

THE STORM REPORT

CAPE HATTERAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

MUSINGS FROM MS. BENTON

At Cape Hatteras Elementary, we believe that learning can take you anywhere — and one of the most important tools our students can carry with them on that journey is honesty.

This month, we are focusing on what it truly means to be honest.

Honesty is more than just telling the truth when we are asked a question. It means doing the right thing even when no one is watching. It means admitting mistakes, taking responsibility for our actions, and building trust with friends, teachers, and family members. When students practice honesty, they create a school environment where everyone feels safe, respected, and valued.

Honesty can sometimes be hard — especially when telling the truth feels uncomfortable. That is why we are teaching our students that making a mistake is part of learning, and being truthful about it shows strength and courage.

You can support this character focus at home by having simple, meaningful conversations with your child. Here are a few ideas:

Conversation Starters:

- Why do you think honesty is important?
- How does it feel when someone tells you the truth?
- Why can it sometimes be hard to be honest?
- What should you do if you make a mistake?

Strategies for Families:

- Model honesty in everyday situations. Children learn by watching us.
- Praise your child for telling the truth — especially when it was difficult.
- Emphasize problem-solving over punishment when mistakes happen.
- Share stories (from books or your own life) where honesty made a positive difference.

Together, we can help our Tropical Storms understand that honesty builds trust, strengthens relationships, and helps us grow into responsible, confident individuals. Thank you for partnering with us as we continue guiding our students to make good choices and find joy in the journey.

THIS MONTH AT A GLANCE:

12 End of the Grading Period
13 No School Teacher Workday
20 Report Cards Available



A NOTE FROM OUR AP

Tips for School Success

Reading with your child from kindergarten through 5th grade is one of the most powerful habits you can build at home. It supports school success, strengthens your relationship, and helps your child see reading as enjoyable.

When you read together, your child hears new words in context, which grows vocabulary and supports stronger comprehension across all subjects. Regular read-aloud time also lets children practice listening, focus, and imagination as they picture the story in their minds. As books get more complex in the upper grades, reading together gives kids a safe space to talk about characters' choices, feelings, and big ideas. Just 10–15 minutes a day makes a meaningful difference. You can take turns reading pages, act out voices, talk about favorite parts, or simply snuggle up with a picture book or novel. Below is the testing calendar with some important links if you would like more information about the assessments your children will participate in.

4th grade NC Check-In 2.0 - Reading B	February 25, 2026	<u>State Tests NC State Check-Ins 2.0</u>	State
3rd grade NC Check-In 2.0 B - Math	February 26, 2026	<u>State Tests NC State Check-Ins 2.0</u>	State
4th grade NC Check-In 2.0 A - Math	February 26, 2026	<u>State Tests NC State Check-Ins 2.0</u>	State
5th grade NC Check-In 2.0 B - Math	March 10, 2026	<u>State Tests NC State Check-Ins 2.0</u>	State
5th grade NC Check-In 2.0 - Science (Physical)	March 31, 2026	<u>State Tests NC State Check-Ins 2.0</u>	State
4/5th grades NC Check-In 2.0 C - Math	April 21, 2026	<u>State Tests NC State Check-Ins 2.0</u>	State
3rd grade NC Check-In 2.0 C - Math	April 21, 2026	<u>State Tests NC State Check-Ins 2.0</u>	State
3-5th grade NC Check-In 2.0 C - Reading	April 23, 2026	<u>State Tests NC State Check-Ins 2.0</u>	State
5th grade NC Check-In 2.0 - Science (Life)	May 5, 2026	<u>State Tests NC State Check-Ins 2.0</u>	State

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

KINDERGARTEN

We have officially completed our middle-of-the-year assessments, and we are so proud of the growth we are seeing in our kindergarteners! The progress they have made in reading, writing, and math is exciting, and it truly shows the hard work happening both at school and at home. Please continue practicing our heart words at home. Students should be able to both recognize and spell these words automatically. Regular practice makes a big difference in building strong, confident readers! We are also excited to welcome Ms. Taylor, who is completing her student teaching in Ms. Karla's class. She has the opportunity to work with both kindergarten classes, and the students have been doing a wonderful job making her feel welcome. We are so happy to have her as part of our classroom community!

