ISSUE 1 OCTOBER 2026

VOL. 4

CUB REPORTER

Cub Reporter Edited By
Simla Journalism Dept

Happy Halloween 07

Grandparents Day 08

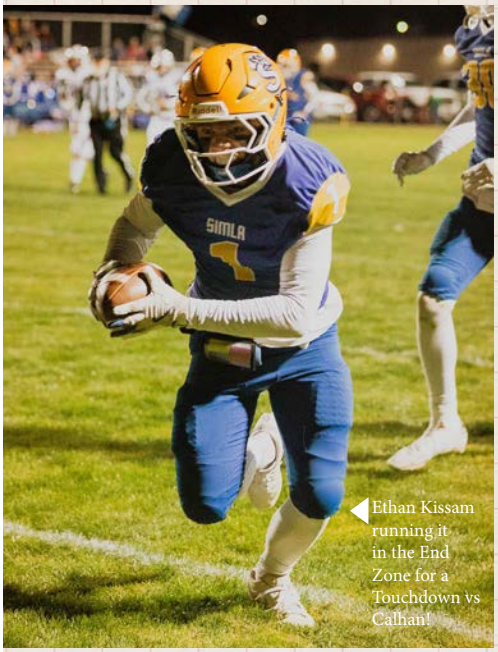
Veterans Day 17

November Lunch 20



OUR GOLDEN ERA HOMECOMING 2026

Bearcubs Celebrate the best time of the year with style!



Ethan Kissam running it in the End Zone for a Touchdown vs Calhan!

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 1
Daylight Savings Time
Elementary Math Month

November 2
School Today

November 5
JH/HS Honor Choir
Regionals

November 6
Regional Volleyball

November 9
School Today

November 11
Veterans Day

November 12-14
State Volleyball

November 17
JH/HS Band to Limon HS

November 18
Picture Retakes

November 21-30
Thanksgiving Break
HS Girls Basketball Scrimmages (28th)






5


7



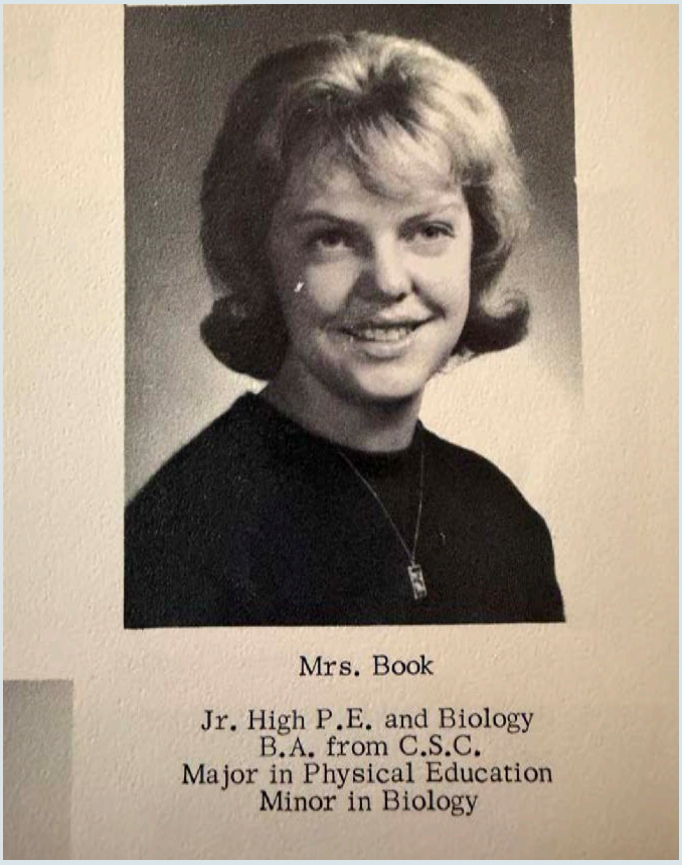







13





THANK YOU JUDY BOOK

If you haven't heard yet, Judy Book has resigned from her position on the Big Sandy School Board.

