

December 1, 2016

Believe * Achieve * Succeed

The mission of Patrick County High School is to build a foundation for lifelong learning that prepares students for responsible citizenship.

Cat Tales Newsletter

Veterans Day Assembly



Left to right: Dr. William D. Stroufe and Hannah Newcomb

In keeping with tradition, PCHS honored local veterans in an assembly on November 10, 2016. Students invited relatives, friends, and neighbors who have served in our country's armed forces. The JROTC and SGA combined efforts to feature posting of the colors and military branch flags and reciting the cadet creed. In addition, the band played our National Anthem. Every veteran in attendance received a certificate of appreciation.

The guest speaker was Dr. William D. Stroufe, Division Superintendent of Patrick County Public Schools. Dr. Stroufe, a United States Air Force Veteran, served during Operation Desert Storm and Operation Provide Comfort at Incirlik Air Force Base in Turkey. He also served as the editor of the award winning base newspaper, *Tip of the Sword*. He was Public Affairs Airman of the Year for United States Air Forces in Europe in 1992 and Public Affairs Journalist of the Year in 1993. Dr. Stroufe was awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal with three bronze leaves, Air Force Overseas Short Tour Ribbon, Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon and the Basic Training Ribbon. Dr. Stroufe's writing has been featured in *Airman Magazine*, *The Virginian Pilot*, and *The Roanoke Times*. He is also the author of *Words from a Journal*, a book of poetry dedicated to capturing single moments throughout his life. Dr. Stroufe spent time in Northern Iraq, Eastern Turkey, Tanzania, Kenya, and Rwanda. He is a graduate of Old Dominion University, Radford University, and Liberty University.



School of Distinction Award

In November of 2016, the Patrick County High School Senior Beta Club received a letter from Bob O. Bright, Chief Executive Officer of Beta, congratulating Patrick County High School's Senior Beta Club on being awarded with the National School of Distinction status. This award speaks highly of PCHS Senior Beta's commitment and dedication to their academics, service, leadership, and character.

National Beta is the nation's largest independent, non-profit, educational youth organization. Beta judges schools based on the ability to follow the national motto, "let us lead by serving others." Patrick County has earned this award by understanding the importance of Beta.

On behalf of Senior Beta, we accept this award with great pride. Thanks to all our sponsors and members for your hard work! Keep it up!



Beta Officers: Front row: Quinton Shipps, Leticia Campos, Casey Campbell. Back row: Ashley Dalton

By: Kirstin Wood

FFA Soil Judging Team

Congratulations to the FFA Soil Judging Team for their 2nd place finish in the State Soil Judging Contest. Chaney Merritt placed 11th Individual, Duncan Merritt placed 8th Individual, and Christian Taylor placed high for the team and placed 3rd overall in the contest. The 2nd place finish qualifies the team to compete in the National Contest in Oklahoma the first week in May 2017.



Left to right: Sponsor Wendell Terry, Duncan Merritt, Christian Taylor, and Chaney Merritt

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For daily announcements, menus, homework, sports schedules, upcoming events, and more: Go to our website:
<http://www.patrick.k12.va.us>

JROTC Drill Team SY 2016-17 — 1st Semester Accomplishments

On November 5, 2016, at the Gretna Drill Meet, the Drill Team brought home three trophies. The even placings were as follows: 2nd place Knockout, 1st place Unarmed Platoon, and 2nd place Platoon Inspection. Once again, the Drill Team showed their expertise on November 19, 2016 at the Dan River Drill Meet. The team brought home seven trophies and a 2nd place Overall for the Meet. Their finishes were as follows: 3rd place JV Armed Individual, 3rd place JV Unarmed Squad, 3rd place Varsity Armed Individual, 3rd place Platoon Unarmed, 1st place Varsity Squad Unarmed, and 2nd place Platoon Inspection. All Drill Team Members have done an outstanding job. We are looking forward to next semester's Drill Meets.

