

LONGLEAF ELEMENTARY BOBCAT NEWSLETTER

January 2024 Issue



HOME OF
THE BOBCATS

D A T E S T O S A V E

Jeremiah's 1-3

School Resumes 1-8

321 Ice Cream Night 1-10

Domino's 1-17

Book Fair Family Night 1-25

Long Doggers' Night 1/31



January

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1	2	3 Spirit Night!	4	5
8 School Resumes TODAY	9 SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK FOOD DRIVE JANUARY 8TH - MARCH 15TH	10 PTO MEETING 3:00 Spirit Night!	11	12 Report Cards on Focus
15 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY	16	17 Spirit Night!	18	19
22 IT'S BOOK FAIR! TIME!	23-25 BOOK FAIR THIS WEEK!		25 FAMILY NIGHT CONFERENCES BOOK FAIR MURAL PROJECT	26
29	30 CLASS PICTURES	31 Spirit Night!		

TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE

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<https://www.facebook.com/LongleafElementaryBPS>

PTO WEBSITE



4290 N. Wickham Road.
Melbourne, FL 32935

Principal: Mr. Jason Sherburne



321-242-4700

Assistant Principal: Mr. Rick Dillon



Longleaf Elementary School

4290 N. Wickham Road
Melbourne, Florida 32935-2476



Dear Parent/Guardian,

January Newsletter (Grades 3-6)



The Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) is a progress monitoring system that is administered three times per year to track your student’s progress in learning the Benchmarks of Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards throughout this school year. The purpose of this letter is to inform you that your student will participate in the second administration (PM2) of the Grades 3-6 Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) ELA Reading and Math assessments on **January 10th and 16th**. Your student’s results from PM2 are for informational purposes only, and you will be provided with information about how to access the results after testing is completed.

FAST assessments are computer-adaptive tests taken on a computer or tablet. The questions get easier or more difficult depending on how the student responds, and each student will see different questions from a common item bank. Each test attempt (PM1, PM2, and PM3) will present 35–40 items that will cover the entire test “blueprint,” meaning students will encounter items representative of the standards within the subject or grade level. For more information on the test design, please visit <https://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/best/>. If you or your student would like to interact with the online testing platform or review FAST ELA Reading and Mathematics sample items at home, sample test materials are available at <https://ffast.org/families.html>.

Please review the following policies with your student before testing:

- **Electronic Devices**—Students are not permitted to access any electronic devices, including, but not limited to, cell phones, smartphones, and smartwatches, at any time during testing or during breaks (e.g., restroom). If your student is found with an electronic device or is found using Bluetooth/wireless headphones/earbuds during testing, his or her test may be invalidated.
- **Calculator Policy**—For Grades 7–8 FAST Mathematics, approved handheld scientific calculators may be used. For Grade 6 FAST Mathematics, a handheld four-function calculator may be used.
- **Testing Rules Acknowledgment**— All tests include a Testing Rules Acknowledgment that reads: “I understand the testing rules that were just read to me. If I do not follow these rules, my test score may be invalidated.” Prior to testing, test administrators read the rules to students, and students acknowledge that they understand the testing rules by clicking the box in the secure browser indicating they understand the testing rules.
- **Discussing Test Content after Testing**— The last portion of the testing rules read to students before they click the box to accept the Testing Rules Acknowledgment states that because the content of all statewide assessments is secure, students may not discuss or reveal details about the test content (including test items and passages) after the test. This includes any type of electronic communication, such as texting, emailing, or posting to social media sites. Please make sure your student understands this policy prior to testing and remind them that “discussing” test content includes any kind of electronic communication, such as texting, emailing, posting to social media, or sharing online. **While students may not share information about secure test content after testing, this policy is not intended to prevent students from discussing their testing experiences with their parents/families.**
- **Working Independently**—Students are responsible for doing their own work during the test and for protecting their answers from being seen by others. If students are caught cheating during testing, their tests will be invalidated.
- **Testing Accommodations**—If your student has an Individual Education Plan (IEP), a Section 504 Plan, or is an English Language Learner (ELL) or a recently exited ELL, please contact the school to discuss any testing accommodations that will be provided for your student.

If you have any questions related to this test administration, you may contact Rick Dillon at Dillon.rick@brevardschools.org.

For more information about the FAST program, please visit the portal at [FLFAST.org](https://ffast.org).