What an incredible accomplishment and legacy of service! Judy Book has dedicated over 50 years to public education, serving in multiple roles and making a lasting impact on countless students, staff, families, and communities along the way. That is certainly something worth celebrating!

Thank you Judy Book for your dedication and service that have meant so much to our school and community.



Drama/Drama Tech kids at their field trip to the Arvada Theater

CONTENTS

04 Tucker Tidbits
Kathy Tucker

07 Halloween Highlight

08 Grandparents Day

09 Homecoming 2026

10 Counselors Corner
Chad Thieman

12 Nienhaus News
Brian Nienhaus

14 Cubs on Repeat

15 Thanksgiving Foods

16 Teacher of Month

17 Veterans Day

18 School Nurse

19 Elementary Life

20 November Lunch

LOOKING AHEAD



NOVEMBER STUDENT OF THE MONTH



Our November Student of the Month is Kylie Choate.
Kylie, who is in fifth grade, was chosen by the lunch ladies for always saying "Thank you" and complimenting them daily for how yummy the food is. Thank you, Kylie, for being so polite and encouraging the lunch ladies each day.

TUCKER TIDBITS FOR ELEMENTARY



KATHY TUCKER ELEMENTARY



4th Graders getting ready to go during the Homecoming Parade!

What an exciting time of year! The leaves are showing off their beautiful colors, the fall breeze is crisp, and leaves are drifting to the ground. There is a special feeling in the air as we head into this wonderful season! Fall is a great reminder to slow down, look around, and appreciate all the blessings in our lives.

There is so much to be thankful for, both big and small! As we enjoy this beautiful season, I encourage you to take a few minutes with your child to make a list of all the things you are thankful for. You might be surprised by how long that list becomes! From family and friends to teachers, classmates, pets, and even the little things that make us smile, we have so many reasons to be grateful. If your child brings that list to school, then they can earn a Cub Claw from me.

At Big Sandy Elementary, I am especially thankful for our amazing students, dedicated teachers, supportive families, and the wonderful community that makes our school such a special place. Every day brings new opportunities to learn, grow, laugh, and make a difference.
Let's make the most of this beautiful fall season by filling our days with kindness, gratitude, andmplenty of reasons to smile. A thankful heart makes even an ordinary day something special!



CONGRATS ELEMENTARY

Congratulations Elementary for earning a 95.84% attendance rate for the first quarter! Those who had two or less absences attended a pumpkin painting and popcorn party! Way to go Bearcubs!!!

GRANDPARENTS DAY

Once again, the elementary hosted Grandparents' Day. Over 135 grandparents joined us and were able to attend class with their grandchild as well as take pictures and visit the book fair.





