

# BOBCAT BULLETIN

*The latest news and updates from Severna Park Elementary School*



Dear Severna Park Elementary Families,

I wanted to begin March by giving a big thank you to our PTO and SPES families for funding our primary hallway water bottle filling station! It has been such an amazing improvement for our younger learners and has already been quite popular! By the end of the year, our three bottle filling stations will be close to saving 10,000 plastic bottles! Thank you all for supporting our students' healthy habits and remaining hydrated when they are in school!

At Severna Park Elementary, we have some amazing and dedicated substitutes that are always willing to fill in for teachers and teaching assistants when they are out of the building, but we are always looking for additional substitutes! You do not need to be available every day and you can pick up jobs when it aligns with your schedule! If you are interested, the online application is below!

Substitute Teacher/Teaching Assistant Application [Link](#)

## MARCH "MUST-REMEMBERS"

**MAR 1-11 READ-A-THON**

**MAR 5 PTO MEETING**

**MAR 6 LEDOS/FROYO NIGHT**

**MAR 8 VISION & HEARING RECHECK**

**MAR 12 FAMILY READING NIGHT**

**MAR 14 CHICK-FIL-A SPIRIT DAY**

**MAR 14 SPRING PHOTOS**

**MAR 19 2-HR EARLY DISMISSAL**

**MAR 25-APR 1 SPRING BREAK**

**APR 2 LEDOS/FROYO NIGHT**

**APR 4 2-HR EARLY DISMISSAL**

**APR 5 2-HR EARLY DISMISSAL**

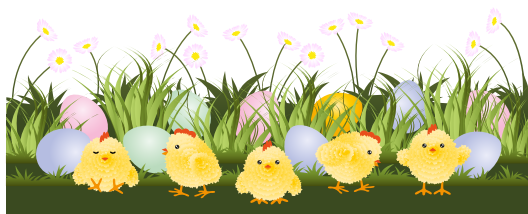
This year we have been doing our best to ensure that dismissal is done safely and efficiently. If you are having a change in dismissal plans, please remember to email Lisa Sykes (LMSYKES@aacps.org), Dawn Boring (DBORING@aacps.org), and your student's homeroom teacher by 1:00 pm with any dismissal changes. We do understand that last minute changes do happen, so please communicate these as soon as possible. Walkers are dismissed at 2:30 pm, please arrive a little before this time if you are meeting your student by the kindergarten/recess door!

If you are interested in your student(s) participating in AACPS summer programs, the sign up is happening now! Applications will be accepted through March 15th and families will be sent a notice on April 15th to let them know if their student has been placed into their desired camp, waitlisted, or not accepted. When families do receive this notification, they will have five days to respond to confirm and accept their student's seat in the camp. For a full list of summer programs and how to apply, please use the link below! You will need your student's student id number and their date of birth to register.

Summer Programs: <https://www.aacps.org/summer>

If you have any questions or concerns, please know that my door is always open.

Sincerely,  
Kyle Butler, Principal (kwbutler@aacps.org)



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Estimadas familias de la Escuela Primaria Severna Park,



¡Quería comenzar marzo dando un gran agradecimiento a nuestras familias de PTO y SPES por financiar nuestra estación principal de llenado de botellas de agua en el pasillo! ¡Ha sido una mejora increíble para nuestros estudiantes más jóvenes y ya ha sido bastante popular! A finales de año, nuestras tres estaciones de llenado de botellas estarán cerca de ahorrar 10.000 botellas de plástico. ¡Gracias a todos por apoyar los hábitos saludables de nuestros estudiantes y mantenerse hidratados cuando están en la escuela!

En la Escuela Primaria Severna Park, tenemos algunos sustitutos increíbles y dedicados que siempre están dispuestos a reemplazar a los maestros y asistentes de enseñanza cuando están fuera del edificio, ¡pero siempre estamos buscando sustitutos adicionales! ¡No es necesario que esté disponible todos los días y puede recoger trabajos cuando se alinee con su horario! Si está interesado, ¡la solicitud en línea está a continuación!