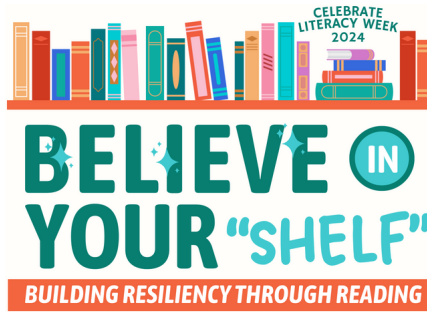
Thank you for supporting your student and encouraging him or her to do his or her best during this test administration.

Sincerely,

Rick Dillon

Rick Dillon
Assistant Principal





School Events:

- Book Fair January 22-26
- Literacy Book Fair Family Night – Thursday, January 25 5-7
- Daily book readings on BCTV News, Longleaf morning news show

Home Challenge:

- Create a reading habit for your family.

Suggestions.....

Turn off electronics for ½ an hour and read as a family.

Substitute some electronics time for reading time this week.

Articles on Resilience in Reading:

• <https://biglifejournal.com/blogs/blog/top-childrens-books-resilience>

One of the most effective ways to teach resilience to children is to surround them with books and stories that promote resilience and whose characters have grit. When we read stories, whether true or fictional, that show others facing their problems and overcoming obstacles, we are helping to develop the same mindset in our children.

<https://www.vagabondenglish.com/blog/read-for-resilience-self-care-for-writers>

A reminder about why reading is still your best bet for self-care in hard times, for finding your resilience, being a better human...and a better writer. And why reading and storytelling in a community makes us strong.



BELIEVE IN YOUR "SHELF"

BUILDING RESILIENCY THROUGH READING

Spirit Days to Celebrate Literacy

January 22-26

<p>Monday, January 22nd</p>	<p>Believe in your 'shelf' Dress to show your favorite sport, hobby, or something about YOU!</p>
<p>Tuesday, January 23rd</p>	<p>A book is a gift you can open again and again. Bring your favorite book wrapped in a bow or ribbon.</p>
<p>Wednesday, January 24th</p>	<p>Readers are leaders. Dress for your desired career.</p>
<p>Thursday, January 25th</p>	<p>Words are powerful! Dress up as an idiom or pun... for example...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eyes in the Back of My Head. • Green Thumb. • Don't Put Your Eggs in One Basket. • Green Thumb. • Social Butterfly. • Fast as Lightning. • Hold Your Horses. • You Can't Change a Leopard's Spots.
<p>Friday, January 26th</p>	<p>Get in the spirit of reading. Wear your Bobcat colors!</p>



ATTENTION

IMPORTANT

News From The Front Office!



All parents **MUST** have a
FOCUS Parent Portal
going forward.



WHY DO YOU NEED A FOCUS PARENT PORTAL?

* To view your students Grades. District is moving away from paper to electronic for the following:

- State Assessments, Interims, and Report Cards
- View all School Communications from teachers and staff
- All Forms from the District and school will be posted for review and e-signatures
- RE-Enrollment for the 2024-25 school year will be all on FOCUS
- Starting for 2024-25, ALL ELO (Education Location Option) Renewals will be in FOCUS
- You can view ALL BPS students in your household from PK- grade 12 in ONE PLACE!

How do you create a FOCUS Parent Portal?*

Visit <https://www.brevardschools.org/Domain/8303>

*You will need your child's Student ID# and a special PIN# to create an account. Please reach out to Jess Hopkins in the front office to get this information. Phone: (321) 242-4700 x46601

Email: hopkins.jessica@brevardschools.org



SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK FOOD DRIVE JANUARY 8TH - MARCH 15TH



Thank you for helping neighbors facing hunger!



Critical need items

- Meals in a can
- Nonfat dry milk
- Oatmeal
- Canned meats and poultry
- Evaporated milk
- Drinks
- Canned tuna
- Nutritional drinks
- Dry beans
- Canned veggies
- Canned soup
- Pasta/macaroni
- Canned fruit
- Rice
- Baby food

Monetary contributions

Each dollar donated can provide 4 meals to kids, families and seniors facing hunger in Central Florida.

Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida
411 Mercy Drive, Orlando, FL 32805 | 407-295-1066 | FeedHopeNow.org

Questions? Contact Greg Hansen, Brevard Operations Manager at 321-733-1600 or via email at ghsansen@feedhopenow.org.

LONGLEAF ELEMENTARY IS PARTICIPATING IN A FOOD DONATION DRIVE HOSTED BY OUR NEHS SERVICE COMMITTEE. PLEASE SEE THE  WISHLIST OF THINGS THAT YOU CAN DONATE. BRING YOUR DONATIONS TO SCHOOL AND DROP THEM IN THE BINS PROVIDED AROUND CAMPUS!



COACH'S CORNER!

January's GAME PLAN

THIS MONTH IN P.E.

