

# FORESTVILLE NEWS NEST

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Issue #2

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## PRINCIPALS CHIRP...

### Lessons from the SMART side/SMARTboard Excitement:

We are so pleased with the buzz in our community about raising money to purchase SMARTboards for each classroom. Thanks to the work of staff members like Mrs. Martha Short-Smith, School Based Technology Specialist, and Mrs. Tara Belke, Reading Specialist, our staff members are very knowledgeable in the use of this tool.

In the 2004-05 school year, our PTA started purchasing SMARTboards- nine total. Our staff gained valuable experience with one per grade level and one for specialists and special educators. In the five years since, the knowledge and experience have increased tremendously (and the price has gone down). Now is an excellent time for teachers to utilize that knowledge with each class throughout the school day. Thank you for your help in making the goal of one in every classroom possible. Our teachers are so excited and would love to demonstrate its interactive nature and involving children through visual, tactile and auditory modes. Here are some other examples.

**Diana Early (K):** For years now, Mrs. Early has introduced journaling to kindergarteners. This year, she introduced the concept by way of the SMARTboard. The children are picking up on the concept and doing the writing more effectively.

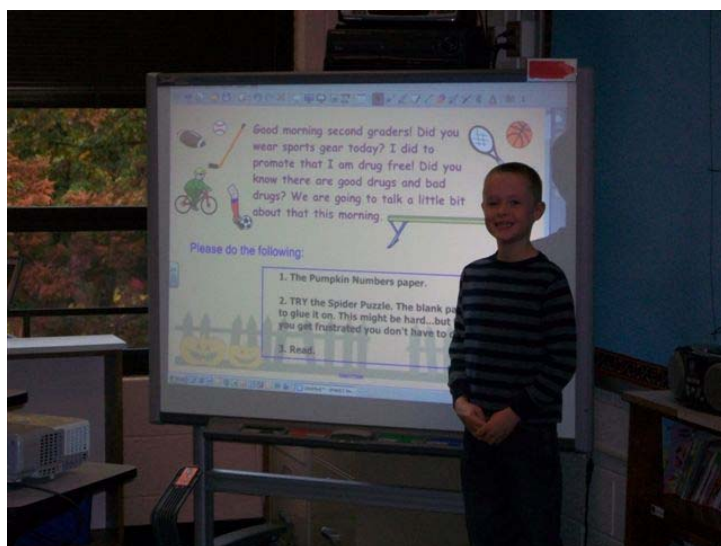


**Courtney Juncker (K)** who had a SMARTboard in her classroom at her previous school. During Morning Meeting, the class uses the SMART board for the monthly calendar, weather calendar, and songs. The whole class will then interactively use it during a lot of math lessons. They are able to play games such as sorting, patterning, rolling dice, making predictions, etc. Her whole class will then watch as Mrs. Juncker does her journal entry for the day on the board. Here the students are able to see a much bigger version of drawing, labeling, and writing. She has all the Letter People books scanned and read them together with the whole class on the SMART Board before the students go home and read them with their families. Next month she will begin my question of the day with the whole class. Each student will answer the question as they come in for the day using tally marks.



**Elaine Lombardi (1<sup>st</sup>):** The Smartboard gallery has many templates that she uses on a regular basis. The handwriting and math/geometry slides are her favorites. The Reading Specialist, Mrs. Tara Belke's word study (spelling) lessons that she created and posted on the server are a weekly mainstay.

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> grade team** uses the available SMARTboards to the children's learning advantage. Recently Mr. Terry Morrow and Mrs. Lauren Paull combined efforts to create SMART lessons on ordinal and cardinal numbers and rounding. Mr. Morrow posted the lesson on his 24/7 Blackboard account. In addition, Mrs. Anita Boggs provided a lesson to her second grade math class on rounding by depicting roller coaster cars on a track. Equal to the impressive use of the SMARTboard was her open-ended questioning students about the process of rounding. Of course Miss Carrie Gilbert "earned" a SMARTboard last year through a grant process and has been using her board a lot!



**Sarina Anch (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade):** She likes the vortex template for sorting a variety of items such as spelling features, butterfly/moth characteristics, parts of speech, geometric solids/2-D shapes, whole numbers/fractions, etc. The vortex will throw the word/phrase/number back out if it is placed in the wrong category. It sucks it in if it's correctly sorted. The children love it. (The vortex was demonstrated at our October PTA General Meeting and it was easy to understand the children's delight).

