

It's Great to Be a Wildcat!

The Latest BUZZ from Mrs. B

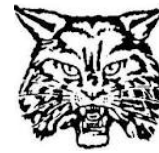


Wildcats are Roaring with good news....

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!!!!

- Do you talk with your child about **PBIS**? Please take a moment to ask them about it and what it means. We are hoping to take this into the community soon, and a strong parent partnership will be helpful.
- 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!!!!**
- Please help with the pick up/drop off process. At both schools, please note that you should not arrive any earlier than 15 minutes before school ends. JFK will also be adding cones to guide the direction for cars to arrive in a single line in front of JFK, moving as far ahead as you can. Lincoln drivers, please do not block our neighbors in or out of their driveways. Bus riders need to have a valid bus pass. All students riding the bus must be paid in full by this time. Students are no longer be able to ride the bus without a valid pass.
- Do you know of a student who is or will be five years old by September 1st, 2014? 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.

The County Spelling Bee took place on February 27th. Contestants representing JFK were Eli Komadina and Devan Janssen. Alternates were Katie Drumheller and Anna Herrmann.



ISATs are coming!!!!

Yes, it is that time again.... The Illinois Standards Assessment Test, better known as ISATs, will take place on March 3rd through March 14th. 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 do very well on the assessment, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has determined that they are going to continue to change cut scores on an assessment that has been normed by a completely different standard. ISBE has shown that all students' scores will be considerably lower than previous years. Please be aware that this is due to the norming and not your child's effort. In addition, all questions on the assessment in math and English Language Arts will be based on the new Illinois Learning Standards. This will be the first test using 100% of the new standards.

On another note, two classes of students in grades 3, 4, 6 and 8 will also be taking the PARCC Field Test. This is the pilot for the new assessment next year. ISBE has chosen the students by classes that will be taking the PARCC. Grades 3, 6, and 8 will be taking the assessment beginning March 24th, and grades 4 and 8 will be taking the assessment beginning May 5th.

We see nothing but great effort by our students and do not want to see students feel overwhelmed or disappointed for something they have no control over. However with this in mind, we still want to encourage all our students to do their very best on these assessments. Parents can assist their child by making sure they have a good nights sleep and a good breakfast during the two week testing windows. If you have any concerns please ask your child's teacher or give Mrs. B a call.



Reminders:

- NOTE: No school on March 3rd for Casimir Pulaski Day.
- Spring Break is late this year and begins on April 14th through April 21st. Students return April 22nd.

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