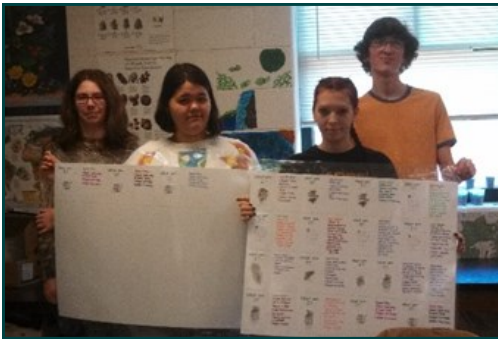


Outstanding Volleyball Season

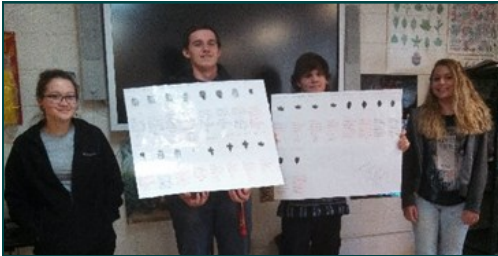
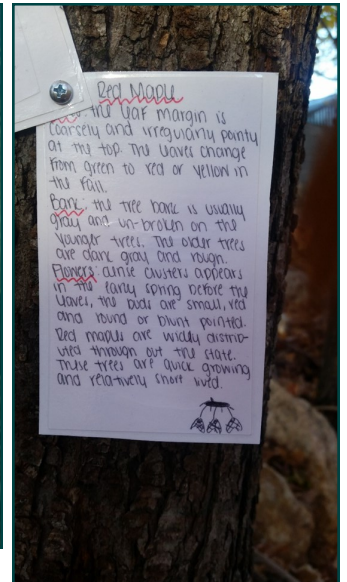
The volleyball team placed 2nd in Conference 32 this fall. They finished the season with a 17-4 record. The girls worked hard and continued to improve throughout the season. All-District honors included 1st Team Abby Hutchens, who was awarded Player of the Year. Melanie Roberson, and Sydney Biggs also made 1st Team All-District. Hannah Hylton and AK Scruggs were awarded 2nd Team All-District, with Morgan Biggs as Honorable Mention. Abby Hutchens was also awarded 1st Team All-Conference while Melanie Roberson and Sydney Biggs were awarded 2nd Team All-Conference. The volleyball team is coached by Heidi Moore.



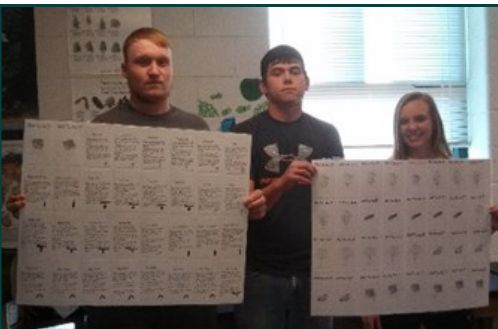
Classroom Spotlight: Brenda Martin, Ecology



Left to right: India Hopkins, Stormi Horsley, Breanne Buchanan, William Wilson (not pictured: Rebecca Rakes)



Left to right: Cathleen Turner, Jeffery Parrish, Dylan Smith, and Haylee Cox



Left to right: Caleb Pendleton, Austin Fain, Makenzie Watts (not pictured: Zach Hudson)



Left to right: Cole Bottorff and Lorena Delgado



Left to right: Brody Boyd and Logan Grubbs

Ecology students worked in teams to identify trees in designated areas, on campus, during a three-week project in class. Students were taken around the wood line of the campus where they gathered designated leaves to make a leaf collection. They were then allowed to mark off specific areas in the wooded area between the auxiliary gym and the baseball field. Once areas had been flagged, students had to identify all the trees in their area and make maps with all the trees marked.

Students then created slide presentations and posters in which they chose one tree and included both the common and scientific names with an interpretation of the Latin genus and species. They had to state whether the tree was native to the area or brought in by Europeans when they discovered the Americas. Students also had to determine whether the tree was threatened, endangered, or invasive. The range of the tree, along with its uses to humans and other species were also included. The tree's height at maturity and adaptations to live in its range, the types of seeds, pictures and description of bark and leaves, years to reach maturity, and special requirements for survival were also part of the presentation.