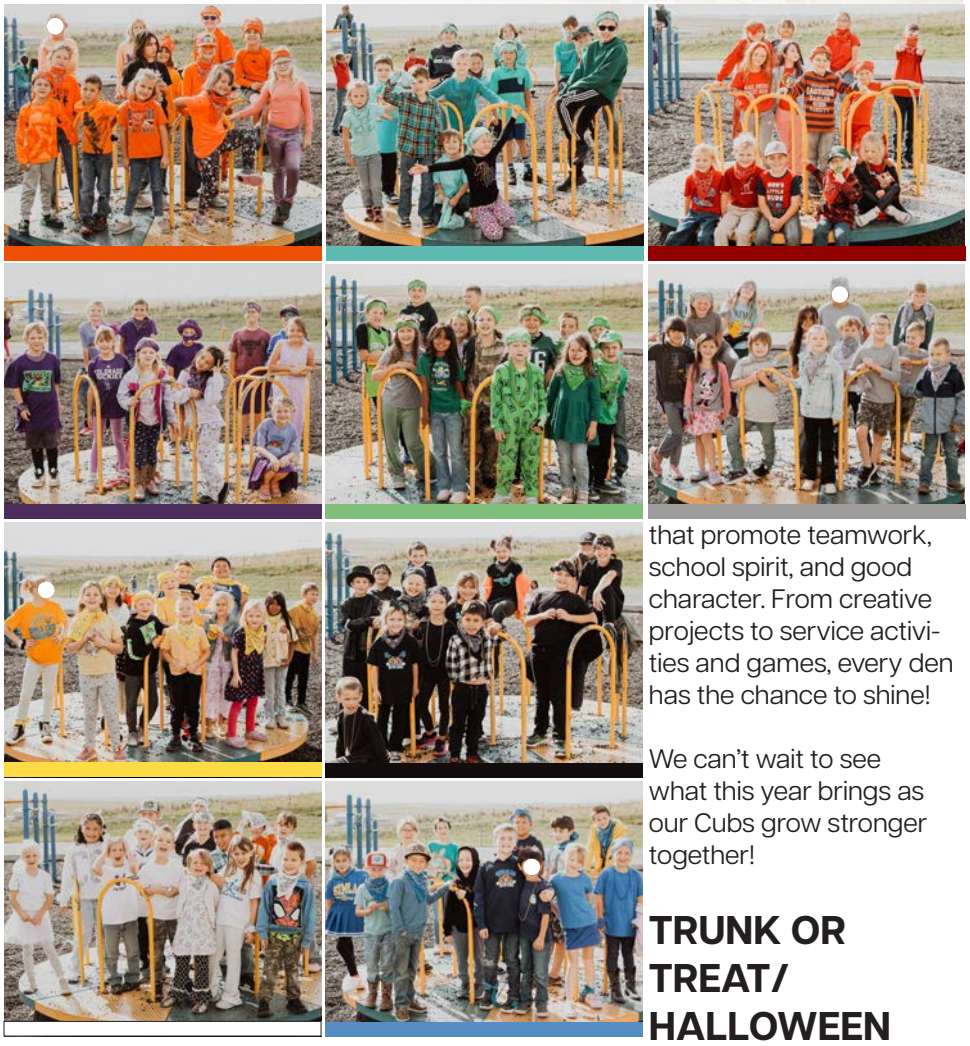
Kindergarten kiddos excited about Grandparents Day!

PRESENTING OUR 2026-2027 CUBS DEN GROUPS!

It is exciting to announce the launch of our 2026–2027 Cub's Den groups – an annual school tradition that brings together students from Kindergarten through 5th grade in one big family of colors, creativity, and community spirit. Each Cub's Den is made up of students from every grade level, all randomly selected to form an exciting team. Every group proudly represents a color that they'll keep throughout the entire year – from field day competitions to classroom challenges and school-wide celebrations!

Our fifth-grade leaders play an important role in guiding their dens. Every month, they teach and inspire their teammates around a special theme of the month that promotes character, kindness, and leadership.

For October, our theme was "Integrity" – and our leaders did a fantastic job helping younger students learn how to stand up for others, include everyone, and make our school a safe, happy place to learn and grow.



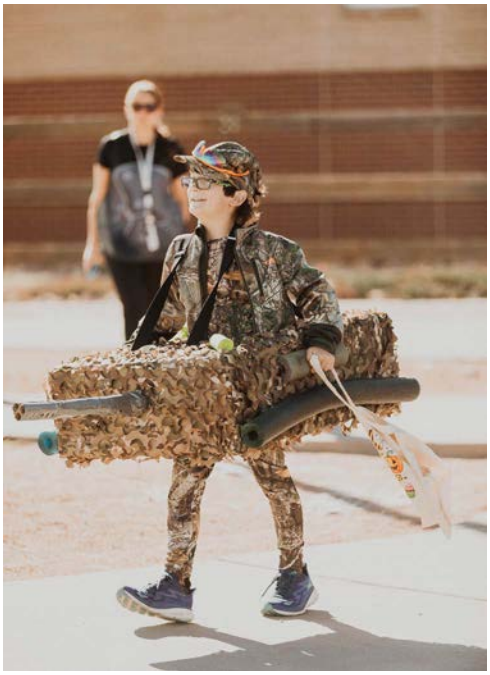
Throughout the year, Cub's Den groups will compete in fun activities and show their Cub pride in challenges that promote teamwork, school spirit, and good character. From creative projects to service activities and games, every den has the chance to shine!

We can't wait to see what this year brings as our Cubs grow stronger together!

