

# It's Great to Be a Wildcat!

## *The Latest BUZZ from Mrs. B*

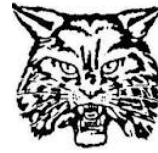


### Wildcats are Roaring with good news....

There are so many things to be proud of when we talk about all our kids in the district! After reading, please let all our kids and staff know you are proud of them too!!!!

- What a great job our students are doing and have done this year in all extra-curricular areas!!! The plays, speech, scholastic bowl and all the sports show dedication to their work and accomplishments. Thank you to the students and all the staff that assist as coaches and mentors. It truly is *a great year* to be a **WILDCAT!!!!**
- PAWS (Positive Active Wildcat Supporters) has started planning events for the rest of the school year. Please pay attention to the BCR Alerts and any TeacherEase emails for meeting times and dates so you can help support your child and the schools. **On APRIL 15<sup>TH</sup> AT JFK PAWS will host a DODGEBALL NIGHT. Doors open at 6 PM and all are welcome.**
- Do you know of a student who is or will be five years old by September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016? If so, please ask their parents if they have registered them for Kindergarten for the 2014-2015 school year. If they have not, please ask them to call the JFK office at 664-4601, as soon as possible. This information helps us properly prepare for staff, supplies and facilities for our new students.
- Check out the new PAWS Facebook page. Information about activities (such as Dodge Ball) and additional information about meetings, etc. can be found there.

***Congratulations to Abby Draper  
who represented JFK at the  
County Spelling Bee. Abby took  
2<sup>nd</sup> place.***



### **PARCC Assessments are coming!!!!**

Yes, it is that time again.... The Illinois State Assessment Test, better known as the PARCC Assessment, will take place on April 18<sup>th</sup> through May 13<sup>th</sup>. These assessments are known as high-stakes testing because they were created to show a child's knowledge and achievement through one single assessment. While our students did well on the assessment, at the state average for the first year, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has determined that they are changing the way the testing sessions were made. Instead of two separate testing windows each 4 weeks long (a winter and spring assessment—total of 8 weeks) there will be only one testing window at the dates above. However, while it reduces the amount of tests that the student would take over all with two testing windows, it extends the amount of time a student tests during the single test window. In addition, this will be the first test using the new Next Generation Science Standards.

On another note, ISBE has shared that any pi=lots or other field test items will be embedded into existing assessments reducing the need for schools to volunteer. PARCC is a rigorous assessment and we hope the traditional at home preps of a good night's sleep during testing, breakfast (home or school) and a reassuring, "Just do your best..." will be part of your child's testing week "homework".

Addition resources for parents can be found on our district website: [www.sv99.org](http://www.sv99.org); on the ISBE website: [www.isbe.net](http://www.isbe.net); and on the PARCC website: <http://www.parcconline.org>. Also, PARCC sample test questions can be found here: <http://www.parcconline.org/assessments/practice-tests>. I encourage parents to check out the website to become familiar with the new approach to testing, as well as, the rigor and expectations of the assessment. All students will be testing on line. Any questions, please contact Mrs. B or Mrs. Nauman at 815-664-4601.



**Wildcats' three key words:  
RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, and SAFETY!!!!!!**