Students then made leaf rubbings to attach to index cards labeled, "What Am I?" A second index card listing essential facts about the tree was also created. These were glued to posters and attached to the chosen tree.

Students seemed to enjoy the tree identification projects and said they enjoyed working outside.

Patrick County High School

congratulations

SCAEL Team

SCAEL is an academic competition in a quiz bowl format where our school competes against teams from the high schools in our District. Each match consists of two toss up rounds where students buzz in jeopardy-style to answer questions as well as a direction round where the students work as a team to answer questions. So far the Patrick County High School team has had an outstanding season, winning a majority of matches.

The four teams are led by the following individuals: Social Studies Captain, Trevor Hazelwood and Sponsor, Scott Sherrill; Science Captain, Casey Campbell and Sponsor, Cheryl Wade; Literature Co-Captains, Roxie Irwin and Kristina Wade and Sponsor, Kristie Goard; and Math Captain, Chaney Merritt and Sponsor, Jeanie Stanley.

Reality Store

On Thursday, November 17th, tenth and twelfth graders got a "dose" of reality as they participated in the Reality Store.

A special thank you to the local Virginia Cooperative Extension Office and all the local businesses and volunteers who made this enlightening event possible for our students!



Career Coach Message

All 10th Grade Students:

- Remember to turn in your applications for dual enrollment testing to Ms. Keffer in the Career and College Center. If you have not gotten an application or need a new application from Ms. Keffer, stop by her office Monday–Friday and pick up one.



Band and Choir Concert

Tuesday, December 13th

PCHS Auditorium at 7:00 P.M.



Come and see our drama play:

The Addams Family

Show times:

- Friday, December 9th at 7:00 P.M.
- Saturday, December 10th at 7:00 P.M.
- Sunday, December 11th at 3:00 P.M.

Patrick County High School

Test Taking Tips

1. Practice, practice, practice. The more you practice, the more familiar you will be with the test format, and the less likely you are to panic when you take the test for real.
2. Studying for the test over an extended period is much more effective and lasting than cramming for the test at the last minute.
3. Eat a good breakfast the morning of the test. Avoid eating sugary foods. High-protein foods like scrambled eggs are often best for aiding concentration and minimizing fatigue.
4. Visit the restroom 15-30 minutes before the test.
5. Get a full night's sleep before the test. Do not pull an all-nighter cramming before the test. A lack of sleep will affect your performance.
6. Wear comfortable clothing.
7. Don't panic. If you start getting anxious, take slow deep breaths. Don't worry about other people finishing early. Smart people know to use all available time to double-check their work.
8. Pace yourself. Calculate the amount of time you have to answer each question and avoid getting bogged down on any one question.
9. If you have time left over at the end of the test, review your answers. Don't second-guess an answer unless you are certain that you misread or misinterpreted the question. Watch out for careless errors. Also, double-check that you wrote all of the answers in the correct locations.
10. Read the question in full before trying to answer it.

Good luck Cougars!

Taken from: Mark Kantrowitz. "Top Standardized Test Taking Tips." *Fastweb!*

<http://www.fastweb.com/back-to-school-2012/articles/top-standardized-test-taking-tips>


SOL Schedule

12/5	World History I
12/6	US History World G World History II
12/7	Physical Science
12/8	Biology Chemistry Retakes
12/9	Earth Science Algebra I
12/12	8th Grade Reading EOC RLR
12/13	Algebra II Geometry Retakes
12/14	Retakes / Make Ups
12/15	Retakes / Make Ups
12/16	Retakes / Make Ups
12/20	Retakes

Inclement Weather Announcements

Whenever schools are opened later than usual, closed, or an emergency arises, the school messaging system will be utilized to keep parents informed to assure student safety. Within minutes of the decision to delay/close schools, officials will use this system to deliver a single, clear message to the students' parents or guardians by telephone, cell phone, e-mail, pager, or PDA in any combination. In addition, the information hotline (276) 251-3154 can be used to access information regarding school closings/cancellations. In the event of an early dismissal due to inclement weather, students will follow written instructions given to the main office by parents indicating a regular bus stop, change in regular bus stop, or car rider. All students must leave the building at dismissal time.