TRUNK OR TREAT/ HALLOWEEN

Thank you, Simla community and parents, for providing a unique, fun





opportunity for our kids. Students loved visiting each "trunk" and receiving "goodies." 2026 Cub's Den groups – an annual school tradition that brings together students from Kindergarten through 5th grade in one big family of colors, creativity, and community spirit.

After the trunk or treat, each class held their own Halloween party. What a great time for all!

Thank you, Mrs. Montague, for once again providing an excellent Book Fair for our school community! We appreciate you!

ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 10, 2026 from 3:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m. in the library. We hope to see everyone there! Thank you to all who give of their time to be on this committee.

NOVEMBER IS MATH MONTH!

Sharpen up those math skills in the month of November! Addition/subtraction facts should be mastered by the end of second grade. Multiplication facts should be mastered by the end of third, and division by fourth. Mastering math facts opens the door to more critical thinking activities and higher-level learning. Let's get working on those facts! Calendars will be sent home at the beginning of the month. give of their time to be on this committee.







RECESS AND WEATHER

As seasons change, the temperature will drop. Please make sure your child dresses for the weather since we will have recess outside the majority of the time. Layered clothes, a cap and a pair of gloves in the backpack are a great idea and a necessity when the temperature drops. Also, it's a great idea to write your child's name on all of their outer gear so it can be returned to the rightful owner if misplaced.

JUST A REMINDER

•Please do not leave your car running and unattended in the parking lot. This is extremely dangerous. Take the time to park your car, turn off the engine, and then walk your child into the building.

•At ball games, elementary students need to be accompanied by an adult who can monitor them during the game. Thank you for your cooperation!

•It's almost basketball season! Please note that students are not allowed to stay after school unattended, without supervision, while waiting for a game to begin. temperature drops. Also, it's a great idea to write your child's name on all of their outer gear so it can be returned to the rightful owner if misplaced.















"Children are likely to live up to what you believe of them."

– Lady Bird Johnson
















Grandparents Day

Bearcubs spent the day with their Grandparents!

By Anna Kerst






Homecoming
2026

COUNSELOR CORNER



CHAD THIEMAN &
SHANNON HOOPS

SECONDARY STUDENT PROGRESS REPORTS

All secondary students: First-quarter progress reports were mailed on October 16. If you did not receive your student's report, please contact Mr. Thieman or Mrs. Easler.

The first-quarter Honor Roll is based on these progress grades. As a reminder, **grades do not reset at the end of a quarter**. Semester grades are cumulative, covering August 18 through December 17, and are posted to transcripts only at the end of the semester. First-quarter progress grades do not appear on transcripts and do not affect cumulative GPAs.

ACT TESTING

Students may register for the December 12 ACT administration through **November 6**, the regular registration deadline. The regular registration fee is $70.

Visit www.actstudent.org for registration information and the complete list of 2026–2027 test dates. ACT scores may be used by colleges and merit-based scholarship committees when making admission and scholarship decisions.

SAT TESTING

The next SAT administration is scheduled for **December 5**, with a regular registration deadline of **November 20**. The regular registration fee is $68.

Visit www.collegeboard.org for registration information and additional details.

Save the date, juniors! All juniors will take the digital SAT at school in April 2027 at no cost.

THE DIGITAL PSAT/NMSQT

The digital PSAT/NMSQT was administered at school on October 15 to sophomores and juniors who had registered for the assessment. Juniors may qualify for National Merit Scholarship recognition based on their PSAT/NMSQT scores. Scores are expected to be available by mid-November.

"BE A BUDDY, NOT A BULLY"

The SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) group, under the sponsorship of Mrs. Hoops, promoted Unity Day on October 22nd with the wearing of orange clothing and handing out bracelets to all students. The goal is for Simla to be united against bullying behavior! The best way to stop bullying is for everyone to choose to be kind to each other.



SENIOR CLASS UPDATES

Our seniors took advantage of Colorado's free college application days, October 20–22, when public colleges and universities across the state waived their application fees. Community colleges in Colorado generally do not charge application fees.

Seniors are also continuing to research and apply for scholarships with fall deadlines. Scholarship information and applications are shared regularly during class.

