** If you have hardwood floors, put on socks to skate around. Try spins or hockey stops or see who can slide the farthest. Make sure to move the furniture and watch for splinters. My kids also like to up the speed factor with a couple of pieces of wax paper under each foot.
22. **Bubble bashing:** Blow bubbles and let your child try to smash them.
23. **Wrestling:** Put down a mat or play on a rug or bed. See if your kids can wrestle you to the ground.
24. **Pushover parents:** Plant your feet and see if the kids can budge you. If you move your feet, they win. Stand on one foot to make it easier for little kids.
25. **Popcorn pushups:** Put a small bowl of popcorn on the floor. Lower yourself down and stick out your tongue to get a piece of popcorn with each thrust.

## Kindergarten News

The kindergarten students were so busy in December. We read a wonderful big book titled The Gingerbread Man. We also compared other versions of the Gingerbread Man and enjoyed the Jan Brett story, The Gingerbread Baby. The children made gingerbread houses as a follow up to our literature experiences. Retelling and summarizing stories while reading has been a comprehension strategy focus. Everyone has copies of the sight words. The students must be able to read and write 10-20 or more words by the end of the second marking period.

We have been comparing letter sounds and listening for sounds as we write. In Writing, we worked hard to remember to stretch our words and leave spaces between words. The students are encouraged to use the correct spellings of words that are on the word wall. Our focus has been on retelling stories with a beginning, middle, and end. We hope they can tell you about the stories we have been reading.

In Math, we focused on number sense activities with numbers up to ten or more while subitizing (look up Jack Hartmann subitizing) and building numbers. Recognizing and writing the numbers 0-20 must be mastered this quarter. We will learn what a pattern is and how to create simple and complex patterns. We will learn how to break our patterns into core units that repeat. During calendar time, we continue to work on counting to 100, numeral recognition, coin recognition, and counting by tens to 100.

Our Social Studies unit was about wants and needs. Our children learned the difference between truly needing something and wanting it. Making a choice that is beneficial was an eye-opening experience. The study of magnets in science will be an "attractive" unit to all as it is coming up in January.

A big thank you to our parents who sent in items for the gingerbread houses and a special thank you for those who helped with the building and decorating. Please keep reading and returning the baggy books. Those that are reading everyday are making good progress. Keep reading and writing as we look forward to many more exciting adventures in kindergarten!

## First Grade News

**Language Arts:** Please continue to read with your child each night for at least 15-20 minutes. In writing, we will begin to explore writing opinion pieces.

**Math:** We will work each day to master addition to 10 and subtraction from 6. Please continue to work with your student each night. Mastering math facts to 10, both addition and subtraction, will allow your student to be successful in second with addition and subtraction to 20. We will also learn about fractions ( $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{1}{4}$ ).

**Science:** We will be focusing on Earth's Natural Resources, Earth/Sun relationships and Force/Motion.

**Social Studies:** We will be focusing on geography and will end out unit by creating our very own town maps with different buildings and roads.

## Second Grade News

We hope that you had a great break and are refreshed for the new year! In Math, we are working on computation and number sense with two and three-digit numbers. Students will be using the words. Students need to practice addition, subtraction, and counting money. In Language Arts, we are working on summarizing and main idea of nonfiction texts and we will be continuing opinion writing for our unit in writing. When you listen to your child read about home, have them tell you about their story in complete sentences! In Social Studies, we will be focusing on geography! Please have your child continue to use Moby Max to practice their math and reading skills and read nightly.

## Third Grade News

Third grade is back in full swing after a wonderful holiday break! In Reading, we began our unit studying the comprehension strategy of Drawing Conclusions in non-fiction texts. We have received a new resource that we began using called Letter Land, which will help teach various word analysis skills such as affixes. In Writing, we are finishing up our unit on Informational Writing with student research reports. In Social Studies, we began our unit on Economics and will start our semester-long studies of Ancient Civilizations, beginning with Ancient Greece & Rome. In Math, we started our exciting unit on Fractions. Finally, in Science we finished our study on Animal Adaptations and have moved on to Aquatic & Terrestrial Ecosystems. The Third Grade Team hopes that your children had a wonderful Holiday Break and are ready for some exciting learning in the New Year!

## Fourth Grade News

Happy 2020! We are ready for a fabulous new year of learning in fourth grade! Our reading skills are continuously worked on in all our subject areas. We are working on higher level skills of inferencing and drawing conclusions by using poetry. Students are working on reading and writing biographies about famous Virginians. Remember 30 minutes of reading is now required each night!