We are especially excited to have students from the National Junior Honor Society at CHSS coming to visit on March 2 for Dr. Seuss Day to read to our kindergarteners. Celebrating the joy of reading inspired by Dr. Seuss makes this day extra special for our students! Thank you for your continued support!

1ST GRADE

Hello First Grade Families,

Math

We had a fun week of celebrations last month with Valentine's Day and the 100th day of school.

We will continue to work on strengthening our addition and subtraction "Quick Facts" to help us mentally add and subtract. The students should be fluent with numbers up to 20. They should also be able to add 10 more, 10 less, 1 more, and 1 less to any given number up to 100.

They have been learning how to use different strategies to help us find a missing addend in equations and word problems.

Reading:

We are continuing to work on long vowels and words with specific digraphs and blends. Please continue to have your child read every night and practice recognizing the high-frequency words.

Writing:

We continue to strengthen our writing skills. We have been learning to brainstorm ideas and plan our thoughts before writing. They are focusing on a topic and writing details to support the topic. Students are working on using neat handwriting, trying to spell high-frequency words correctly, sounding out unknown words, and writing complete sentences that stick to the topic.

Science/Social Studies:

We have been using Studies Weekly to incorporate first-grade social studies standards into our curriculum. The units include civics and government, geography, economics, history, and inquiry. Be sure to ask your child about their weekly publications!

Wish List:

We are always in need of: Kleenex, hand soap, Clorox wipes

Thank you for your support at home,
First Grade Team



CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

2ND DLI

I am very proud of our students and the progress they continue to make! Their effort, responsibility, and dedication are reflected in their daily work, and it is exciting to see how much they are growing both academically and personally. At the same time, I know they are capable of even more. For this reason, I will continue to expect and demand more from them, always with high expectations and strong support. We are now working with a focus on helping students transition smoothly into third grade by strengthening independence, responsibility, and academic stamina. Creativity, multicultural awareness, and meaningful learning experiences will remain an important part of our classroom. To support this growth, it is very important that students continue their reading task at home consistently. The one minute—one page reading activity helps build fluency and confidence, which are key skills for success in third grade. Small prizes for our classroom treasure box are always appreciated, and healthy snacks are also very welcome. I look forward to continuing to work together to make this a year full of learning, growth, and joyful discovery for our students. Profe Pablo.

2ND GRADE

Hi Second Grade Families,

We had a very successful month in February! We celebrated Valentine's Day and the 100th Day of School! Ms. Jillian's and Ms. Liza's classes completed many fun holiday-themed activities that focused on reading, writing, and math. Shown below are some class pictures from the month.

In March, we will continue to work on preparing your children for 3rd Grade! We are going to work on becoming more fluent readers. Students will continue writing complete, detailed sentences with correct punctuation and capitalization. By the end of 2nd grade, the goal is that students can write 2 full paragraphs (5 sentences each). In math, students will begin a new unit focused on geometry. We are excited to see the growth continue during the next few months.

As always, reach out with any questions you may have. Thank you!

~ Second Grade Team (Ms. Jillian and Ms. Liza)



CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

3RD GRADE

ELA: The phonics focus will be on reading and spelling words with the sound of long /u/ spelled _ew and _ue. The sound /oo/ is spelled oo, u, _ue, u_e, and _ew; We will also be learning /ow/ spelled ow and ou_ contrasted with /long o/ spelled _ow. We will also be working on homographs and multiple-meaning words, inflectional endings (ing, ed). We will finish reading the informative text and then begin narrative non-fiction. Reading strategies will concentrate on asking and answering questions and visualizing. The stories will be based on various history and will help students learn about different points of view. In writing, we will finish learning to write informatively and then move on to narrative writing.

MATH: We are working through Unit 5 and will be moving into Unit 6 in March. Unit 5 focuses on helping students see the connection between division and multiplication. The unit also focuses on area and perimeter, and how students can break shapes into smaller parts to find their area. Unit 6 focuses on geometry (shapes) and fractions. Students took their second math check-in at the end of February, and we will be reviewing those test questions, discussing solutions, and practicing test-taking strategies to help them be successful on math tests. Please keep practicing math facts at home with your child. It really helps them feel confident and leads to more success in math.