In addition, seniors have begun working on their **Senior Projects**, which include an eight-page research paper examining the benefits and challenges associated with a career of their choice. Each student is also required to complete a job shadow as part of the project. The experience culminates in a presentation to a panel of professionals from our local communities in December.

SENIOR PARENTS: FAFSA INFORMATION

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is now open. As you prepare to complete the application with your senior, the first step is to create a StudentAid.gov account.

Visit www.studentaid.gov to create your account, and be sure to save your login information. You will need these credentials to access and complete your portion of the FAFSA.

A helpful tip for parents: The easiest approach is for your senior to complete their section of the FAFSA first and then invite you to participate as a contributor. You will receive an email with instructions for setting up your account, if needed, and completing your portion of the application. The FAFSA process is more streamlined than ever, and I am happy to help families navigate the online requirements. If you would like assistance, please reach out. Any financial information shared with me during this process will be treated confidentially.



CAREER FIELD TRIPS

We are planning career exploration field trips for students in grades 8–11 throughout the school year. These experiences help students connect classroom learning with real-world career opportunities and explore possible paths for their futures.

This fall:
·**Juniors** participated in an Innovate Pikes Peak-sponsored trip to a Nunn Construction job site and an InnovaFlex manufacturing facility to learn more about careers in construction and manufacturing.

·**Eighth graders** toured two Pikes Peak State College campuses in Colorado Springs to explore educational programs and opportunities available to them after high school.

Looking ahead to spring, we plan to take the **10th graders to Pikes Peak State College** and the **9th graders on an Innovate Pikes Peak-sponsored trip,** which is still in the planning stages.

Our School Counselor Corps Grant helps cover the costs of these valuable career exploration opportunities.

HELP US PLAN A CAREER FAIR!

We are in the early planning stages of hosting a career fair for our students and would love the support of our community!

Do you have suggestions for careers or industries our students should explore? Do you know a professional who would be willing to share their knowledge and experience? Or would you be interested in participating yourself?

Please contact Chad Thieman at cthieman@bigsandy100j.org. **Your connections and expertise can help our students discover new possibilities for their futures.** Thank you for supporting our students!

SAFE2TELL: IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!

Safe2Tell provides students, parents, and community members with a safe, anonymous way to report concerns about their own safety or the safety of others. Reports can address a variety of concerns, and trained analysts help ensure that information reaches the appropriate school and/or law enforcement officials.

There are four ways to submit an anonymous report:
·**Call:** 877-542-SAFE (7233)
·**Online:** Visit the Safe2Tell website
·**Mobile app:** Download the app through the Apple App Store or Google Play
·**Text:** Send **S2TCO** to **738477**

After submitting a report, watch for any follow-up questions. Providing as much accurate, relevant information as possible helps responders assess the concern and determine the appropriate next steps. Safe2Tell also verifies report receipt and response.
Remember: If you see something, say something. Speaking up can help keep our school and community safe.



PARENT INFORMATION PRESENTATION: TECHNOLOGY AND STUDENT SAFETY

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Sharon Todd, a licensed professional counselor with Playful Perspectives Training and Consulting, based in Kentucky. Dr. Todd will provide staff training and a parent information presentation addressing the effects of technology on child development and technology-related risks, including human trafficking and sextortion.

The parent presentation is planned for the evening of Monday, January 25. Additional details will be shared as the date approaches.

We are grateful for continued support through the School Counselor Corps Grant, which helps make valuable training and educational opportunities like this possible for our school community.

SUPPORT FOR ALL STUDENTS

Mrs. Hoops and Mr. Thieman are available to visit with and support students in every grade. We encourage students to stop by the counseling offices whenever they need someone to talk with, have a question, or need help navigating a challenge.



We respect students' privacy and maintain confidentiality within the limits of our professional and legal responsibilities. When there is a concern about a student's safety or the safety of another person, information may need to be shared with appropriate individuals to help ensure everyone's well-being.

Parents, please encourage your student to reach out. We are here to help!

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

We are thankful for the opportunity to live and work in the Simla community and to serve the students and families of Big Sandy. We count it a blessing to be part of such a wonderful community and appreciate the continued support you show our school.

