

B L U E H A W K N E W S

School House Clue

A little extra fun and adventure has been added this week, thanks to our PTO! Kindergarten through 8th grade students and staff have been given a mystery to solve, through a series of daily audio clues, signs, and photos posted throughout the campus. Each day finds us eliminating suspects, locations and objects, much like the boardgame Clue. By Monday we will have solved the mystery and know if the guilty party was Professor Plum, Colonel Mustard, Mrs. Peacock or Ms. White. To culminate this fun event, we will all be treated to the movie *Zootopia 2* on the big screen, downtown at the Rex Theater on **Tuesday, March 31st! Kinder through 4th grade students and staff will walk down, leaving the school at 8:30AM.** They will return to the Elementary in time for lunch. **Fifth through eighth grade will walk down, leaving the school at 12:30PM.** They will return in time for dismissal! Thank you to our PTO, Naegeli Ranch, Rivertown Dental, Harvest Foods, Clark Fork Valley Hospital, and Sanders County Feed for sponsoring this fun adventure! Please contact the office at 406-827-3592 x 3 with any questions or concerns.

Tick Season Reminder

With warmer weather here, ticks are becoming more active. These small, reddish-brown insects are often found in grassy, brushy, or wooded areas and can be hard to spot. Ticks don't jump or fly, they attach by grabbing onto people or pets as they pass through vegetation. To stay safe: Wear long sleeves and light-colored clothing, use insect repellent, and avoid tall grass when possible. After being outdoors, check carefully for ticks - especially in the hair, behind ears, under arms, and behind knees. Ticks can carry illnesses such as Lyme disease, so early removal is important. Enjoy the outdoors, and remember to check for ticks!

Join the Class of 2040!

We are now scheduling enrollment appointments for children who will turn 4 years old on or before September 10, 2026. These students will be our very first **Early Learning Class (Pre-K)**, and we couldn't be more excited. We currently have appointment availability on Tuesday, April 15 and Wednesday, April 16. If you have a child who qualifies or know a family who may be interested, please call 406-827-3592 ext. 3 to schedule an appointment. Our preschool program will offer a full-day, classroom-based learning experience. Program hours will be Monday-Thursday: 8:10AM-3:15PM, and Friday: 8:10AM-2:05PM, beginning with the 2026-27 school year. Free breakfast, lunch, and an afternoon snack will be provided daily.

Yearbooks For Sale

Your student should have brought home a yearbook order form today. We're happy to share that yearbooks are available again this year, for just \$15.00, and will include kinder through 8th grade students. Deadline for ordering is **Friday April 24, 2026.** To pay by check: Make payable to Thompson Falls Elem and drop off at the Elementary Office. To pay online: Scan the barcode on the order form to place your order digitally. Don't miss out on capturing this year's memories!

Running Start Reading

Kinder through 6th grade students have been challenged to read 21 books or chapters during the Running Start Reading Challenge, sponsored by the Woman's Club. The challenge ends April 17th. Students may complete multiple reading logs, with each completed reading log being entered into the drawing for prizes. Additional reading logs are available from your student's teacher and the log can also be found on the Forms page of our website. **All reading logs are due April 17th.** Kinder through 2nd grade students have been enjoying visits from a variety of community members who have come in to read to students, or listen to students read. Happy Reading!

Important Happenings

- 3/16-4/3 Running Start Guest Readers - K-2
- 3/26 Report cards sent home with students
- 3/26 REACH (after school program for 3rd-8th) 3:15-5:00PM
- 3/27 FUN FRIDAY— Career Day
- 3/27 PTO Popcorn Friday—sponsored by North Star Drilling
- 3/27 Early Dismissal - 2:05PM
- 3/30 REACH (after school program for 3rd-8th) 3:15-5:00PM
- 3/31 PTO's SHC Reward Movie - Rex Theater
- 4/1 REACH (after school program for 3rd-8th) 3:15-5:00PM
- 4/2 REACH (after school program for 3rd-8th) 3:15-5:00PM
- 4/3 FUN FRIDAY—Dress to Impress Day
- 4/3 Early Dismissal - 2:05PM
- 4/6-4/10 **No School - Spring Break**
- 4/13 NO REACH
- 4/14 Pre-K Registration - by appointment
- 4/15 Pre-K Registration - by appointment
- 4/15 REACH (after school program for 3rd-8th) 3:15-5:00PM
- 4/15 PTO Meeting - 5:00PM - Elementary
- 4/16 REACH (after school program for 3rd-8th) 3:15-5:00PM
- 4/16-4/18 Beautification Days
- 4/17 FUN FRIDAY—Rock Star / Band Day
- 4/17 PTO's Donuts with Dads - 7:30AM - Cafeteria
- 4/17 Running Start Challenge ends
- 4/17 Early Dismissal - 2:05PM
- 4/20 Running Start Reading Logs due
- 4/20 REACH (after school program for 3rd-8th) 3:15-5:00PM
- 4/22 REACH (after school program for 3rd-8th) 3:15-5:00PM
- 4/23 REACH (after school program for 3rd-8th) 3:15-5:00PM
- 4/24 FUN FRIDAY—Crazy Sock & Sandals Day
- 4/24 PTO's Popcorn Friday—sponsored by May's Stitch and Fix
- 4/24 Running Start Celebration - 1:30PM
- 4/24 Final day to order Yearbooks

Thompson Falls Elementary

Mr. Len Dorscher,
Principal

School web site:
<https://tfes.thompsonfalls.net>



Why Kids Push Back and What Works Instead**Choices Work Better Than Threats**

Threats are one way some parents attempt to exert control over their kids. However, if you have a strong-willed child, you probably have sensed how much they also love to exert control. In fact, the control needs of these kids are so strong that many are willing to perform all sorts of self-defeating or even self-destructive behaviors just to show that they're the boss.

The Problem with Threats

Using threats with kids rarely gets the desired results. You've probably met parents who use threats to boss their kids around. Parents who do this often feel some small sense of control in the short-term but quickly lose it when their kids respond with passive-aggressive behaviors (possibly passive-resistive behaviors) or become downright rebellious.

When parents try to control their kids with threats, kids naturally respond by trying to exert their own control. Unfortunately, this usually ends up in a power struggle, with more threats followed by more resistance.

Choose Choices Instead of Threats

Wise parents avoid power struggles by giving away all the control they don't need so that they can maintain the control they do need. One way to break the threat cycle is by giving lots of small choices when everything is going well.

Here are some examples of threats with suggested choices as alternatives:

Threat: "You're either going to pick up your toys or lose them!"

Choice: "Do you want to pick up your toys or would you rather I pick them up?"

Threat: "If you don't get home on time, you're losing your car keys!"

Choice: "Would you rather get home on time or stay out past curfew and lose the car keys?"

Threat: "Stop arguing with each other or get out of the car!"

Choice: "Would you rather stop arguing or do I need to think of some consequences after we get home?"

Deliver Choices with Empathy

Sadly, some parents sabotage their use of choices by delivering them with an angry or frustrated tone of voice. What turns a choice into a threat largely depends on how it is said and when it is said. When we deliver choices with empathy instead of anger, our choices are far more likely to remain choices—not threats.

When threats lead to power struggles, it can feel like nothing is working. In our webinar [Success with Strong-Willed, Stubborn or Downright Defiant Kids](#), you'll learn practical ways to replace threats with choices, reduce resistance, and guide kids toward better decisions without escalating conflict.

Each week we share Love & Logic tips here. We also have many Love & Logic resources available for loan.

Contact our school counselor, Ms. Jessy Lewis, for more info.