Bluebird Buzz

GRANDPARENTS DAY SUCCESS

Alvaton Elementary welcomed close to 450 special guests on September 8, 2014. The parking lots were full and any passerby would wonder what was going on at Alvaton Elementary. The answer to that question is simply—Alvaton celebrates our Grandparents!

The official day to celebrate grandparents was Sunday, September 7, 2014. A declaration signed by President Jimmy Carter in 1978 declared National Grandparents Day would be the first Sunday following Labor Day each year. This National day would be a day that grandparents and senior citizens could be recognized and honored for their contributions.

We wanted to give our students the opportunity to celebrate their grandparents at school in honor of this special day. Grandparents were invited to join their grandchild(ren) for lunch and spend time in the school with one another. The smiles and conversations that took place are memories these children and adults alike will cherish forever.

A special thank you to the volunteers, faculty and staff, cafeteria employees, and especially the grandparents that attended for making the event such a success!

COMMUNITY FORUM DATE HAS BEEN SET

The annual Parent/Community Forum for the Warren County Public Schools will be held on Tuesday, October 21 at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Rob Clayton, Superintendent would love to have a full house that evening. We ask that you come that evening ready to learn and share about your students, your schools, and your communities.

TRANSPORTATION AND INFORMATION CALLS

PARENTS: If you need to make alternative arrangements or send information to your students, please contact the office prior to 2:30 p.m. Calling by this time allows the main office to have sufficient time to relay the transportation change or other message to the student. Thank you in advance for your help.
Thank You to our many visitors that joined us on Monday, September 8. We LOVE our guests at Alvaton Elementary!
HABIT IN FOCUS

Seek First to Understand, Then to be Understood means that it is better to listen first and talk second. By taking the time to listen to another person, you reach a higher level of communication. Teaching Habit 5 to young children is done by first considering their age and development. Young children find it difficult to understand another paradigm (point of view). This habit is best approached by introducing listening as a skill that should be practiced. Learning to listen without interrupting and learning to listen with your ears, your eyes, and your heart will help children build a foundation for Habit 5. Simply put, we have two ears and one mouth so that we can spend more time listening with the intent to understand.

Sample activities that can be used to demonstrate Habit 5 - Seek First to Understand, Then to be Understood

Younger-Child Activities
1. To better understand how listening can help or hurt a relationship, try “pretend listening” with your child for a few minutes. Your child will be frustrated. Explain what you were doing and discuss how your child felt. Now have your child ignore you when you are talking. Discuss how it makes you feel when you are ignored. Finish the discussion by thinking of ways to let the other person know when you feel you are not being truly listened to. Remind your child that this is also an example of Think Win-Win.
2. Body language can be even more important than words. Play a game with your kids where you each try to guess the other’s emotion (happy, sad, angry, frustrated, bored, etc.) without using any words, just body language.
3. Demonstrate how saying the same phrase in a different tone of voice can give the phrase a completely different meaning. Try emphasizing different words in the phrase “I didn’t say you did it” and then have your child tell you how the meaning changed.
4. Read Chapter 5 of The 7 Habits of Happy Kids book with your child and then complete the Parent’s Corner.

Teen Activities
1. Ask yourself what your biggest listening problem is. Do you “pretend listen”? Do you only listen to give advice or judge? Do you plan what you are going to say instead of really listening? Work to improve your listening skills and model good listening behavior.
2. Is there an issue you and your teen always argue about? If so, go to your teen and say, “Help me understand your point of view.” Then really listen without interruptions. When your child is finished, repeat in your own words what you heard until he or she acknowledges feeling understood. Then it’s your turn to speak and your child’s turn to listen. You may want to use a “Talking Stick” when you are having this discussion. Only the person holding the Talking Stick is allowed to speak and doesn’t pass the stick to the other person until he or she feels understood.
3. Consider asking your teen to let you know when he or she feels you aren’t listening. When it happens, thank him or her, listen, and share back forth until your teen feels understood.

Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen. ~Winston Churchill

There is only one rule for being a good talker - learn to listen. ~Christopher Morley