Wishing all of our students, families, and community members a safe, happy, and restful Thanksgiving!

NIENHUIS NEWS:

BRIAN NIENHUIS

SECONDARY







ATTENDANCE

Great news–our first quarter ended with our school attendance rate hovering at 95%! Let's keep showing up.

JH VOLLEYBALL

Our junior high volleyball team wrapped up their season with a 2nd place finish at the Black Forest League tournament. Great work, players and coaches! Congratulations on your accomplishments this season!

JH FOOTBALL

Our junior high football team finished their season on a high note, winning their last game in double overtime against Elbert. Way to work hard all the way to the end, players and coaches!





HS VOLLEYBALL AND FOOTBALL

Our high school volleyball and football teams are gearing up for postseason play in the coming days and weeks. It is awesome to see our fan base travel so well to all of the

games! I think Simla had more fans at the junior high BFL volleyball tournament than any other school. Well done!

CHOIR & BAND

A late shout out to the junior high and high school choir and band students who performed in their first choir concert in September–it was an excellent performance!

SPORTING EVENTS

We want to encourage our fans to represent Simla well with good sportsmanship at all of our sporting events. I believe our school and community has done a great job so far this school year. Thank you!

I know emotions can get going as we progress into postseason play. We want to show respect and class towards our opponents, their fans, and the referees.

As basketball ramps up and weather cools down, please remind your children not to run in the hallways, corridors, or cafeteria during sporting events. We want to keep both our children and our senior community members safe. Thank you for helping us with this!

QUARTERLY INCENTIVES

We plan to go on a field trip to watch White Christmas on Thursday, December 3rd. To qualify for this field trip, students must meet the following criteria: maintain passing grades (no D's or F's), have zero behavior referrals, and accumulate fewer than 5 total tardies to school or class, and no more than 4 days of unexcused absences. Our goal is that all of our junior high and high school students are eligible to go on this field trip!

CALENDER NOTES FOR NOVEMBER

Just a reminder that we will have school on Monday, November 2nd and Monday, November 9th. We will not have school on Friday, November 6th and Friday, November 13th. Our Thanksgiving Break week will be November 23-27.










Cubs on Repeat
FUEL
THE NORTH FACE
Hemorrhage (In My Hands)
Fuel
Jayden
Hinds
3 DOORS DOWN
Kryptonite
3 Doors Down
Barrett
Volosin
California Gurls
Katy Perry, Snoop Dogg
Allie
Foster
I'll Believe in Anything
Wolf Parade
Zaylaa
Lally

Bearcubs Favorite Thanksgiving Foods!



47% chose Turkey



53% chose Ham

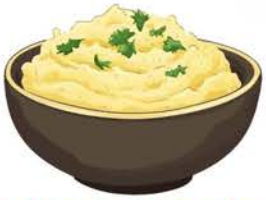


52% chose Stuffing

Or



48% chose
Greenbean Casserole



85% chose Mashed Potatoes



15% chose Sweet potatoes



66% Chose Pumpkin Pie



44% Chose Apple pie

Teacher of the Month



Get to know our school librarian, College Composition teacher, and gifted/ talented coordinator.. Mrs. Montague !!

Congratulations!

What high school/ college did you attend?

High school: Plateau Valley

College: Colorado State University



What is your favorite class you have taken?

"Major Authors"

What is a quote you live by?

"I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have recieved. Be completely humble and gentle, be patient, bearing withone another in love"

- Ephesians 4:1-2



What is a fun fact about yourself?

"I've played the piano since I was 3."

(She also holds the record for the indoor 500 meter in track ;))

How many years have you been teaching?

"31 years in total, 25 at Simla."

Made by: Reese Baker


Big Sandy School
VETERANS DAY
CELEBRATION
We are honored to invite our veterans and their families to join us as we recognize and celebrate those who have served our country.
REGISTER TODAY!
Please complete the online registration form using the QR code below or return the paper form to the school.
Any questions can be sent to Miss Lane at tlane@bigsandy100j.org

SCHOOL NURSE UPDATES

FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE
MARGARET (MAGGIE) VOLOSIN, BSN, RN
MVOLOSIN@BIGSANDY100J.ORG

First, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who has ensured their child is up to date with the required immunizations. Your attention to this important matter helps keep our school community safe and healthy.

