

What Did You Say?

It is officially March...Madness. College basketball seasons are wrapping up. The NCAA Tournament will soon start and March Madness will begin. I had the privilege this season to be a mentor for a player on the Winthrop Men's Basketball Team. Over and over, I heard Coach Kelsey and the players say the same things each week in their locker room. These words resonated with me as a principal, teacher and as a dad. They may be helpful for you to consider as well. **1. "We are the window through which the world views Winthrop University."** Wearing a Winthrop jersey reflects on the university as an organization. We all represent something. It could be our school. It could be our workplace. It could be our church or civic club. It could be our family. Our children need to understand that what they do reflects on the larger group. It is not just about us as we grow up. **2. "Turn the page."** Whether it was a great win to celebrate or an agonizing loss from which to learn, Coach Kelsey constantly reminded his guys that they had to turn the page to focus on the next game. It is easy to get stuck on our victories or defeats in the past and miss the opportunities that are in the present. There is always a time when we need to "turn the page." **3. "Look who made a difference."** After a game, coaches quickly pointed out the contributions of the scout team and managers just as much as the players who scored points. There are so many who play a part in a team's success and every person matters. When our children sit the bench or play second fiddle on a team, it is so important for us to remind them that their contribution matters. No one wins by themselves. **4. "1-2-3 Team, 4-5-6 Family"** Win or lose, players gather together and do this chant before going their separate ways after a game. A team is a group of people working to achieve a common goal. A family is where you belong. Winthrop coaches want their players to know that they are more than a team. This is their family who loves and cares for them no matter how they played. Kids need to know that they belong no matter what their performance is. I am so blessed to see these same values displayed in our classrooms and halls every day at Cherry Park Elementary. As we move ahead, we hope that our children will not only say many of these same things, but that they will show them in their actions. Thank you for all the ways you model these truths to and for our kids.

Mr. Maness, Principal

Book Fair Update from Last Week

Our first book fair at Cherry Park Elementary School of Language Immersion was a huge success. When the fair closed on Friday at 6:00, our total sales were **\$13,333.50!** Even though the in-school fair is over, our **ONLINE BOOK FAIR is still open through FRIDAY, MARCH 8.** If you were unable to make it to the school fair – or if we had sold out of an item you were interested in purchasing – you may shop online by visiting our Book Fair Homepage: <http://www.scholastic.com/bf/cherryparkelementary> When you shop online, items purchased will be shipped to the school. There are no shipping costs. Everything in our school fair can be purchased online. In fact, there are even more items available through the online fair. Our school will receive the same profit from the online fair as we do from in-school purchases.

Thank you for supporting our Scholastic Book Fair. And a special thank you to each volunteer who was able to help: **Lin Grant, Tish Grandjean, Heather Powell, Melissa Maynard, Brooke Nies, Leigh Threatt, Dawn Smrekar, and Tianay Foster.** The book fair would not be possible without you. We look forward to working with you again soon at a special end-of-year fair that everyone will enjoy. Thank you, **Mr. Bartless,** for coordinating.

Lost and Found Items

At the end of tomorrow (Monday, March 4), Lost and Found items will be collected up and sent off. Please have your child check to claim lost items. They are laid out on the Bridge area above the cafeteria. They have been there all week.

Box Tops

Great job, everyone! Thanks to all the Box Tops you turned in, we earned over \$375.00 for Cherry Park Elementary. February was the last due date for this school year, but you can still turn Box Tops in to your child's teacher or to the school office at any time. Also, don't forget to sign up for the Box Tops app to earn bonus Box Tops for our school!

Let Me Run Coaches Needed

Help start the Let Me Run program at Cherry Elementary this spring. Our spring season starts mid March and ends with the Let Me Run 5K on May 18th. The practices can be any two non-consecutive days of the week. Coaches can be runners / non-runners, male or female (but we prefer to have at least one male), experienced or not experienced. You just need a sincere desire to help boy improve their fitness and to build their character. Please consider coaching or recruit someone that you think would make a good coach!!!

