

## Graham Creek Panther Pluses

- Our Math Bowl team participated in the annual Math Bowl held in February. Our team members were comprised of the following 4-6 graders: Mercer Blubaugh, Danny Giltner, Nathan Harrison, Kaylee Hatton, Emmaleigh Jones, Kaleb McIntosh, Addie Otte, Sierra Rigdon, Bradley Setser, Solly Shaw, Jayden Smith, Isaiah Vazquez, Jace Vojkufka, Landon Wade and Tyler Walp. This year the competition was done remotely. They were given 40 questions to answer in 50 minutes. The competition was scored individually and our team worked hard under the unique circumstances.
- Graham Creek Elementary School sponsored scholarships for former Graham Creek students. Those students include: Emma Morrison, Halle Stearns, Lexi Ownbey, Katelynn Mahoney, Zane Law, Alydia Waggoner, Jadon Swindell, and Hailey Fish-Petro.
- The K Bug winners for this year, sponsored by the North Vernon Kiwanis include: Chesleigh Carr, Zak McDaniels, Evelyn Ashby, Alydia Sorenson, Abby Sullivan, Denny Givens, Will Blanton, Gabe Stidd, Emeric Thorneycroft, Dilan Bates, Karragan Gudgel, Isabella Jammer, Nick Tabor, Cameron Anderson, Sadie Whisenhunt and Xavier Earl.
- Our music teacher Paige Meeker started our first ever choir. We had 38 - 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. Choir members learned about different sections in the choir as well as how to read music.
- Each year a school wide Spelling Bee is held at the Primary level (Grades 1-2) and the Intermediate level (grades 3.4.5,6). Each class is represented by 2 class winners. At the intermediate level the winners will participate at the countywide spelling bee. Primary winners this year were; 1<sup>st</sup> place Lucas Hoepfner and runner up Hope Spaulding. Representing Graham Creek at the Intermediate level were 1<sup>st</sup> place winner Macey Willhite and runner up Joe Mullins.
- Several students were honored by the Jennings County Crossroads: Change in Rural America Art and Poetry Contest. Their entry was considered as an exemplary piece of work. These students were: Jayden Smith, Isaak Gunter, Samantha Snyder, Mackenzie Harris, Kylee Givens, Braden Bailey, Mercer Blubaugh, Robby Brown, Connor Bower,

Alexis Halbert, Hayden French, Ryan Clark, Scarlet Christian, Emeric Thorneycroft, Madeline Hatter, and Landon Riley. Each student's work was exhibited at Stellar Building, in December and January.

- The Graham Creek National Elementary Honor Society was sponsored by 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Mrs. Jessica Floyd. An induction ceremony was held to honor new members for the 2019-2020 school year: Hannah Kelley, Madelin Hatter, Evelyn Ashby, Clark Branham, Myah Owens, Bradley Setser, Kaleb McIntosh, Nina Quillen, Solomon Shaw and Alydia Sorenson.
- The Graham Creek Student Council under the leadership of Beverly Gibson was represented by 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Service projects included Jar Wars, a Food Drive for Thanksgiving and Christmas donations for GCE families in need, Pennies for Patients, Neighborhood Trash pick-ups and more. Member of the GCE student council were: Elaina Johnson, Hannah Riley, Maycee Simpson, Myah Owens, Clark Branham, Izzy Hyden, Solly Shaw, David Maschino, Emily Bowman, Kagen Woodard, Haley Day, and Aaliya Spaulding.
- The GCE PTO this year donated around \$600 in food gift cards to families in need and sent out over 85 baskets for the fall food drive. Two hundred student tickets were donated to use for the Winter Carnival. The PTO also helps out with transportation costs for student field trips totaling around \$900. The Santa Shop is another function sponsored by the PTO to help provide affordable shopping for kids to buy gifts for their families. For staff appreciation week this year they donated to local families in need, in honor of the staff. This coming school year a second sensory path for GCE is planned.
- The Jump Rope for Heart drive raised \$500 for the American Heart Association under Mrs. Stephanie Patton's direction. Top 3 contributors were Gracie Whitehead, Addison Wilson and Bella Cross.
- GCE received monetary donations from Lowes, Walmart, and Commiskey Hardwoods.

- Our After School Reading Club led by Theresa Ragsdale met with 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders. The club did an author study on Jane Yolen.
- Emmaleigh Jones was the Graham Creek winner of an essay contest sponsored by the Jennings County Community Foundation for 6<sup>th</sup> Graders in the county. The topic was “Why Youth Involvement is Important to Healthy Communities”.