



February 21, 2013

News from Room 202!

A Note From Ms. Ackerman

Hi Fourth Grade Families and Friends,



My name is Shally Ackerman and I am Mrs. Washington's student teacher.

I am currently getting my master's degree at William and Mary. I have been a part of your child's classroom since September 14th. On February 20th, I will begin my 10 weeks of student teaching. I am excited to work with your child and am lucky to be with this class. I graduated in May 2012 with my

bachelor's degree in sociology from William and Mary. During my freshman and sophomore year, I began to think about becoming a teacher. I realized that I loved working with children and that I loved learning. So, I put the two together and decided to get my master's degree.

I currently work part time at a dance studio in Hampton. Being a dance teacher has truly inspired me to become an educator. Being around children makes me smile and makes me happy.

I am truly excited to be in the classroom. I've loved getting to know your child and can't wait to get to know them even better.

What We're Learning!

Writing: I will continue with *word study* and will work on writing and *grammar skills*. I hope to do more *creative writing* as well.

History and Science: I will begin with a unit on the *Civil War*. Once, we have finished that unit, we will focus on *Force and Motion*.

Reading: During my time with this class, I hope to read *The Tale of Despereaux* and work on our *critical thinking skills*.

Math: I will teach a unit on *measurement* while I am with this wonderful class.

Centers:

Monday: Music

Tuesday: P.E.

Wednesday: Art

Thursday: Guidance

Friday: FIELD TRIP

Upcoming Events:

March 6: Spirit night at NY Deli

March 22: World Fitness Day

April 26: Country Fair

Important Dates

March 13: Early Release

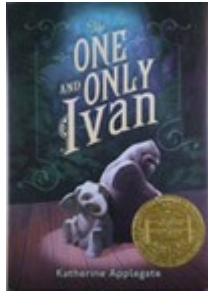
April 1- April 5: No school—Spring break

April 8: No school

Ms. Ackerman's Reading Corner

One important way to enhance a student's reading ability is to read. In late January, two important medals were awarded to two different books.

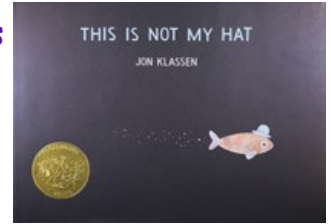
The Newbery Award honors great chapter books. It is awarded by the American Library Association. This year's winner is *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate.



According to Scholastic, the reading level for this book is about a third grade level.

The Caldecott Medal is the award given by the American Library Association for a picture

book. This year's winner is *This is Not My Hat* by Jon Klassen. While Scholastic does not give a reading level for this book, it says that the interest level is grade 5.



Both of the books can be found in the public libraries as well as Barnes and Noble. While the picture book may be read in one night, maybe your child could read it to a younger sibling or even to you!

<http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/newberymedal/newberymedal>

<http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/caldecottmedal/caldecottmedal>

Bullying and What We Can Do About It

Bullying is a problem seen in many schools today. By definition, bullying is any unwanted behavior between two people that involves some type of power imbalance. Bullying can be physical, verbal, or social.

There are many different things that we can do to help prevent bullying. If at all possible, we can talk to children about how they are feeling. Also, it often helps to build a sense of

community and support around children.

If you would like more information please either look at these links or I can send home more information!

<http://www.stopbullying.gov/what-is-bullying/index.html>

<http://www.stopbullying.gov/prevention/index.html>

Family Involvement

If you would like to be involved in our classroom, please let me know! I would love to see you in the classroom, to have extra help with projects, or to have extra supplies in the classroom. We need glue sticks and pencils.

There are many different ways to be involved both inside and outside of the classroom. Please contact me if you would like to help!

Contact Information

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, concerns, or events your child participates in, like sports. I would love to see your child doing an activity that he or she enjoys.

You can contact me by calling our classroom or by emailing me at: slackerman@email.wm.edu. Or you can send a note with your child.