Let Me Run is a character building / running program for elementary (fourth and fifth grade) and middle school boys similar to the Girls On The Run program. It is a nonprofit wellness program that inspires boys to be themselves, be active, and belong. With a comprehensive curriculum that applies the power of running, the program encourages boys to develop their psychological, emotional and social health, in addition to their physical health. Twice a week for seven weeks, two trained volunteer coaches lead an elementary or middle school team through practice. Designed to amplify confidence, self-expression, and respect for others, each practice includes a lesson from the Let Me Run curriculum that incorporates running, games and activities. Each fall and spring season culminates in a 5K race festival that celebrates the boys' personal growth.

Below is a quick video that describes what Let Me Run is all about, as we are much more than just a running program.

<http://www.letmerun.org/about-the-program/what-is-let-me-run>

To volunteer to coach or for more information, contact our PE teacher, Christi Beard, at cab Beard@rhmail.org. You can also contact Don Rice donr@letmerun.org at 704-743-8755 for more information.

Advance-Ed Parent Survey

Our school is preparing for an accreditation review by a team of educators from the AdvancED organization. For the AdvancED review team to assess our continuous improvement, we must gather information from our parents, students, and staff. To assist us in this effort, please take a few moments to complete this brief survey by **Monday, February 25**. We appreciate your time and continued support of our school.

<https://eprovesurveys.advanc-ed.org/surveys/#/action/86548/p2089>

Parent Teacher Organization and School Improvement Council Update

The PTO serves to raise funds, coordinate volunteers and encourage teachers through appreciation activities. We had a great meeting last week and minutes from the meeting were sent out earlier this week. We will meet again on **Monday, March 18 at 6:30 PM** to continue organization efforts. We encourage all parents to come and participate. We will meet in the Cherry Park Elementary Library starting in January. Meeting dates have been set for the following Mondays at 6:30 PM for the rest of the year: **April 22 and May 20. Our School Improvement Council will meet on the same days at 5:30 PM** in the Office Conference Room. All parents are invited to attend either or both meetings. Both groups are working on bylaws and have started organizational efforts. There will be a table at Open House to sign up for PTO and to volunteer. **We would like to have at least one representative from each of the schools on the PTO Leadership Team** so we can take the best ideas from all the PTO's and put them into practice for our CPES PTO. The group at PTO divided into committees to work on Bylaws, Fundraising, Volunteers and Teacher Appreciation. We hope you can come and join one of these subcommittees. Here is the link if you wish to receive the PTO Newsletter:

<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Ffeepurl.com%2FghLsUj&data=02%7C01%7Cpmaness%40rhmail.org%7C86c7b468d60e47e7bc6408d698d1dd08%7C57b835c11a6c40088e2fb2a16e5f738a%7C0%7C0%7C636864424472780226&sdata=mPE0idItkxHbbBFMdR3NqMJRd5aMOH7ANFPB0OcQuWA%3D&reserved=0>

Got Questions?

Attached are answers for our Transition FAQ. Please don't forget that you can ask them at our [Transition Survey](#) site. These are being collected and will be answered on our FAQ page on our school website as well.

Calendar Dates

Saturday, March 9—Daylight Savings Time (Spring forward one hour)

Monday, March 11—6:00 Cherry Park SIC Presents to the School Board (They will update the Board on the progress of CPES getting started.)

Friday, March 15—8:30 AM Fifth Grade Wax Museum Presentations

Monday, March 18—Teacher Workday/Student Holiday; 5:30 SIC (Fishbowl Room); 6:30 PTO (Library)

Friday, March 22—Report Cards Go Home

April 4-13—Come See Me Festival

April 15-19—Spring Break

May 24—Kindergarten through Second Grade Field Day (in the morning)

May 31—Third through Fifth Grades Field Day (all day)
