



November Newsletter from Principal Pauls.... **December 3, 2024**

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that December is already upon us, and we are nearing the start of 2025.

I am thrilled to share some exciting news with our school community: the latest rankings have been released, and we are ranked #11 out of 2,149 elementary schools in North Carolina! This remarkable achievement reflects the unwavering dedication of our teachers, who have worked intentionally to meet the unique needs of every student. I am equally proud of our students, whose hard work, perseverance, and commitment to mastering standards have truly shone through. Their determination to make their teachers and families proud of their efforts is inspiring. This accomplishment is a testament to the strong partnership between our staff, students, and families, and I could not be prouder of what we have achieved together.

December often feels like a whirlwind at the elementary school. Throughout this month, I will be emphasizing the importance of Panther Pride to our students, encouraging them to remain focused and make responsible choices. Your support in reinforcing the message of "Panther Pride" with your child(ren) in the coming weeks would be greatly valued and appreciated.

Happy Holidays to you and your family!

Anne Pauls
Principal, Mills Park Elementary

Upcoming Events for December 2024

- Dec. 3: Math Spirit Night @ Lowe's Foods 4:00 – 7:00PM
- Dec. 5: PTA Spring Carnival Planning @ Lowe's Foods 9:15AM
- Dec. 5: Picture Make-Up Day for Yearbook
- Dec. 6: 2nd Grade Field Trip, North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences
- Dec. 13: 2nd Quarter Interim Reports go home with all students
- Dec. 13: PTA – Staff Holiday Cookie Exchange
- Dec. 23 – Jan. 2: Holiday Break, No School
- Jan. 3: First Day of School after Holiday Break

[2024-2025 WCPSS Traditional Calendar](#)

MPE Warms the Heart Program (from Nancy Snyder and Teri Armstrong, School Counselors)



Mills Park Elementary Warms the Heart - Holiday Assistance Program

This year we are partnering with a community agency to assist us with our Warms the Heart program - our holiday assistance program. We are asking for gift cards donations in the amount of \$25. If you would like to donate more than \$25, please purchase multiple gift cards.

Types of Gift Cards: Grocery stores, Target, or Walmart.

Gift Card Drop-Off (Monday, December 2, 2024 - Monday, December 16, 2024).

Where: Drop off at the Front Desk of Mills Park Elementary School

Questions? Ask our School Counselors:

Teri Armstrong (tarmstrong@wpcss.net) and Nancy Snyder (ncsnyder@wpcss.net)

AIG Spring Nominations

The AIG spring nomination window for fourth and fifth grade students will be open from December 16 through January 10. You may nominate your child to be considered for an AIG (Academically and/or Intellectually Gifted) referral.

Students who were nominated and referred during the 2024 Fall window cannot be nominated again during the Spring window.

You do not need to nominate your child if he or she is already identified in both areas.

You may nominate your child if you would like your child considered for a second area of identification (ELA or Math).

Please complete the [Google Form](#) linked here, which will also be forwarded by classroom teachers and linked via the AIG website. If you have further questions, please visit the [AIG website](#) or contact our AIG teachers (mblewett@wpcss.net or dbarnett@wpcss.net).

*****Reminders*****

Kindergarten Enrollment for 2025-2026



If you have a child who will turn 5 years old by August 31, 2020, enrollment for Kindergarten has begun! Please click on the following link for enrollment details. [25-26 Enrollment Information](#)

Spelling Bee 2025

- Class Spelling Bees (grades 1-5) will be held the week of Jan. 13th. Your child's teacher will communicate the exact date as we get closer to January.
- The School Spelling Bee is scheduled for Thursday, January 23, 2025. Only class spelling bee winners from grades 3, 4, 5 will participate in the School Spelling Bee.
- [Word Club App](#) - this year, the Bee's premier study tool is completely free for students. Download the app and allow your student(s) to learn their study words through spelling games and quizzes.
- Your child's teacher will email you the links to the Classroom and School Spelling Bee Lists. Unfortunately, we are not permitted to post these lists on our school website.