This month students in grades 3-6 will learn and play the game Bobcat Ball.

This game is a fun mix between Flag Football and Capture the Flag. 6th grade students will also start their playoff games on Fridays that will lead up to the Bobcat Bowl in February. Students in grades K-2 will continue to stay active and have fun at PE while meeting various PE standards through fun games and activities.



SPORTSMANSHIP

A PERSON WHO DISPLAYS GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP ALWAYS PLAYS FAIR AND BY THE RULES. THEY MAKE AN EFFORT TO TREAT OPPONENTS, COACHES, TEAMMATES AND REFERES WITH RESPECT. SPORTSMANSHIP IS THE GOLDEN RULE OF SPORTS> YOU SHOULD ALWAYS TREAT OTHERS HOW YOU WISH TO BE TREATED.



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SPORTSMANSHIP, CLICK THE LINK!





YEAR BOOKS!

ORDER YOUR 2023-2024
YEARBOOK TODAY!

It's our first hardcover yearbook
and only \$30

for 96 pages of full color memories!

Want to give a special shoutout to your
favorite Bobcat?

We have 1/4 page and 1/8 page ad
space available - first come, first serve.

Order now at www.buytheyearbook.com

School Id: 717098

Questions?

longleafads@gmail.com





Longleaf Elementary School has been awarded a grant by Brevard Cultural Alliance to work with artist in residence Betsy Heath. Ms. Heath and Ms. Donohue will be working with our students to create the mural which Ms. Heath custom designed for our school. Students have already begun helping to create the border tiles! Ms. Heath will be working with our students starting on January 8th.

Join us for an evening of creativity and fun! Paint your family's very own tile to be included in the border of the Longleaf mural. The best part? Proceeds from the event will go towards supporting the art department, ensuring that future generations of students have the resources they need to express themselves through art. Additionally, \$1 from the sale of each tile will go to [Conservation Florida](https://conservationfla.org/our-mission). Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to support the arts and our precious Florida resources and have a great time doing it!

Date: January 25th

Time: 5:00-7:00 pm

Purchase QR code - COMING SOON

<https://conservationfla.org/our-mission>

Please direct questions to: Donohue.becky@brevardschools.org

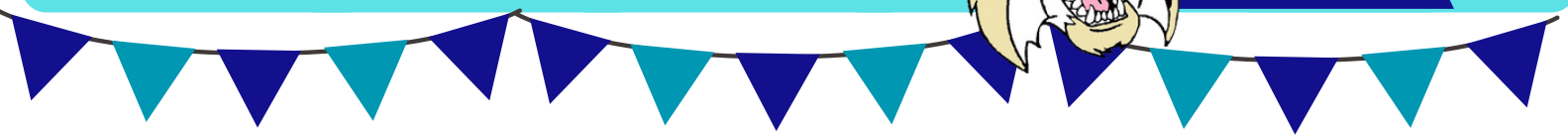


EXHIBIT EVENT

BPS SOUTH AREA MALL ART SHOW

DATE: 1/14 - 1/28

LOCATION: Melbourne Square Mall

All are welcome!





SCHOOL

Spirit Nights!



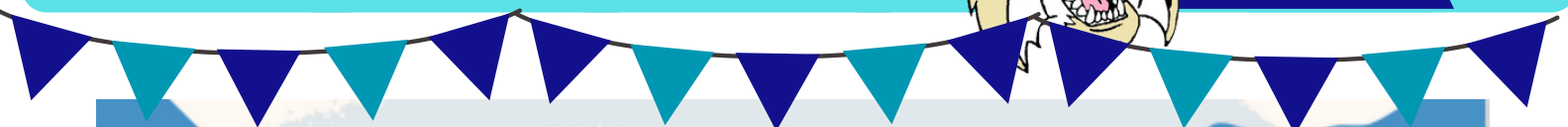
1st Wednesday of every month - Jeremiah's Ice Night 3-9 pm

2nd Wednesday of every month - 321 Ice Cream Bar 5-9 pm



1/17	Domino's	4-8 pm
1/31	Long Doggers'	5-8 pm
2/13	Texas Roadhouse (Viera)	5-8 pm
2/27	Walk-On's	4-9 pm
3/13	Genna Pizza Co	4-9 pm
4/3	Bubbakoo's Burritos	4-9 pm
4/17	Domino's	4-8 pm
5/1	Gator's Dockside	4-9 pm
5/15	Long Doggers'	5-8 pm





ARE YOU A VOLUNTEER?

ONLY BPS APPROVED VOLUNTEERS MAY PARTICIPATE AND ATTEND EVENTS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY.