SCIENCE/SOCIAL STUDIES: In science, we have planted seeds and will watch them closely as they grow! Additionally, we will start exploring outer space and discuss the roles of the Earth, sun, and moon in our solar system. In social studies,

3RD DLI

In the month of March, in math, 3rd graders will complete Unit 6 - Geometry. Students will develop increasingly precise ways to describe, classify, and make generalizations about two-dimensional shapes, particularly quadrilaterals.

In English, we will read and spell words that include the following prefixes: un-, pre-, re-, and dis-. We will also discuss the doubling rule when adding the suffix -ed, -ing, -er, and -est. We will continue reading passages independently and answering comprehension questions about the passages.

In science, we will work on a new unit called "motion and stability-forces and interactions." We will carry out investigations to infer changes in speed or direction resulting from forces acting on an object. We will also compare the relative speeds of objects that travel the same distance in different amounts of time. We will use models to explain the effect of Earth's gravity on the motion of any object on or near the Earth.

In Spanish, we will continue working on rotations. At the reading station, we will work on choral reading and individualized reading. At the word study station, we will work on vocabulary related to the unit we are studying: possessive pronouns and vocabulary about clothes. We will also continue working with Level Learning.

In social studies, we are finishing up our unit where we understand the structure and function of state and local government.

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

4TH GRADE

Math: This month in math, students will practice finding the perimeter and area of rectangles and composite shapes using multiplication and division strategies they know. We will use repeated addition, arrays, and related facts to connect multiplication to area, and use division to find unknown side lengths when given area or perimeter. At home, encourage your child to measure small boxes or books and talk through how they would calculate perimeter (adding all sides) and area (rows $\times$ columns), and to explain a multiplication or division strategy they used. **ELA:** In writing, students will plan and write short opinion pieces. They will support their opinion with reasons and facts from class readings. In reading, we'll explore age-appropriate informational texts about plants and animals and practice summarizing key ideas and using text evidence. You can support your child by asking them to tell you their opinion on a nature topic and to give two reasons from something they read or learned. **Science:** Students will learn the basics of energy (kinds of energy and simple energy transfer) and examine how human actions affect Earth's systems (pollution, conservation, and simple ways people can reduce impact). Toward the end of the month, we'll begin a hands-on engineering unit where students identify a small problem related to energy or human impact and brainstorm simple solutions. At home, discuss ways your family conserves energy and invite your child to sketch an idea for a small device or plan that could help the environment. **Social Studies:** In social studies, we are focusing on North Carolina government: the roles of local and state leaders, how laws affect communities, and ways citizens participate (voting, volunteering, contacting leaders). Students will learn about key state symbols and how the state government helps provide services. Please talk with your child about a local issue they notice in your community and ask who in the local government might help address it; this reinforces civic awareness and practical application.

4TH DLI

In English, we will begin Lexicon Labs. Up until now, we have been studying the 6 different syllable types as we read and spell single-syllable and multisyllabic words, as well as word morphemes. We will now use the knowledge we have gained to apply our word study knowledge on a deeper level. We will read passages and study words that build our vocabulary strength. Students will also write fictional narratives, and we will continue to read passages independently and answer comprehension questions. In Spanish, we will continue working on the contextual use of the language in order to acquire the knowledge to use Spanish in real communicative situations. In Math, we will be working in Unit 5 in Geometry, Finding Area and Perimeter. Also, we will start Unit 6, which involves Multiplication, Division, Data, and Fractions. In Social Studies, we will work on an economics unit in order to understand how economic decisions and resources affect the economy of North Carolina. In Science, we will keep diving into the world of Fossils and types of rocks through research and experimentation.



CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

5TH GRADE

In mathematics, we are progressing with the relationship between fractions and decimals, engaging in comparisons, and placing them on number lines. We have successfully mastered the addition and subtraction of decimals. In the forthcoming unit, our focus will shift to strategies for division and multiplication. We will explore multiplying fractions by whole numbers and decimals by decimals. Furthermore, we will connect multiplication to division through the use of area models. Additionally, we will craft division narratives and solve problems involving single and double-digit divisors using the standard algorithm and area models.

This month in English Language Arts (ELA), we are continuing the inspiring book "A Long Walk to Water" by Linda Sue Park. This captivating dual narrative follows two children in Sudan, one in 1985 and the other in 2008, conveying a hopeful message: that even in difficult times, determined individuals can achieve the future they desire. Students will delve into themes of perseverance, determination, and appreciation as they accompany Salva and Nya on their journeys. In addition to reading, we will engage in vocabulary quizzes to deepen our understanding of new words and their meanings. Students will also be encouraged to express their thoughts and reflections through journal entries, enhancing their writing skills and personal connections to the story.

