



Benton Bulldog Bugle



Benton Elementary School
February 2017

Brian Wedge
Blais
Principal

Pamela
Assistant Principal

Principal's Message – Mr. Wedge

The extra work 171 students in grades 1-6 did to complete the Principal's Challenge last summer paid off! Students were rewarded with an incredible laser show that was held at the Williamson Auditorium, a set of custom Bulldog earbuds, and a certificate of achievement. Thank you, parents and family members, for supporting your child and reinforcing the importance of effortful learning. I hope that we have an even larger number of students complete next summer's Principal's Challenge! Before we get too excited for summer, we have at least a couple more months of snowy weather. Winter is an excellent time of the year for our students to set and work towards achieving their learning goals. Please take some time this week to help your child study for their spelling test, work through some math problems, or research their current social studies or science topic. This is a season of learning!

Guidance News – Mrs. Gagne & Mrs. Martin

Grades 1 and 2 will have a Guest Speaker with the focus on "KINDNESS", and as a whole school we will be highlighting the theme during February, through a number of individual and class based activities. Two classes, one from grades 1-3 and one from 4-6, will compete for the highest number of "acts of kindness". The two classes that win will receive a Popcorn/Movie Party in March.

In Grade 3, Mrs. Gagne will focus on "Respectful Behavior" using a class room game and discussion.

In grade 4 students will start a new unit on problem solving. Students can escalate conflicts by failing to consider the situation from the other person's perspective. The perspective-taking skills learned earlier this year are an important part of the problem solving steps. Students will learn how to begin to solve problems on their own.

In grade 5 and 6 we will continue to explore managing strong emotions. Students will learn strategies to help them calm down. A few techniques they will be learning is deep breathing, positive self-talk and counting. Students will practice deep breathing, which delivers more oxygen to the bloodstream while helping students slow and pace their breathing. Positive self-talk can effectively engage the thinking part of the brain in emotional situations. Counting is a simple way to take a student's attention off a stressor and help them think through a situation. With practice, they can learn which techniques work best for them.

Library News – Mrs. Oxley

Snow days! Monday holidays! February Break!

While everyone enjoys time off, days that create a break in routine can make it difficult to remember to return Library books.

Please encourage your child to think about what special they may have each school day and to be prepared – whether it's sneakers for gym or a Library book that needs to be returned, life will be smoother if students are ready for the day ahead!

Student Council News – Mrs. Foster, Mrs. Hamlin & Mrs. Roy

Student Council is sponsoring a school-wide Read-a-thon Friday, February 17th, 2017. On that day, each classroom in our school will be setting aside time for the entire class to read uninterrupted! The money collected from this fundraiser will be donated back to our school to help with the purchases of technology, picture books and author's visits.

Here's How It Works:

Ask friends, family, and neighbors if they would be willing to sponsor you in the Read-a-thon.

Have them fill out the pledge sheet.

Collect the money at that time...or at some point BEFORE the Read-a-thon.

The week of the Read-a-thon (February 13-17) hand in the pledge sheet along with all of the money collected.

We will also be having a pre-sale for water, chips, lollipops and apples that will be delivered during the Read-a-thon.

The student that raises the most money in grades 4-6 will also receive a \$15.00 gift certificate to The Children's Book Cellar!

PTO News – Mrs. Hughes & Mrs. Harrington

A reminder that Red Sox ticket money is due February 17th. If you need a form please contact Amy Harrington at bentonpto49@gmail.com. We have a total of 55 Cyr bus seats available and a total of 140 Red Sox game tickets allotted to us. Bus seats are First Come First Serve.

There will be a Mother/Son committee meeting on Feb 8th at 5:30p.m. in the Library followed by our regular meeting at 6p.m. The Mother/Son event will be bowling and will take place March 11th. Details will follow.

The Father/Daughter Dance is scheduled to be held on Saturday, April 8th. Details will follow. We will have a committee meeting on March 8th at 5:30p.m. followed by our regular meeting at 6p.m. We encourage anyone who is available to help with the dance be at this meeting as we will have a volunteer sign-up sheet. We will be decorating for the dance Saturday morning.

Spring Box tops will be due April 13th. The two winning classrooms (One from each floor) will go the Benton Family Fun Park. Student and teacher names should be clearly marked on the envelope for them to count.

LOST & FOUND

Lost and Found is set up in the lower Lobby. Please encourage your child to check if they have lost an item of clothing, shoes, lunch box, etc.

Items will be available until February 8th.

Thank you for your help!

Dates to Remember

February 8th 6 P.M. – PTO Meeting

February 20th – 24th – Winter Break – No School

February 27th – Progress reports go home

March 8th – Spring Photos