For those who are not yet compliant with Colorado state immunization requirements, I have sent home letters or emails with specific information. As a friendly reminder, the State of Colorado requires that all students have either:

An up-to-date immunization record, or

A current immunization exemption on file with the school.

If you have not yet submitted this documentation, please do so as soon as possible. Beginning in November, I will start sending additional follow-up letters to families from whom we have not yet received the required records or exemptions.

My goal is to have all immunization records or exemptions on file by December 15, 2025. Please ensure your child's records are submitted to the school before this date.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in helping us meet this important requirement. If you have any questions or need assistance, feel free to reach out.



Elementary life!



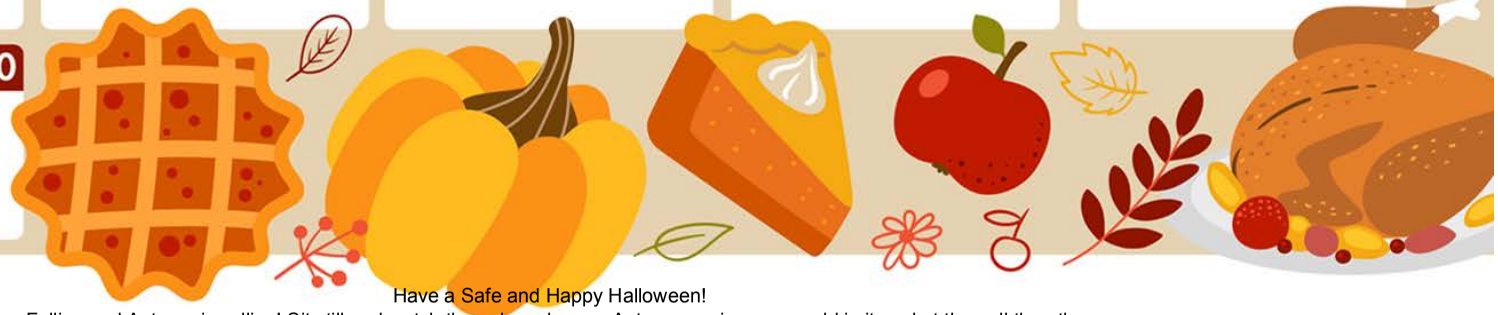
LUNCH

NOVEMBER 2026

Big Sandy 100J

This Institution is an equal Opportunity provider.
Menu subject to change.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Tostada Lettuce, Cheese Cinnamon apples Salad bar Milk	3 Chicken Whipped potatoes w/ Gravy Green Beans, Salad bar Fruit, Milk	4 Corn Dog Mac-n-Cheese Mixed vegetables Salad Bar Milk	5 Hamburger Lettuce, Tomato Chips, Salad Bar Fruit, Milk	6 NO SCHOOL
9 Tater Tot casserole Green Beans, Bread slice Salad bar, Fruit Milk	10 Cheesy Bread sticks Pizza sauce, Pepperoni Lettuce, Salad bar Fruit Milk	11 VETERANS DAY Hot open face Turkey Sandwich w/Gravy whipped potato, corn Salad bar, Fruit, Milk, cake	12 BBQ Pork sandwich Chips, Coleslaw Salad bar, Fruit Milk	13 NO SCHOOL
16	17 Spaghetti Cheesy bread stick Lettuce, Fruit Salad bar Milk	18 Mac-n-cheese w/Ham Bread slice, Corn Salad bar, Fruit Milk	19 Turkey Whipped Potatoes w/ gravy Dressing, Green beans Dinner roll, Pumpkin Pie Salad Bar, Milk	20 Turkey sandwich/PBJ Chips, Carrots Fruit, Cookie Milk
23 Thanksgiving Break	24	25	26	27
30				



Have a Safe and Happy Halloween!

Leaves are Falling and Autumn is calling! Sit still and watch the colors change, Autumn carries more gold in it pocket than all the other seasons.