

# Blount's Busy Bee Bulletin

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## Gladstone Elementary

### New Accelerated Reader Goals

Included in your child's report card packet is information about your child's recent STAR reading and math assessments. This week we discussed at length the importance of taking a quiz only when you are truly ready and that we should focus on quality not quantity. When we don't get a 100%, we have to take extra quizzes to bring our accuracy percentage back to 85% or higher. This trimester the goals are based on thirty minutes of daily reading.

Here is the breakdown:

80% on a quiz: take 2 additional quizzes with 100% accuracy

60% on a quiz: take 3 additional quizzes with 100% accuracy

40% on a quiz: take 5 additional quizzes with 100% accuracy

20% on a quiz: take 7 additional quizzes with 100% accuracy

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Special points of interest:

- *Escape Room Challenge*
- *Judge vs. ScoreKeeper*
- *Thanksgiving Fun*
- *Poem Challenge*
- *Raffle Question*

### Accelerated Reader Update

So far, our class total for the number of  
words read is. . .

1,673,246

Keep reading! You all got this! :)

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## Judge Vs. Scorekeeper

The class and I had an eye opening conversation this week about achievement and "being smart." When shown the achievement of 3 fictional students, one with considerably better grades, they were asked why there was a difference. The suggestion was made that perhaps there was something else going on with "Student A." The class had some great ideas about why "Student A" was doing better: s/he is aware of his/her Circle of Control, answers/asks questions, pays attention, completes class work & homework, studies/practices, reads, listens to the teacher, uses time wisely, follows directions, is respectful, takes work seriously, great attitude/never gives up, makes smart choices, is proactive, is a good role model, is a leader, has fun, organizes work/papers in their proper places, is proactive, pushes him/herself to do better, focuses, helps others, and keeps the end in mind. Yep, I think they got them all! "Student A" is in charge of her achievement rather than the teacher. The teacher is merely the scorekeeper. The teacher is not the judge giving out grades. The teacher is in charge of only inputting scores and keeping them. Scores are based on each student's efforts. No one mentioned that Student "A" was smarter. I think that is a very revealing fact and shows that our students know that effort and determination are what's really important in regards to achievement.

## Escape Room Challenge!

### Thanksgiving!

The students completed this reading challenge with the members of their table groups and could get support from others. For this challenge there were three clues that needed to be solved in order to "unlock" the box. All four groups had to solve all three clues before we could open the box and escape the "locked room." This challenge required a lot of team work and the use of Habit #7 (Synergize). The challenge required students to work together, problem solve, and work toward a common goal.

Learning is fun!



## Thanksgiving Fun!

Danny: Why did the cranberries turn red?  
Jake: Beats me.  
Danny: Because they saw the turkey dressing!

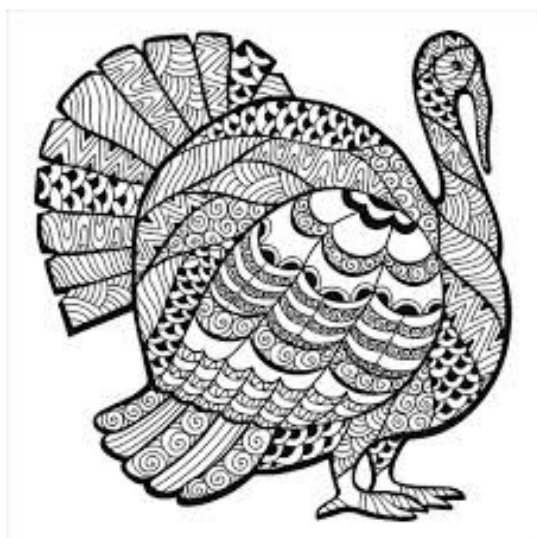
Josh: Why did the farmer run a steamroller over his potato field on Thanksgiving Day?  
Phil: Why?  
Josh: He wanted to raise mashed potatoes.

Charles: What is a turkey's favorite dessert?  
Mary: I haven't a clue.  
Charles: Peach gobbler!



A lady was picking through the frozen turkeys at the grocery store for Thanksgiving Day, but couldn't find one big enough for her family. She asked a stock boy, "Do these turkeys get any bigger?" "No, ma'am. They're dead."

Luke: What did the turkey say to the computer?  
Will: What?  
Luke: "Google, google, google."



### Turkey Time!

Color the turkey on the other side as neatly and creatively as you can and get a treat!

★Use several colors.



## Better Butter

The Pilgrims made butter by taking the cream from milk and using a butter churn. We did our own experiment following the scientific method to see if we could replicate how the Pilgrims made it. First, we talked about physical and chemical changes. A physical change is a temporary one, such as water freezing. A chemical change is permanent. The ingredients in a cake once mixed and baked can never return to their original forms. Before we did the activity, the students estimated how many shakes it would take to turn the cream into butter. Then, the children took turns shaking the jars ten times and keeping track by using tally marks. We had to be very careful, because if we shook it too many times, our butter might have turned back into cream! The difference in shakes were pretty close for three of the groups. The groups' number of shakes were 220, 230, 260, and 360. Our range for the number of shakes is  $360 - 220 = 140$ . The median is 245. Half the groups had less than or equal to 245 shakes and half of the groups had equal to or more than 245 shakes. Finally, we found the mean or average which is 267. The class hypothesized why the groups' numbers were different. It's possible that we tallied incorrectly. We may have shook the container too fast or too slow. We shook the container incorrectly, or we shook the container less than or more than ten times. We ate our homemade butter with cornbread. Everyone that tried it like it a lot! Our cornbread is quite different than the cornbread the Pilgrims ate in 1621.

## Scatter Beans

Scatter Beans was a game played by Indian children. While they played with flat rocks, we used beans colored with red and black markers. The children played with a partner using four red beans (worth one point), one black bean (worth five points), and a flat basket. Dropping the basket with straight arms, the children could count only the beans that remained in the basket and were color-side up. Each person had three turns and had to keep track of the total in his/her head. We recorded each person's score and did some statistics. The range was  $21 - 5 = 16$ . There was a difference of 16 between the highest score and the lowest score. There was a tie for the mode: 7 and 10. The median was 10. Half the class had a score less than 10 points and half of the class had scores higher than 10 points. The mean or average score was 11.6. We decided that the likelihood or probability of getting the same scores would be very low if we played the game again. This would be a fun game to play at home. Instead of using baskets, use paper plates and pennies and nickels or other similar objects! The class agreed that it would be fun to have a competition. So that's what we will do when we return from Thanksgiving! I look forward to the competition and seeing who is the Scatter Bean Master. :)

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### Just for Fun!

Memorize one of these poems by Wednesday, December 15, for a fun treat! Remember to use lots of expression and rhythm as you practice!!



Newsletter Raffle Question: Week of November 15, 2021

\*Turn in this form on/before December 3, 2021.

Please answer in complete sentences with capitalization and punctuation.

Finish your writing on the back! :)

You have two choices for your question this week.

1. Write about our week and all the fun we had. (Write a summary.) OR
2. Write about your Thanksgiving Week and all the fun you had. :)

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Child's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_