Volunteers help with:

- Field Trips
- Field Day
- Book Fair
- Holiday Shop
- Class Parties
- Library Checkout
- Morning Mile
- Teacher Requests
- Volunteer Room
- Lunch Bunch
- and so much more!

Becoming a Volunteer:

Step 1:
Fill out an application online:

<https://www.brevardschools.org/Page/11104>

Step 2:
Get Fingerprinted at
BPS School Board
Office of District Security
2700 JUDGE FRAN
JAMIESON WAY
VIERA, FL 32940
Monday - Friday 8:00-4:00
No appointment necessary

Once you are a BPS Approved Volunteer, to be placed on the volunteer email list and receive our Sign-Up Genius link, please reach our to our volunteer coordinator. EddyLynn

Kledzik kledzik.eddy@brevardschools.org





LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch is an opportunity for families to have lunch in school with their students. This program is available on Thursdays and supervised by our approved BPS volunteers or school designees. The families of our Bobcats are asked to limit sign up to once a month to provide opportunities to all our families. The following procedures are followed to maintain safety on campus.

1. Come at your student's designated time. We will not call students out of class early.
2. Sign-in at the front office with proper ID and get a badge.
3. Visitors will be escorted to our designated "Bobcat Lunch Bunch" area located in the Commons.
4. Students will be brought to/from the lunch area by our volunteer staff.
5. Visitors will check out in the front office when their student is picked up by the teacher. If you have multiple students, you will need to check out and check back in at their designated time as we do not have a waiting area.

Safety Reminders:

Parents/guests may not enter the cafeteria or go through the lunch line. Contacts on the student registration form are allowed to eat with the students. The contact may bring an additional guest with them. Other classmates will not be allowed to join your student for lunch.

Outside food will remain with the parents as well as any leftovers. Parents also have the option of checking their students out and taking them off campus for lunch.

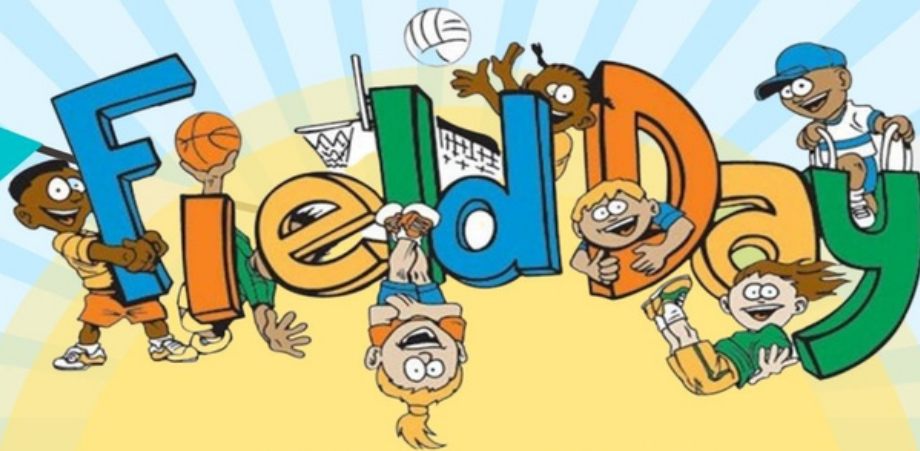
To sign up for lunch bunch, click the link and select an open date. Fill in the appropriate information.

[Lunch Bunch Sign-Up Link](#)

You will receive a confirmation email following your sign-up. Please mark your calendar. For further information, please contact our Front Office Clerk, Jessica Hopkins
Hopkins.Jessica@BrevardSchools.org.



COMING IN MARCH...



MARCH 21ST- PREK-2ND GRADE

MARCH 22ND- 3RD-6TH GRADE

SIGNUP GENIUS COMING SOON, AND REMEMBER...

**YOU MUST BE SCHEDULED TO VOLUNTEER
TO ATTEND THIS EVENT**

**TEAM
WORK**

SPORTSMANSHIP

FUN!

**WANT TO VOLUNTEER? KEEP A LOOK OUT
FOR THE SIGNUPGENIUS COMING SOON!**



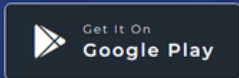
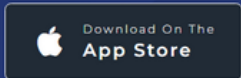


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Suspicious Activity Reporting App

FortifyFL is a suspicious activity reporting tool that allows you to instantly relay information to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials.

Submit A
Tip Online



[HTTPS://GETFORTIFYFL.COM/](https://getfortifyfl.com/)

LONGLEAF'S MVPS

We love our PIE Teammates!