In Social Studies, we will continue working on our American revolution unit. Students will learn about various Virginians that played an important role in the war. Later in the month we will start our new unit on the New Nation. Your child can review at home by using [www.solpass.org](http://www.solpass.org), there are many fun activities and tools to use for studying.

In Math, we are continuing with our fractions unit. During this unit, students will be comparing and adding/subtracting like and unlike fractions. Have your child help with measurements when cooking dinner. Invite them to practice their equivalent fraction strategies! Please continue to have your child practice their multiplication facts. These are very beneficial to our fraction unit. The next unit students will be working on will be decimals. There are plenty of apps and websites to use, such as [www.istation.com](http://www.istation.com).

Lastly, in Science we are working on the Earth, moon, and sun unit. Students will learn more facts about each. Then we are getting into force and motion. Encourage your child to review with their interactive notebook. Ask your child about the fun lab experiments we are doing in class.

Welcome to Mrs. Gordon! She will be subbing for Mrs. Maiorano until later this school year.

## Fifth Grade News

5th grade Science finished their unit on The Earth Structure and spent time before winter break reviewing 4<sup>th</sup> grade Science material. Students are working hard on fractions and decimals in Math.

## ESOL

The ESOL team is preparing for the annual EL assessments during January. The WIDA ACCESS assessments are given yearly to determine student language levels which will help determine eligibility for services and instruction for the following year. The assessment is given to all English learners who are levels 4.2 and below. We all wish you a happy holiday season. The ESOL team

## Mrs. Hargest-Room 111

Students enjoyed a snow day and a couple of late arrivals in December. They can't wait to see what the weather brings in January. Students enjoyed a field trip to the Hylton Performing Arts Center to see The Nutcracker. They also participated in a trip to the Hylton High School Planetarium. Everyone had great experiences and enjoyed the shows. In January, students will continue to work on skills for their Virginia State testing in the areas of Math, Reading, Social Studies, and Science. They will also continue to work hard on their individual goals in all academic areas and practice good work habits and social skills.

## **Mr. Dieruf-Room 112**

We're excited about the new year! The new year will bring us new and exciting challenges! We have been working hard in Math. We have finished adding and subtractions and are anxious to keep learning once school starts.

## **Mrs. Armstrong-Room 128**

Happy New Year! We can't believe the first semester of the school year is almost over. We hope everyone had a wonderful and relaxing winter break and holiday season. Last month, the class enjoyed our field trip to see "The Nutcracker" at the Hylton Performing Arts Center. We also had a chance to go to the Hylton Planetarium before they closed for renovations. The students are working very hard on their individual goals, as well as, class learning objectives.

In addition to individual Reading and Math goals, we have been working on fractions, measurement and number sense skills. Remember, students should be reading and completing their reading logs each week. Also, students have access to MobyMax and RAZ-Kids at home as well. We thank you all for your continued support of learning in our school and classroom.

## **Mrs. Bampton-Room 131**

In the area of science, we will be exploring the characteristics and interactions of moving objects. The students will also be exploring the changes that occur during the winter. In the area of Social Studies, we will be learning about the holiday of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. As always, the students are working hard to meet their individual instructional goals.

## **Mrs. Woughter-Room 129**

2020! Here we come! December was fun and funny! Throughout the month, we learned about different December holidays from many different cultures. We ended the month by going to the Hylton Planetarium in our pajamas! It was Pajama Day at school, so we had an extra comfy time. We returned to have lunch and ended the day, and 2019, with the annual school Sing-along! What a blast!

In January, we will be turning our focus back to famous historical figures in History. For Science, we will continue focusing on matter. We're learning about the distinguishing characteristics of solids and liquids, what dissolves and what doesn't, and textures of objects and how they feel. Everyone continues working on their individual reading and math goals.

## **PTA News**

We have a really great group of parents and teachers making up this PTA. Thank you to EVERYONE who makes our events a success! From Chuck E Cheese Night, to Bingo, to the Believe Fundraiser pickup – please know how much we appreciate everything you do to make this school a wonderful experience for your students!

A huge thank you to everyone who came out to our Holiday Shop! ESPECIALLY those who pitched in and made it such a success. The kids had a wonderful time!

We've seen the students (and teachers) wearing the Spirit Wear! Everybody looks fantastic! You can order 24/7 at [www.mcauliffespiritwear.com](http://www.mcauliffespiritwear.com). The January Coupon is for 15% off select Dri-fit t-shirts (items 790, 791, 1790, and 1791). Use Coupon code JAN20F.

**Yearbooks are on sale!!!** Be one of the first to buy online at <https://ybpay.lifetouch.com/>. Yearbook code 13047620. From now until February 29th, get your full-color yearbook for only \$20. After that, the price will go up to \$25. Our 5th graders have submitted original artwork for the beautiful covers. We can't wait to see them!

