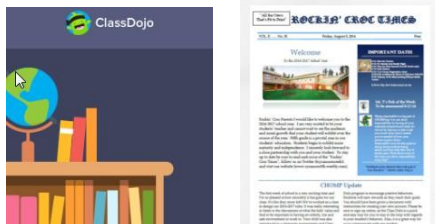


Parents I hope you all had a fantastic week! Next week we have quite a few things happening at Sycamore and some due dates that will be coming up. We also will have our fall (yearbook) pictures on August the 27th at 10am. The following day we will have Ident-A-Kid pictures taken at 10:45 (see Flyer in Friday folder). Be sure to send in the envelope and your money if you wish to purchase pictures or Ident-A-Kid cards. If you click on the image above, you will be taken to the over and sign up for "Battle of the Books". Deadlines to sign up for this and [Odyssey of the Mind](#) are on August 30th. Finally, be sure to complete the form at this [link](#) for your students' 5th grade t-shirt size.



To stay up to date be sure to read each issue of the "Rockin' Croc Times."

CHOMP Update

Students did a great job this week earning their CHOMPliments in the cafeteria and specials. We are now only two CHOMPliments away from selecting our reward from the revised list of options. Watch this space next week to find out what our students selected.

CHOMPliments: We currently have 48 CHOMPliments

IMPORTANT DATES

August 22- Student Council Applications due ([Application](#))

August 27th - Fall Pictures 10:00

August 28th - Ident - A - Kid pictures

August 30th - Battle of the Books deadline to sign up - see Newsworthy Announcements page 2

August 30th - Odyssey of the Mind signup deadline - see Newsworthy Announcements page 2.

September 2nd- Labor Day (No School)

Mr. T's Pick of the Week: Alexis

Backpack Buddies

We need your help collecting donations for our BackPack Buddy Program. This program provides food for students in our community for weekends and extended holidays/track out. You can sign up to donate or volunteer here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080A4CA5AC2DAAFC1-remainder>

Thank you for your support. Please reach out if you have any questions or suggestions!

Newsworthy Announcements

First in Fitness

Grades 2-5 will begin fitness testing in their 4 class meeting. The testing schedule is as follows:

- Class 3 - Fitness station practice and 7 minute jog
- Class 4 - Shuttle Run and 9 minute jog
- Class 5 - 100 yard dash test and Practice Mile
- Class 6 - Mile Run test - **8 laps around the bus loop without walking.**
- Class 7 - Sharks and Surfers game - testing for Pull Ups and Standing Broad Jump
- Class 8 - 1 minute Speed Rope test

There are also helpful videos available on Mr. Miller's website. Please click the link → [Fitness Videos](#)

Battle of the Books

I am excited to announce that this year we will be having a Sycamore Creek Elementary Battle of the Books for fourth and fifth grade. The goal of Battle of the Books is to support students in their love and discovery for reading by introducing them to quality literature. Students who choose to participate in Battle of the Books create a team of 3 to 4 students. All members of the team should be in the same grade and on the same track. The members then read a selection of books. In the spring, the teams will battle against each other in a bracket style competition on their knowledge of the books. Students interested in participating need to complete the registration form below and return it by August 30th.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1SX30AuWeugzHvrkL53-QRdiLx9o-6KqEQManZBk9utA/edit?usp=sharing>

Volunteer Registration

We hope you will consider being a volunteer at school this year in the classroom or as a field trip chaperone. You must register as a volunteer EVERY YEAR. The volunteer system will be open daily for Reactivation/registration. Volunteers and volunteer applicants should direct their questions to the front office.

You must register as a volunteer to chaperone the Washington DC field trip.

Odyssey of the Mind

Odyssey of the Mind (OM) is an extracurricular educational program run by families outside of school that focuses on student teamwork through creative problem-solving opportunities. Team members think "outside of the box" and apply their creativity to solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics. Teams then bring their solutions to a local competition in early March, with winning teams next competing at the state and potentially world levels. Parents and students interested in learning more about Odyssey of the Mind are invited to an interest meeting on Thursday, August 15th at 5:00 in the Media Center. Students interested in participating need complete the registration form below and return it by August 30th.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IQsNz0tNLX3iO0D2o pTbSCR1bvvxEBIEB794G8k1XIU/edit?usp=sharing>

Class Room Parent Information

Be on the lookout for information from Mrs. Vandergriff our room parent this year. If you have not already done so complete the [form](#) regarding your students t-shirt size for our 5th grade shirt.



Mrs. Lyons is in need of weekly volunteers to help in the library. If you are interested in helping her out, please email her at alyons@wcpss.net.

Curriculum Update

Math: This week our students have continued their study of volume. We formalized our calculation of volume by introducing the algorithm length x width x height. Students solved various real world volume problems in small groups and took part in a popcorn prism activity. Students created two rectangular prisms with the same size sheets of computer paper. After folding the paper in different ways we filled one prism with popcorn. Next, we placed the other empty prism around the outside of the filled prism. Students then predicted which prism would hold more popcorn. Finally we removed the prism full of popcorn that allowed the popcorn to flow into the other prism. Our students were amazed to see that the shorter wider prism held more popcorn. Afterwards we calculated the actual volume to see the difference in volumes.

Reading: This week in reading we read several more chapters of our story "Esperanza Rising". Students further reviewed the human rights that were threatened within the chapters. Our main focus this week was examining character reactions to various events. We began by discussing major events that occurred and determined that for the chapter "Las Almendras" the most significant event was mama and Esperanza moving into their small work camp cabin. Our students and Mr. T co-wrote a reaction paragraph based upon Esperanza's reaction after reviewing the EL provided paragraph. Students then wrote another reaction paragraph with a partner about how the characters responded to Mama's illness.

Social Studies/Science: In social studies this week we continued our study of the United States government. Students further examined kid friendly versions of the Declaration of Independence and we reviewed the weaknesses of our first government that was created by the Articles of Confederation.

OBJECTIVES



I Can Statements:

I Can... In order to bring purpose to what your child is learning, we post I CAN statements on our board daily. It is important that your child is continually utilizing these to evaluate their understanding. You can check in with your student by discussing the following statements.

Math:

I can determine the volume of a rectangular prism using multiple strategies.

Reading:

I can quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text states explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

Social Studies:

I can explain how ideas of various governments (Roman, Greek, Iroquois, and British) influenced the development of the United States government.