In Science, we are diving into our Forces of Motion unit! Students will explore how objects move and the forces influencing that movement. We'll focus on measuring motion and analyzing the causes and effects of various movements. Through engaging experiments and activities, students will enhance their understanding of concepts such as speed, velocity, and acceleration while honing their critical thinking skills.

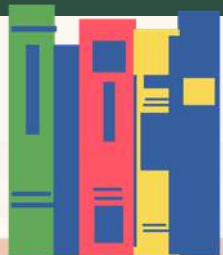
Our experiments include using carts with wheels made from different materials to observe how they impact motion. We'll also experiment with identical carts of varying weights to see how mass affects movement. Additionally, students will construct marble tracks to explore how friction and gravity influence speed.



5TH DLI

As we finish the third quarter. We are wrapping up our units on decimals and forces of motion and will begin units on multiplication and division. In these modules, students will revisit multiplication and division strategies building number sense through estimation, mental math, relationships between multiplication and division, doubling/halving, and the connections among fractions, decimals, and whole numbers. We will formally introduce the standard multiplication algorithm after reviewing the area model and partial products, and later reinforce long- division strategies using the area model and ratio tables. We'll continue reading *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* and hope to include related STEM activities. In Spanish, students will use *Avanza* and Reader's Theaters to grow vocabulary, reading fluency, and writing. The class is completing informational writing books. This is a big project. In social studies we are exploring topics including the French and Indian War. As always, we'll keep practicing multiplication fluency and kindness.

CONNECTING WITH ESSENTIALS



Media Moments

Ms. Jenn & Ms. Hooper

March 2026



Students are reading and rating the NC Children's Book Award Nominees this month in the Library.

I ♥ BOOKS

March Events
OneSchool, One Book Reading

Schedule Ends 3/26

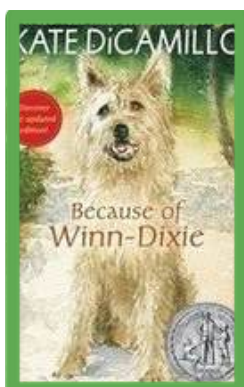
3rd-5th Grade Book Club

Celebration 3/27

Makerspace Week 3/23-3/27

March Book Club

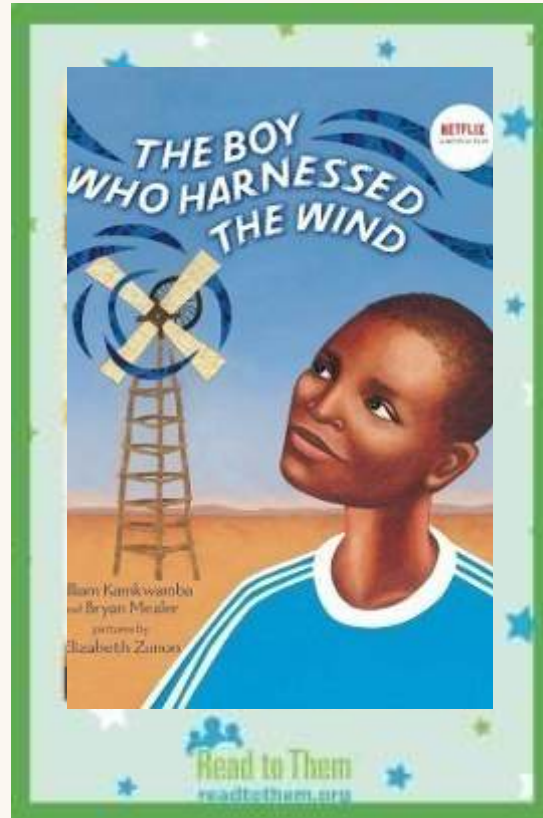
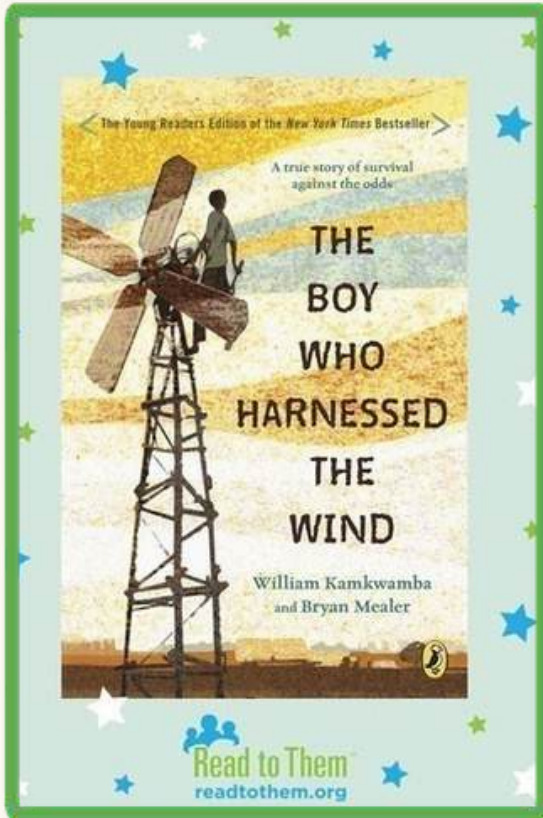
3rd-5th Graders can stop by the library to sign up and read our March book club pick, *Because of Winn-Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo. We will have our book club celebration on Friday, March 27th.