December 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Smiles Mobile Dentist 5:30p B/JV BB Halifax Co 5:30p G/JV BB Halifax Co 7:00p V Cheer Halifax Co 7:00p B/V BB Halifax Co 7:00pG/V BB Halifax Co	3 10:00a V Wrestling Rockingham Co
4	5 SOL—WH I 6:00p Band Banquet café TBD G/V Indoor Track Bassett TBD B/V Indoor Track Bassett 5:00p G/MS BB Benjamin Franklin MS 6:00p JV SCAEL Martinsville 6:00p V SCAEL Martinsville 6:30p B/MS BB Benjamin Franklin MS	6 SOL-US His/WG/WH II 5:30p B/JV BB Christiansburg 5:30p G/JV BB Christiansburg 7:00p V Cheer Christiansburg 7:00p G/V BB Christiansburg 7:00p B/V BB Christiansburg	7 SOL—Phy Sci 5:00p V Wrestling PC vs. Multi Schools	8 SOL—Bio/Chem Retake WH I 5:00p G/MS BB Martinsville 6:30p B/MS BB Martinsville	9 SOL—E Sci/ Alg I TBD V Wrestling Hidden Valley 5:30p G/V BB Giles 7:00p G/JV BB Giles 7:00p Drama Play	10 TBD V Wrestling Hidden Valley TBD G/V Indoor Track Blacksburg TBD B/V Indoor Track Blacksburg 1:15p G/JV BB Radford 2:45p G/V BB Radford 7:00p Drama Play
11 3:00p Drama Play	12 SOL—8th Read/EOC RLR Retake Phys Sci 5:00p G/MS BB Laurel Park MS 5:30p G/JV BB Magna Vista 5:30p B/JV BB Magna Vista 6:30p B/MS BB Laurel Park MS 7:00p V Cheer Magna Vista 7:00p G/V BB Magna Vista 7:00p B/V BB Magna Vista	13 SOL—Alg II / Geom Retake Bio/Chem 5:30p G/JV BB Frank- lin Co 5:30p B/JV BB Floyd Co 7:00p V Cheer Floyd Co 7:00p B/V BB Floyd Co 7:00p G/V BB Franklin Co 7:00p Band/Choir Concert—Auditorium	14 SOL Make up Retake E Sci/Alg I 5:00p MS Wrestling Martinsville vs. Multi Schools 5:00p V Wrestling Magna Vista vs. Multi Schools	15 SOL Make up Retake 8th Read/RLR 5:00p G/MS BB Westwood 6:30p B/MS BB Westwood	16 SOL Makeup / Retake TBD G/V Indoor Track TBA TBD B/V Indoor Track TBA TBD V Wrestling Cave Spring 5:30p G/JV BB Bassett 5:30p B/JV BB Bassett 7:00p V Cheer Bassett 7:00p B/V BB Bassett 7:00p G/V BB Bassett	17 TBD V Wrestling Cave Spring
18	19 Exams—1st & 3rd blocks 5:30p G/JV BB North Stokes 5:30p G/V BB North Stokes 7:00p B/V BB North Stokes 7:00p V Cheer North Stokes 7:00p B/JV BB North Stokes	20 Exams—2nd & 4th blocks 1:00p Early Dismissal 5:30p B/JV BB Gretna 7:00p V Cheer Gretna 7:00p B/V BB Gretna	21 CLOSED—Winter Break	22 CLOSED—Winter Break	23 CLOSED—Winter Break	24 Christmas Eve
25 Christmas 	26 CLOSED—Winter Break	27 CLOSED—Winter Break	28 CLOSED—Winter Break	29 CLOSED—Winter Break	30 CLOSED—Winter Break	31

*Teacher Workdays 1/3/17 and 1/4/17

**Students Return 1/5/17