Wisdom is the reward you get for a lifetime of listening when you’d have preferred to talk. ~Doug Larson.
SUGGESTED READINGS FOR
Habit 5: SEEK FIRST TO UNDERSTAND, THEN TO BE UNDERSTOOD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRIMARY AGE-CHILDREN’S READING LIST</th>
<th>INTERMEDIATE AGE-CHILDREN’S READING LIST</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Habit 5: Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood</strong></td>
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<td><strong>The Runaway Bunny</strong> by Margaret Wise Brown. <em>The Runaway Bunny</em> follows the thoughts of the little bunny who thinks he would like to run away. By seeking first to understand, Mother Rabbit truly listens to her little bunny. She then seeks to be understood by offering assurance that she will always come and find him.</td>
<td><strong>Marrying Malcolm Murtagh</strong> by Mame Farrell. Hannah wants to be popular more than anything else, but the son of her parents’ closest friends is geeky Malcolm Murtagh. She tries to keep their friendship a secret, but when it is revealed to her peers, she is forced to make a decision about her loyalties.</td>
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<td><strong>The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs!</strong> by Jon Scieszka. <em>The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs</em> gives children the traditional story from the wolf’s point of view (paradigm). Seeking to understand the wolf’s paradigm gives us a much different take on the story.</td>
<td><strong>Witch of Blackbird Pond</strong> by Elizabeth George Speare. Kit is marked by suspicion and disapproval upon arrival in colonial Connecticut in 1687. Kit finds a kindred spirit in Hannah Tupper, who the townspeople believe is a witch. Tom between her heart and her duty, Kit tries to get people to listen and understand.</td>
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<td><strong>Stellaluna</strong> by Janell Cannon. Stellaluna is a bat but is being raised with birds. Stellaluna has to seek to understand the birds’ habits in order to survive. As the story continues, the birds begin to understand why bats do things differently. They realize they can be friends, even though they are different.</td>
<td><strong>Rules</strong> by Cynthia Lord. Catherine has conflicted feelings about her younger brother, David, who is autistic. Despite a slight feeling of neglect from her parents, she loves him and tries to teach him “rules”—rules for behavior, for social situations, etc. When she meets Jason, a nonverbal paraplegic, she realizes that “normal” is difficult to define.</td>
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<td><strong>Jamaica’s Find</strong> by Juanita Havill. Jamaica is a little girl who finds a stuffed toy at the park and wants to keep it very much. However, her guilt is growing as she thinks the toy may belong to another child.</td>
<td><strong>Veronica Knows Best</strong> by Nancy Robinson. Veronica learns that the best way to make friends is to “take an interest” in people. She determines to test this theory on Kimberly Watson.</td>
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<td><strong>Alejandro’s Gift</strong> by Richard E. Albert. Alejandro lives alone in the desert, so he is very appreciative when small animals visit to drink from a small pond near his house. Alejandro, determined to provide water for the larger desert animals, digs a water hole for them, but they do not come. He seeks first to understand and realizes that the water hole is too close to his home, so he digs another hole farther away. The animals come to visit, understanding that he will not cause them harm.</td>
<td><strong>The Bully of Barkham Street</strong> by Mary Stolz. Martin is a bully. This book answers the question of what makes him act the way he does, as he seeks understanding to resolve problems.</td>
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1st Grade - Mrs. Moore

We’ve had tons of fun learning lots of new things! Math is one of our favorite times of the day. We’ve been practicing addition and subtraction story problems with spiders (YIKES!) and adding three addends with penguins and eggs (Oh My!). We’ve also gotten good at distinguishing nouns, verbs, and adjectives. Just say the word NOUNS, VERBS, or ADJECTIVES and get ready to see what we say in response! :) Another thing we have been learning about is making healthy food choices and the food groups. YUM! We can't wait for more exciting things to discover in the days ahead!

3rd Grade - Mrs. Cook

Mrs. Cook’s 3rd grade class title is SOARING TO EXCELLENCE. Many students in her class are demonstrating what it looks like to SOAR TO EXCELLENCE. Congratulations to these 3rd grade successes!

The students pictured to the left are soaring in Math. Congratulations to these ROUNding MASTERS.

English Language Learners Classroom

Alvaton Elementary has a growing population of English Language Learners. These students work hard every day with our ELL staff to become proficient. Our first grade group of ELL student has representation from 5 different countries and 6 different languages. We love all of our students and are amazed each day with the positive dynamics they bring to the Alvaton culture.
GOOD DEEDS CLUB

Volunteers and representatives from the Good Deeds club served the homeless of Bowling Green/Warren County this past Tuesday evening. Each individual that assisted stated that the opportunity had a profound impact on them. The Good Deeds Club is a club offered at Alvaton Elementary to primary age students. In this club, students have the opportunity to build upon their leadership qualities and serve others. The students participating have completed several community service projects including creating cards for nursing home patients, compiling basic necessities bags for the homeless, weeding the Alvaton landscaping, picking up trash around the Alvaton campus, and others.

Pictured Above left to right: Alvaton Elementary Principal, Sarah Johnson, Alvaton parent and volunteer, Cassy Cleary, District Nurse, Grecia Wilson, Alvaton Teacher and Good Deeds sponsor, Lesha McIntire, Alvaton Parent and PTO Vice President, Christina Oller, Alvaton Parent and volunteer, An Marie Davis, and Alvaton parent and PTO President, Mary Osborne.
Dear families,

The 5th grade students are raising money to attend a field trip to Washington, DC. To help raise money, we are sponsoring a dress up week at school. To dress up on these days, it will cost your child $0.50 per day. Money raised during this week will go toward a scholarship fund to make it possible for all students in 5th grade attend the trip. Thank you for your support!

Thank you,

Alvaton 5th Grade

Tuesday, September 16—Hat Day

Wednesday, September 17—Crazy sock and no shoes in class

Thursday—Sunglasses Day

Friday—Pajama Day/School Spirit Day
**ATTENTION**

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING IF YOU FEEL THAT YOUR FAMILY WILL NEED ASSISTANCE FOR THE HOLIDAYS!!!!

