



# HIGHLANDERS



Southwestern Elementary

Site Coordinator: Mr. Chris Burnette

April 2024

## Benefits of Reading Aloud

One of the most important things parents can do with their children is to read aloud with them. By reading aloud with your children it can expand their vocabulary, and develop early literacy skills, such as rhyming and letter recognition. Another skill important for children to learn early on is comprehension using inference, text structure, beginning, middle, and end, predicting, and understanding characters' actions and motivations. By reading different kinds of books such as fiction, poetry, fantasy, science fiction, and nonfiction, gives the students a better understanding of the world around them and can expand the knowledge of different cultures, chance to see someone like them, see heroes, and contributes to their self-esteem.

**"Reading is a journey. It's a way to explore new worlds and meet new people. It's a way to learn about different cultures and ways of life. And it's a way to expand your imagination."**

*Children's author Kate DiCamillo*



## BEARS

Tiffany Riehm from Soil & Water District visited the Highlanders grades K-2. Her visit this week was on bears. She brought a bear hide, a bear paw, and claws. The children could compare their hand with the paw of a bear. She talked to the students about their diet, habitat, and habits. The children loved the fur and other artifacts that she provided.



## See Our Garden Grow

Southwestern received a grow station from a grant through Heroic Game Day/Heroic Farm. The Highlanders took care of the grow station while they were in session. They invited Chrissa Carol from the Sow Rio Grande Garden Club to speak to the students about plants, tending to plants, and healthy living choice for growing vegetables. The second graders grew flowers which they watered and tended to all year and will be giving to their Mothers in May. The other students grew vegetables which they donated to the South Gallia FFA to put in their greenhouse. The FFA will be using some of the vegetables (lettuce and peas) in the cafeteria and will sell the rest to raise money for their FFA. An awesome learning experience and project for these children.



## O.O. McIntyre Park Visit

Craig Sanders, park manager and recreational coordinator, visited the Highlanders to talk to them about staying physically active through sports. The park has soccer and baseball teams. This day Craig help the students to get ready for this years baseball/softball season by practicing throwing and batting



## Soil & Water Conservation Visit

Tiffany Riehm, the education coordinator visited the Highlanders several times to present lessons. One of the lessons dealt with learning the life cycles of butterflies, frogs, chickens, plants, snails, and many more. The children used manipulatives to arrange the life cycle in the correct order.



## Highlanders Cooking Activities

Tina Elkins, Snap-ed OSU agent, held 6 healthy cooking classes with the 3-5 graders. Students learned to read labels, measure ingredients, read recipes, and healthy eating choices. Students then help to prepare a healthy snack. The K-2 grades enjoyed helping to prepare snacks with Miss Betty. The students were able to assemble their snack. All the students enjoyed the results of their efforts and looked forward to the activity every week.