**Kurt Jacobs (5<sup>th</sup> Grade)** uses the SMARTboard in math class to help the children visualize the concepts. The fifth grade team uses the board frequently for the Global Awareness Program. It is also used to review for the writing SOL test with the outcome being a high pass rate.

**Terry Morrow (ESOL)** used the SMART Notebook earlier this year was for connections (**Language Arts.3.5.b.1** Make connections between experiences and reading selections). He started with "text to self" connection by watching a clip on SMARTboard from Discovery Streaming called Stone Soup, an animated story that the students then discussed and responded to using the Board. Then for 'text to text' Mr. Morrow had scanned in passages from several books into the Notebook so that they could look at them together, both as individual pages and then side by side using the Notebook dual page view. They also completed some T chart comparisons between them. They did one chart as a group and then printed off the page from Notebook so each student could complete one on their own.



**Shana Twitchell (Advanced Academics Specialist):** The advanced academic students have enjoyed using the Smart Board to encapsulate license plate messages and then create their own encapsulated plate that described themselves.

## OUR DIRECTION

October 1<sup>st</sup> was a huge date for deadlines around Forestville. It marked the date that our final Teacher Leadership Grant Accountability Report and our 2009-10 School Improvement Plan were due. Our School Improvement Plan will soon be on our website. It provides a critical look at areas of focus for our students and staff; please take a look so that you know where we want to head.

## READING FOR THE RECORD

Forestville kindergarteners in Mrs. Early's classes and Mrs. Juncker's class joined thousands of students across the United States in the JumpStart Read for the Record program on October 8<sup>th</sup>. Students everywhere listened to Eric Carle's *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* including one reading in Spanish. We were pleased with our participation.

## PARENT LIAISON

We are fortunate to be joined by a parent liaison for four hours each week. Mrs. **Tania Bove** who also works at Dranesville Elementary will be here on Tuesday afternoons.

## BOOK CHARACTER CELEBRATIONS

On Friday October 16<sup>th</sup>, two classes celebrated two book characters, Willy Wonka (Jeff LeLoup's third grade) and Nate the Great (Lauren Paull's second grade class). A variety of activities were held throughout the day. For example, Mr. LeLoup's class made models of aspects of the Chocolate Factory, complete with lots of candy. Mrs. Paull's group celebrated their readings with a pancake treat (Nate's favorite food) at the end of the day along with Forest the Cardinal.



## BETTER BUS BEHAVIOR BRIGADE

Better Bus Behavior Brigade is one Positive Behavior Support Committee at work in our school. This committee consists of staff members and parents devoted to improving the climate on each of our buses. Chairman Terry Morrow and his committee are following up on a survey conducted last spring and adding to our data sources with children and adults. Bus drivers complete surveys on bus climate every two weeks along with being able to complete their regular incident reports and talking to staff members and administrators at loading and unloading times. If you would like to provide information to Mr. Morrow and his committee, please write him at [TPMorrow@fcps.edu](mailto:TPMorrow@fcps.edu). We are counting on this program being as successful as our Cardinal Compliments. To date over 3,000 compliments have been earned by the students.



## BIKE RACK

Thanks to the work of one of our parents, Mrs. Nancy Collins, and the Performance Bicycles Shops in Vienna and Baileys Crossroads, we now have a bike rack with spaces for 12 bikes at the front of our school near Entrance 2. In addition, Mr. Rene Echeverria helped to deliver and set up the bike rack.

## SCA RED RIBBON SPIRIT WEEK! OCTOBER 26 - 30

This week is the Red Ribbon Week! We are celebrating it by holding our first SCA spirit week of the year.

The SCA officers will make an announcement each day reminding students about the spirit week.

Monday (26<sup>th</sup>): **“Follow Your Dreams, Don’t Do Drug” – Pajama Day**

Tuesday (27<sup>th</sup>): **“Team Up Against Drugs” – Sports Day**

Wednesday (28<sup>th</sup>): **“Sock-It to Drugs” – Crazy Socks Day**

Thursday (29<sup>th</sup>): **“Friends Help Friends Be Drug Free” – Twin Day**

Friday (30<sup>th</sup>): **“Drug Free America” – Wear Red, White, and Blue Day**