## MARCH "MUST-REMEMBERS"

**MAR 1-11 READ-A-THON**

**MAR 5 PTO MEETING @6:30PM**

**MAR 5 LEDOS/FROYO NIGHT**

**MAR 8 VISION & HEARING RE-CHECK**

**MAR 12 FAMILY READING NIGHT**

**MAR 14 CHICK-FIL-A SPIRIT DAY**

**MAR 14 SPRING PHOTOS**

**MAR 19 2-HR EARLY DISMISSAL**

**MAR 25-APR 1 SPRING BREAK**

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[Enlace de solicitud de maestro sustituto/asistente de enseñanza](#)

Este año hemos estado haciendo todo lo posible para garantizar que el despido se realice de manera segura y eficiente. Si tiene un cambio en los planes de salida, recuerde enviar un correo electrónico a Lisa Sykes (LMSYKES@aacps.org), Dawn Boring (DBORING@aacps.org) y al maestro de aula de su estudiante antes de la 1:00 pm con cualquier cambio de salida. Entendemos que los cambios de última hora ocurren, así que comuníquelos lo antes posible. Los caminantes salen a las 2:30 pm, ¡llegue un poco antes de esta hora si se encuentra con su estudiante en la puerta del jardín de infantes / recreo!

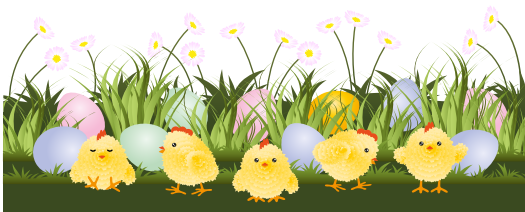
Si está interesado en que su(s) estudiante(s) participe(n) en los programas de verano de AACPS, ¡la inscripción está sucediendo ahora! Las solicitudes se aceptarán hasta el 15 de marzo y las familias recibirán un aviso el 15 de abril para informarles si su estudiante ha sido colocado en el campamento deseado, en la lista de espera o no aceptado. Cuando las familias reciban esta notificación, tendrán cinco días para responder y confirmar y aceptar el asiento de su estudiante en el campamento. Para obtener una lista completa de los programas de verano y cómo solicitarlos, utilice el siguiente enlace. Necesitará el número de identificación de estudiante de su estudiante y su fecha de nacimiento para registrarse.

Programas de verano: <https://www.aacps.org/summer>

Si tiene alguna pregunta o inquietud, sepa que mi puerta siempre está abierta.

Sinceramente

Kyle Butler, Principal (kwbutler@aacps.org)



# Counselor's Corner

Mrs. Katie McCord



SPES' character trait for March is **Mindfulness**. Mindfulness is the practice of bringing your full awareness to the present. The Harvard Help Guide states that "Mindfulness is the practice of purposely focusing your attention on the present moment—and accepting it without judgment. Mindfulness is now being examined scientifically and has been found to be a key element in stress reduction and overall happiness." Through mindfulness we can train ourselves to show compassion to ourselves and others and to be more grateful. Research also finds that mindfulness practice decreases stress and anxiety, increases attention, improves relationships, and strengthens compassion. It is a positive practice for students and families.

One mindful activity you can try this month is actively noticing nature during walks with your children. When we consciously engage our senses during walks it calms and grounds us and relaxes our mind and body. It also helps restore attention and boosts the brain's ability to think. During this month, I will teach every class a lesson on mindfulness and its benefits. The 5th Grade Human Relations Students will share about Mindfulness on the Monday morning announcements. Teachers are encouraged to take "Mindful Moments" throughout the month of March with classes as well to build a practice where students can train their attention and breath for a moment and then focus on their learning.

March Guidance Lesson Topics: Kindergarten & First Grade- Mindfulness and Stranger Safety, Second through Fifth grade – Mindfulness.



**Coming on Thursday, March 14, 2024**  
**Spring Individuals, Classroom & Club Groups &**  
**Yearbook Candid Photos**

Spring Individual, Classroom Groups and Club Groups will be taken in the cafeteria on the stage and stage steps.

Candid photos for the yearbook will be taken randomly throughout the day.