NC Children's Book Award
Students in Kindergarten through 5th Grade are reading the nominees on the NC Children's Book Award list. We can't wait to partner with the League of Women Voter's next month to vote for our school's favorite on actual voting booths! Stay tuned to see which book is the winning title.

One School, One Book

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind by
William Kamkwamba and Bryan Miller



We are gearing up to celebrate our novel at the end of the month with several STEM stations around the school and are collecting the following:

plastic cups, rubber bands, popsicle sticks, string, straws, cotton balls, pom poms, crepe paper streamers, pipe cleaners (3 packs), pony beads, toilet paper rolls, paper plates, empty water bottles and lids, empty 2-liter bottle, empty tissue box, empty egg carton, shoe box, oatmeal canisters or coffee cans, broken machines like old clocks, radios, toasters, old phones, tape recorders.

If you have any of these items to donate, please send in to
Ms. Jenn in the Library.

CONNECTING WITH ESSENTIALS

ART

Our kindergarten artists have been honing their cutting skills by making art about crocodiles and their sharp teeth. After reading Solomon Crocodile, students created mixed media artworks that showcase texture and color using texture plates and tissue bleeding.

In First Grade, students are looking at African American artist Faith Ringgold and her use of textiles and quiltmaking techniques in her work *Tar Beach*. Students are exploring different communities and creating cityscapes using printing and painting techniques.

Our Second Grade artists are learning about Repetition and how artists repeat the elements of art in their work to create Patterns and Unity. Artist Wayne Thiebaud's body of work based on desserts has been a delicious way to study this and we are creating Fantasy Ice Cream compositions that show a variety of examples of Repetition.

Third graders are weaving with paper and learning about how the Navajo people of the southwest use weaving to create beautiful pieces of functional art to connect them to their ancestors as well as make money for their tribes.

In Fourth grade, we are finishing up our unit on American naturalist and painter John Audubon. We learned about how his artwork and advocacy for protecting wildlife gave rise to an American movement in birdwatching and bird protection with organizations such as the Audubon Society and national programs such as the Christmas Bird Count. Students created works showcasing Backyard Birds that are native to North Carolina and participated in their own artistic Bird Count.

Fifth graders are busy working on mixed media collages inspired by Harlem Renaissance artist Romare Bearden. Bearden expressed his identity through his interactions with his communities. He blends imagery from his rural roots in North Carolina with his adolescence and adulthood in urban New York and collaborates with musicians, writers, and academics through his work. Students are making works about their communities and reflecting on how their communities overlap and inspire each other.