The holidays are rapidly approaching. If you need assistance for your family for Christmas, please apply WITH THE SALVATION ARMY. Sign-ups for Christmas Assistance will ONLY be accepted through the Salvation Army application process! NO applications will be completed through the Alvaton Family Resource Center. ALL ASSISTANCE WILL COME FROM THE SALVATION ARMY. PLEASE NOTE: The Salvation Army will only be sponsoring children 12 and Under by Christmas!!!

Angel Tree assistance will now be set by first come/first serve basis at the Salvation Army building at 400 W. Main Ave. beside the Salvation Army Thrift Store from 9 a.m-11 a.m. and 1 p.m.-3 p.m. September 22-October 3.

TEEN ANGEL SIGN-UPS for ages 13-18 (Must still be enrolled in school) will be held at the Public Library Main Branch from 9 a.m-11 a.m. and 1 p.m.-3 p.m. September 22-October 3.

YOU MUST BRING ALL NECESSARY PAPERWORK WITH YOU TO BE ABLE TO COMPLETE THE SIGN-UP!

Playstations, Xboxes, Nintendo DS, and other video games or high-ticket electronic items will NOT be provided so please do not ask!

Please call Mrs. McClard at (270) 846-1231 or come by the Alvaton Family Resource Center (located in the school, Room 263) if you have any questions or concerns.
Dear Alvaton families,

You are invited to attend our first annual family Monster Mash on October 17th from 5:00–7:00. We are raising money to provide scholarships to 5th grade students attending a Washington, DC field trip. The cost of the Monster Mash is $5 per person or $20 per family. This includes a drink and slice of pizza, as well as, a night of fun dancing for the entire family. NON-SCARY costumes are permitted and encouraged. 😊 Please make plans to attend.

***Additional items that can be purchased that night are snacks, photo booth, Frankenstein factory, and Kona Ice.

_________________________________________________________________________

PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN THIS PORTION TO MR. MCGINTY BY WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15 SO ADEQUATE PREPARATIONS CAN BE MADE FOR THIS FUN-FILLED EVENT!

STUDENT(s)
NAME(s): ________________________________________________________________

TEACHER(s): ____________________________________________________________

NUMBER OF FAMILY MEMBERS ATTENDING: ________________________________

***If you have multiple children attending Alvaton, it is only necessary to return ONE form! Thank you!***
The next volunteer training will be held October 13, 2014. Please make arrangements to attend on that date if you wish to assist in the classroom or attend field trips. **BECAUSE OF THE HECKIC SCHEDULE IN THE FRC, MRS. MCCLARD WILL BE UNABLE TO CONDUCT ANY INDIVIDUAL TRAININGS.**

- Volunteers are needed to assist in the library on Monday and Tuesday afternoons from 1:00 until 2:30 (or the end of the day.)
- A volunteer is needed to assist in tearing out/sorting workbook exercises for kindergarten students.
- A volunteer is needed to assist with various copying and laminating.

A message was sent to all volunteers concerning these opportunities. As requests come in from teachers, additional e-mails will be sent.

**THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE VOLUNTEERS THAT HAVE ASSISTED TO DATE!!!**

If you are interested in serving as a volunteer for one of the needs listed above, please contact Jill McClard by phone at 270-846-1231 or by e-mail at jill.mcclard@warren.kyschools.us.

*All volunteers must have had the necessary training and a cleared background check through the Warren County Board of Education to be able to volunteer.

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7 HEALTHY HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE KIDS

1. Be Proactive
2. Begin with the End in Mind
3. Put First Things First
4. Think Win-Win
5. Seek First to Understand, then to be Understood
6. Synergize
7. Sharpen the Saw
**Upcoming Important Dates**

**SEPTEMBER 15, 2014**  
**NO SCHOOL**  
Teacher Work Day-No School for students.

![No School](image1)

**SEPTEMBER 16-19, 2014**  
**Washington DC Fundraising Dress-Up Days**  
For 50 cents each day your student can help the 5th grade students fundraise for the Washington DC trip. Take advantage and join the fun. Truly a WIN-WIN for Alvaton Elementary.

![Washington DC](image2)

**SEPTEMBER 25, 2014**  
**LEADERSHIP DAY**  
Time for Alvaton Elementary to showcase our wonderful leaders in the building.

![Leadership](image3)

**OCTOBER 2, 2014**  
**PICTURE RETAKES**

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**Important Links**

- Warren County Schools Webpage
- Alvaton Elementary Webpage
- Elementary Lunch Menu
- Bluebird Buzz

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**ATTENTION PARENTS**

If a student has a special award, trophy, medal, etc. and would like to be recognized, we would like to give them a shout out in our newsletter and on our brag board that will be located in the cafeteria. Please let us know about these special recognitions.

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**Alvaton Elementary**  
Where Leaders SOAR!