A hard copy of the photo order form is being sent home with your student(s) along with an email containing the link if you would like to place your photo order electronically.

**SPirit DAY**  
**Chick-fil-A Severna Park**  
**Thursday, March 14, 2024**  
**All Day!**

Come by for ...

Breakfast, Lunch, or Dinner

...in support of Severna Park Elementary School! A portion of your purchase will be donated back to the school!

Please remember:

- To let the Chick-fil-A order taker know that your order is for Severna Park Elementary's Spirit Day!
- If you place a mobile order thru the Chick-fil-A app for either pickup or delivery, please write in the note section that your order is for Severna Park Elementary's Spirit Day!

**Chick-fil-A Severna Park**  
**511 Ritchie Hwy [www.SPCFA.com](http://www.SPCFA.com) (410) 647-6232**  
**[www.facebook.com/SevernaParkCFA](http://www.facebook.com/SevernaParkCFA)**







# SPES PTO NEWS

March 2024

## A quick note:

**Happy almost Spring, Bobcats!** March is in full swing, and so is our PTO calendar! Help us celebrate **National Reading Month** as we kick-off our annual **Read-a-thon**, happening **March 1st-11th**! Your students attended an **assembly** last week, learning all about the amazing things reading does for our brains, as well as how we can set goals and work together as a school to reach them. Along the way, there will be opportunities to earn prizes and take advantage of fun programs like fun and exciting **Masked Reader**. We hope you'll join us as we culminate our event at the **Family Reading Night** as we engage in teacher-led reading activities and unmask our readers. Visit us online at [www.spespto.org](http://www.spespto.org) for further details on these programs and more March fun!

😊, Your SPES PTO

### READ-A-THON

Running **1-11 March**! Help us reach our goal of 100,000 minutes read and \$15,000 raised by signing up online at [www.spespto.org/readathon](http://www.spespto.org/readathon). Log minutes online or on hard copy reading forms **by March 11th**. Participation is voluntary and can be done through reading and/or collecting donations.

### CHESSIE

Over 100 readers are quickly swimming up through levels and volunteers are needed **Mon-Thu mornings**. Visit [www.spespto.org/chessie](http://www.spespto.org/chessie) to sign up.

### FAMILY READING NIGHT





Bring the whole family on **March 12th**! **5:50** Doors Open | **6pm** Masked Reader Reveal (plus stations after) | **7:30** Event Ends. RSVP online at [www.spespto.org/reading\\_night](http://www.spespto.org/reading_night).

### YEARBOOK

On sale now at [ybpay.com](http://ybpay.com). **School code is 14709324**. Extras will not be available, so order now! Spring Pictures (incl. Club & Class photos) happening **March 14th**. Submit your photos from this year's SPES events and activities by emailing [spesptoyearbook@gmail.com](mailto:spesptoyearbook@gmail.com).



## Save the Dates:

- ☐ 1-11 Mar: Read-a-thon 
- ★ ☐ 5 Mar: PTO Meeting @ 6:30pm
- ☐ 5 Mar: Ledo & Froyo Spirit Night 
- ☐ 12 Mar: Family Reading Night
- ☐ 14 Mar: Picture Day! 
- ☐ 19 Mar: Unity Day / PTO Feeds Teachers
- ☐ 19 Mar: Early Dismissal
- ☐ 21 Mar: Read-a-thon Prize Day
- ☐ 25 Mar-1 Apr: SPRING BREAK 

\*All dates subject to change.  
Confirm final dates on website.

## Don't Forget!

**PTO Meeting** is the **5th**! School Board Representative Dana Schalheim will be attending. Come prepared with questions, or send them to [spelementarypto@gmail.com](mailto:spelementarypto@gmail.com).

**Shout Outs!** Have you spotted a Staff Member or Volunteer going above and beyond for SPES? Give them a shout out at [www.spespto.org/shoutout](http://www.spespto.org/shoutout). We'll recognize everyone submitted at our monthly PTO meetings and on our website.

**I missed a fundraiser! How may I directly donate?**  
We wish we could be everywhere at once, but that's not possible. Visit [www.spespto.org/form/m/262615](http://www.spespto.org/form/m/262615) for instructions on how to support your Bobcats anytime!