MUSIC



CONNECTING WITH ESSENTIALS

STEM

On Thursday, February 12, families traveled the world at our exciting Passport to STEM Night! Thank you to all the families who attended—family involvement is essential to building curiosity, confidence, and a love of learning in our students. With support from the Hatteras Island Youth Education Fund, our school transformed into a global STEM adventure. One highlight was a stop in Malawi, the setting of our One School, One Book selection, *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*, where students explored wind using a wind tube built by DM Gray. A paper airplane contest thrilled students—Amia (5th grade) placed 1st, Daniel (3rd grade) 2nd, and Henry (3rd grade) 3rd. Congratulations to Carter (2nd grade), our door prize raffle winner! Keep the journey going at home by building, experimenting, and exploring STEM together.

P.E.

March we are focusing on large group games. The students will become referees/judges, players, and actually take turns running the games (coaches). The games will involve throwing, catching and gross motor skills.

They love being able to pick the teams and run the show.



AIG

ELA Readers:

- In Suzanne Selfors' book, "Smells Like Dog," fifth graders encounter Homer Pudding, a typical farm boy with big aspirations—to become a treasure hunter like his renowned uncle. When Uncle Drake mysteriously vanishes, Homer is left with two things: a sluggish, droopy dog lacking a sense of smell, and a mystery to solve.
- Fourth graders dive into "Walls Within Walls" by Maureen Sherry, where the Smithfork siblings relocate from Brooklyn to a lavish Manhattan apartment after their father creates a hit video game. They uncover that their new residence is a massive puzzle, a treasure hunt left by the former owner, Mr. Post, leading them on a quest through New York City to find hidden riches.
- Third graders are exploring "Hoot" by Carl Hiaasen. Everyone loves Mother Paula's pancakes—except for the endangered owls living on the construction site of the new restaurant. Can the clumsy new kid and his wild friend play tricks to drive the pancake makers away, or is it too late for the owls?
- Second graders are delving into another Roald Dahl classic, "Matilda." Matilda is an extraordinary girl—at just five and a half, she solves complex multiplication problems and reads Dickens with ease. Her classmates adore her, despite her being a bit of a geek and the teacher's favorite. Yet, not everything is perfect in Matilda's world...
- First graders are beginning their next "Magic Tree House" adventure with "Pirates Past Noon #4."

Great Math Stars:

First graders are having fun tackling difficult problems with Math Stars. Second graders are finishing their work in Math Superstars and learning multiplication using playing cards. Third graders are building on last year's Developing Fraction Sense by deepening their understanding of fractions through story problems. Fourth and fifth-graders continue to diligently engage with Math Stars and Math Superstars.

STEM NIGHT



ESL AT HOME

ESL Month Step 1: Welcome

**Dear Families,**

I am so incredibly proud of our ESL students! We have officially finished the English Proficiency Test, and every single student did an amazing job in all areas: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. They worked so hard and gave their best effort each day. We will receive the official results before the end of the school year, but I already want you to know how proud I am of them.

English Fun at Home

Read Together: Read English books for 15–20 minutes each night. Ask your child to retell the story in their own words.

March Word Hunt: Pick 5 new words each week. Write them on sticky notes and find objects around the house that match the words.

Family Game Night: Play board games like Uno, Bingo, or Memory in English. Practice saying full sentences when playing.

Cooking Together: Follow a simple recipe in English and practice words like mix, pour, stir, and bake.

Talk Time: Ask daily questions in English like: "What was the best part of your day?" or "What did you learn today?"

**Motivation**

Our students are true rock stars for being bilingual! Being able to speak more than one language is a superpower, and they showed confidence, courage, and determination during testing. Keep it up; practice makes progress!

Remember!

Small daily practice makes a BIG difference. Thank you for supporting your child's bilingual journey at home. Together, we are helping them grow stronger every day!



Artist of the Month
Lily Hicks



SPOTLIGHTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Did you know...

President James Madison was known as “the father of the Constitution”? He was one of the first delegates to arrive for the Constitutional Convention which was held in Philadelphia. He brought with him the Virginia Plan which, among other things, outlined a three branch government which featured a judicial branch, two house legislative branch, and an executive branch. His plan served as a starting point for debate by the delegates. In 1789, he wrote ten amendments to the constitution which were aimed at protecting individual liberties. We know these amendments as the Bill of Rights.

Exercise of the Month -Crab Walk



- Start by sitting up with both your knees bent, pointing upward, and both feet flat on the floor.
- Place your hands flat on the floor and slightly behind your back.
- Lift your hips off the floor and walk backward.

Q: What falls during March but never gets hurt?

A: The rain

Joke of the Month