**Upcoming Important PTA Dates:**

Feb 20th – Kids Choice Spirit Night from 6 -8:30

Don't forget to "Like" us on Facebook!!! <https://www.facebook.com/VAMcAuliffeElementaryPTA/>

Reminder: If you have any photos that you would like to be included in the 2019-20 Yearbook, please email them to [vamcauliffepta@gmail.com](mailto:vamcauliffepta@gmail.com).

## Nure's Corner

### SCHOOL HEALTH NEWSLETTER -

#### 10 HEALTHY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS FOR KIDS

(from the American Academy of Pediatrics)

1. I will clean up my toys and keep my room in good order.
2. I will brush my teeth twice a day and wash my hands before eating and after the bathroom.
3. I won't tease dogs, even friendly ones - and keep my hands and face away from their mouths.
4. I will drink more milk and water, and limit soda and fruity drinks.
5. I will apply sunscreen before going outdoors.
6. I will find a sport or activity that I like and do it at least three times a week.
7. I will always wear a helmet when bicycling or boarding.
8. I will wear my seat belt every time I get in the car.
9. I'll be nice to others, and friendly to kids who need friends - like someone shy or new to school.
10. I'll never give out personal information or pictures of myself to strangers or over the internet.

Have a healthy and great 2020!

Lea Morris, RN - Christa McAuliffe Elementary School Nurse



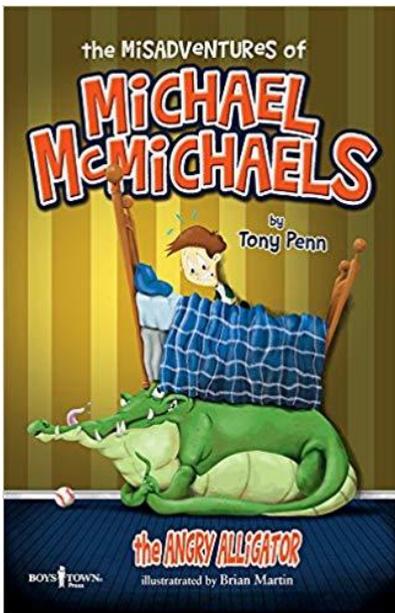
With Mrs. Jampole & Mrs. Weinhold



# Word of the Month: TRUSTWORTHINESS!



## Reading Suggestions for January:



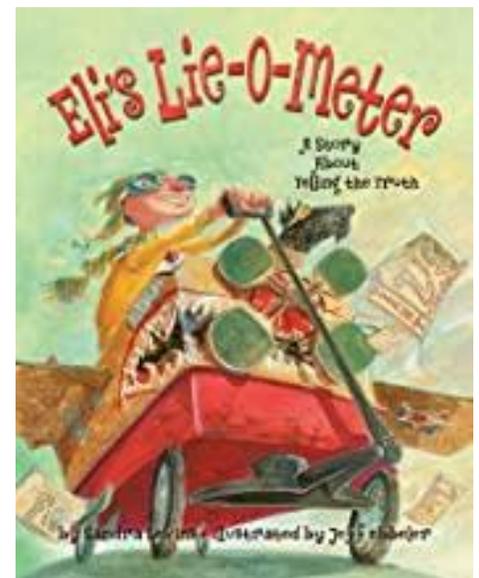
**The Misadventures of Michael McMichaels:  
The Angry Alligator  
by Brian Martin**

What was supposed to be a fun, educational field trip to the local zoo turned into a living nightmare for a young third-grader. One stupid prank, quickly followed by one big lie, leaves Michael scrambling to save himself from a hotheaded redhead bent on revenge and a sharp-toothed alligator ready to chomp. Will Michael escape his web of lies by owning up to his mistakes and apologizing? Or will he keep hiding the truth by spinning wilder and wilder tales?



**Howard B. Wigglebottom On  
Yes or No A Tale About Trust  
by Howard Binkow**

Howard's friend Buzz really wants everyone to like him, so he does whatever anyone asks him to do. But saying yes all the time can be wrong—even dangerous! With help from the grownups, Howard and Buzz learn how to decide if others are trustworthy and when it's okay to say no.



**Eli's Lie-O-Meter  
by Sandra Levins**

Eli knows the difference between pretending and the real facts. Pretending is what he does when he orbits the earth with Duffy, and the real facts are what happen. Sometimes in REAL life, keeping to the facts is hard for Eli. Eli has a knack for telling fibs and an occasional whopper. But when Eli's dog Duffy gets banished to the backyard, Eli learns at least one reason for telling the truth!