## Join the Read-a-thon & build your own story!

Students will compete for the most minutes read and donations earned from March 1st-March 11th. Prizes will be given at the overall, class & individual levels! Plus, ask your student about the special bonus prize if we reach 100,000 minutes together!

All proceeds earned will go towards SPES PTO reading programs such as Author-in-Residence, Bare Books, Birthday Books, Bobcat Book Club, Chessie, and more!

### Why Participate?

- Readathons have been proven to boost a love of reading in children of all ages.
- Children who read at least 20 minutes a day are exposed to almost 2 million words per year! Talk about building a great vocabulary!
- Reading for just 6 minutes a day reduces stress levels by 68%, & slows down heart rate!
- On average, readers develop a greater sense of empathy! Reading can really lead to kindness!
- Reading is free! Books are available to all children through your school or local library

Prizes are available thanks to our sponsors:  
Matt Wyble & Joe Smith of Next Step Realty  
and Park Books & LitCoLab!

### How Do I Join?

→ Go to: [99pledges.com/fund/SPESBuildYourStory/addme](https://99pledges.com/fund/SPESBuildYourStory/addme)

Scroll down to the bottom and select "Add Participant". Then enter your information, making sure to select the correct Teacher and check your email for further instructions!

→ Record Reading Minutes

Students will have the option to record their reading minutes either online through their site, or on the Reading Logs received on March 1st.

→ Share Your Site!

Share your site with family and friends. The more donations you receive, the higher the prize level you'll reach!

ALL PARTICIPATING STUDENTS  
WILL RECEIVE A 10% OFF  
COUPON FROM PARK BOOKS!

(Coupons will be distributed to students  
once they complete the online signup.)



Scan here to sign up!

QUESTIONS?

AshleighWyble@gmail.com or  
spelementarypto@gmail.com



MARCH 12TH  
6 - 7:30 PM

# FAMILY READING NIGHT



## TEACHER-LED ACTIVITIES

- ⚡ READER'S THEATER
- ✂️ CREATE YOUR OWN STORY
- 🛠️ BUILD YOUR STORY
- 📖 READING ACTIVITY STATIONS
- 🛏️ BUILD A BETTER BEDTIME ROUTINE
- 🖌️ ILLUSTRATE YOUR STORY

WISH  
LIST

### HELP STOCK THE MEDIA CENTER

Purchase a book off Mrs. Person's Wish List at  
<https://a.co/gCo02PE> & drop it off in the cafeteria.



### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Doors Open: 5:50PM  
Masked Readers Reveal: 6:00PM  
First Rotation: 6:10PM - 6:30PM  
Second Rotation: 6:40PM - 7:00PM  
Community Tables: 7:00PM - 7:30PM



### MASKED READER REVEALS!

Are you ready to find out who's hiding behind the masks? Be sure to arrive on time, because our Masked Readers will be revealed promptly at 6 o'clock!



### COMMUNITY TABLES:

Meet members of our community at their hosted tables! Do a craft, grab a freebie and learn all about the awesome learning resources available right here in our local community!



SPELEMENTARYPTO@GMAIL.COM



WWW.SPESPTO.ORG/READINGNIGHT

THE SPES PTO PRESENTS OUR 2024



Join us and be dazzled by the diverse range of our amazing performers! From dance to music to comedy, our students promise something amazing for everyone.

SEVERNA PARK  
HIGH SCHOOL

More information is available  
on our website at  
[www.spespto.org/variety](http://www.spespto.org/variety).

04.12.2024  
TIME TBA

Questions? Email Shannon at [spesvarietyshow@gmail.com](mailto:spesvarietyshow@gmail.com)

# THE SPES YEARBOOK SALE IS NOW LIVE!

ORDER TODAY AT  
[WWW.YBPAY.COM](http://WWW.YBPAY.COM)

Yearbook ID Code:  
14709324

Submit photos for the yearbook to  
[spesptoyearbook@gmail.com](mailto:spesptoyearbook@gmail.com).