



Benton Bulldog Bugle



Benton Elementary School
December 2016

Brian Wedge
Principal

Pamela Blais
Assistant Principal

Principal's Note -

This has been a wonderful school year! Our students are incredible. Their smiles and love of learning is truly contagious. I'd like to thank the PTO and other volunteers for everything they have done this year. The Volunteer Tree in the hallway is just a small representative of the many hands and feet that support our school.

I'd like to encourage you to help our school meet our school-wide goals by:

1. Ensuring your child attends school each day rested with a positive outlook for their day.
2. Reading with your child each evening and giving them opportunities to write at home.
3. Practicing math facts and working with numbers whenever possible.
4. Reminding your child that learning is effortful. Encourage your child to embrace challenges and mistakes as opportunities to learn and become smarter.
5. CELEBRATING academic achievements at home! They deserve it.

Assistant Principal's Note -

Colder weather is approaching and we would appreciate it if you write your son/daughter's name in their belongings. Many children lose coats, hats, and mittens because they are not labeled. If your child does lose something they can check in our lost and found which is in room 201.

Our school hours are 8:15 - 2:50. If you are dropping students off, there is no supervision before 8:05. At the end of the day, when picking students up, please try to come as close to 2:50 as you can. If you are picking up too early, your child is missing important instruction.

Infinite Campus - Parents of 4th through 6th Graders -

It is so important for parents to stay updated with their child's progress during the school year. Sometimes it can be hard when you only see their progress every four weeks with progress reports and report cards. For those of you who are unfamiliar with **Infinite Campus**, it is the online grading program that we use for our district. Parents, starting with 4th graders through seniors in high school, can access their child's grades, attendance, and schedules by logging into the "Infinite Campus User" portal on our district/school website. There is also a free mobile app version of Infinite Campus that we encourage you to download for your iDevice or Android device. The District Code it will ask for is: VHCQKP.

Parents who need a user name and password (or don't remember your Infinite Campus account information) should contact the Technology Department at 453-4200, extension 2373 or email us at: techhelp@msad49.org. You can also contact Lynn Hamlin at lhamlin@msad49.org.

Guidance News -

Grades 4-6 – Mrs. Martin

The focus for classroom guidance this month in grades 4-5 is bullying prevention. Knowing about different kinds of bullying helps most students recognize and report mistreatment, support peers who are being bullied and avoid bullying others. At Benton we use the acronym (MOO) to remind students the definition of bullying. MOO stands for bullying is: Mean, On purpose and Over and Over. This acronym is helpful when trying to figure out if the mistreatment is bullying, someone being mean or students involved in a peer conflict. In Grade 6 the focus is on peer conflicts, peer conflicts are developmentally appropriate. Students will learn steps to help them problem solve on their own. If a student believes someone is being mean to them or if they are having issues with peer conflict, both are of worthy of attention like bullying but the approach may be different in handling the situation. At Benton we encourage students to be more kind, please remind your child that kindness can go a long way!!

Grades 1 -3 – Mrs. Gagne

Grades 1 and 2 will have a guest speaker, Sean Landry, doing a follow-up on our Kindness lessons from last month. Using literature, Mr. Landry will reinforce the importance of "put ups" versus "put downs"; and, the important role of "by-standers" when someone is being unkind. I will be visiting grade 3 focusing on Decision Making. Again, via literature - this time short stories - students will be asked to brainstorm the best choices for the main character.

Library News -

"Just the child seeing a parent with a book or a newspaper, or reading a recipe or a book on how to repair a car encourages their children to want to read."

Ginger Williford

Encourage your child to be a reader by giving them opportunities to see you reading... newspapers, books, magazines, cereal boxes, street signs... then have your child read to you. More reading = better reading.

Student Council -

Student Council would like to thank all those that contributed to this year's Food Drive. Benton Elementary School collected 1,928 items which were delivered to the Interfaith Food Pantry in Fairfield on November 17th. Student Council members collected, boxed, and delivered the items and received a tour of the facility. The Food Pantry was very appreciative of our efforts and the generosity of the Benton community.

Health News –

Sometimes it can be difficult for a parent to decide whether to send children to school when they wake up with early symptoms of an illness or complaints that they do not feel well. The following are a few situations that warrant keeping your child at home and possibly seeing your doctor:

- Fever greater than 100 degrees orally, including a fever that requires control with medication. Children should be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school.
- Significant cough that makes a child feel uncomfortable or disrupts the class
- Sore throat that is severe, accompanied by fever and/or feeling ill
- Honey-crusted sores around the nose or mouth or rash on other body parts that might be impetigo or a significant rash accompanied by other symptoms of illness such as fever
- Red eyes with discharge or mucus that distract the child from learning
- Large amount of discolored nasal discharge
- Severe ear pain or drainage from the ear
- Severe headache, especially if accompanied by fever
- Any condition that you think may be serious or contagious to others