

BERNARD/CASCADE ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, Issue 6

April 2017

Western Dubuque Schools "Better Every Day"

Principal News

Hello Cougar family and friends,

I think we are all in disbelief that it is already April. Hopefully warm weather is coming consistently and the April showers can turn into May flowers!

Speaking of flowers, we have been working on becoming brighter in both of our elementary schools. Our district has taken on training for staff which is called Orange Frog. It seems like a funny name, but it is based on a book called *The Happiness Advantage* by Shawn Achor (if you have never heard of it or read it, you should check it out. It will change your life for the better!)

In the book, Shawn discusses seven principles to living and working in a happier world. Orange Frog is a parable based on the seven principles. To give you a brief summary, there is a place far, far away where frogs have been infected with "the thrall", which had turned them all green. Except for one frog, his name is Spark, Spark is Orange. Spark has learned that by doing things for others, being positive, and doing things he loves it makes him orange which helps him to overcome the thrall!

Over the past few weeks, teachers and I have been going into classrooms to read the parable to the students. Our time has been spent together talking about the power of positivity, and how the positive approach helps make our work more meaningful every single day. If you get a chance, have a chat with your child about what it means to be orange! They are picking up on this quickly and it is spreading throughout our school and district!

We had a wonderful open house at the end of March to show off the new space at Cascade Elementary. I believe over 100 community members were able to attend and check out the new area, and some cases the entire school. Construction is underway on the second phase which will turn two former classrooms into a new lunch room. Our goal is to have it up and running for the start of next school year!

PTO has also been working hard in preparation for the 2nd Annual Color Run, which is coming up on May 18th! We are hoping to raise another \$10,000 for our literacy garden project! This year, when students are out fundraising, they will have a picture of what the literacy garden will look like! We are hoping that this focused and planned fundraising effort will be even more successful than last year!

Also, we have our 6th grade recognition coming up on May 30 at 2:00 PM! As a note to parents coming this year, that event will be moved to the Ellen Kennedy Center at Cascade High School.

We are looking forward to a fun, exciting and strong finish to this school year! Thank you for your ongoing support of your students and our schools!

Happy Spring!
Dan Wendler
Elementary Principal



Dates to remember:

April 4-7 - Iowa Assessments 3rd-6th grade 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

April 10-13 - Iowa Assessments 3rd-6th grade 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

April 14-17 - Spring Break, No School

April 18 - In-service, No School

April 24 - BES Pizza Night at the Painted Horse

April 27 - 6th Grade Choir, Sinsinawa Mound

May 5 - 6th Grade Outdoor Ed, Rain date May 12

May 17 - CES 1st Grade Field Trip

May 17 - BES Field Trip, Rain date May 22

May 18 - Color Run, Rain date May 23

May 29 - No School, Memorial Day

May 30 - 2:00 6th Grade Recognition at Ellen Kennedy Auditorium

June 1 - Make up day, Last day of school, 2 hr. early dismissal

Fechas Importantes:

4-7 de Abril - Evaluaciones de Iowa 3ro-6to grado 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

10-13 de Abril - Evaluaciones de Iowa 3ro-6to grado 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

Abril 14-17 - Vacaciones de Primavera, NO ESCUELA

18 de abril - En servicio, NO ESCUELA

27 de abril - Coro 6to Grado, Sinsinawa Mound

5 de Mayo - 6to grado Educación al aire libre, si llueve será el 12 de mayo

17 de mayo - Excursión de 1º Grado

18 de mayo - Carrera de Colores, si llueve será el 23 de mayo

Mayo 29 - No hay clases, Memorial Day

30 de mayo - 2:00 Reconocimiento de sexto grado en el Auditorio Ellen Kennedy

1 de junio - Ultimo día de escuela, Salida temprana 2 horas.

Mrs. Knepper and Mr. Hummel, 5th Grade CES

5th grade is having a great year! We are getting ready for our Iowa Assessments. Students are reviewing test strategies and trying to remember to have a Growth Mindset "I Can and I Will!"



In Science, we are studying the Sun, Moon, and Planets. Students have been observing their shadows to see how the sun changes and how that affects their shadow.

In social studies in Mrs. Knepper's class we are studying the Constitution and Bill of Rights. Students are picking an amendment and are going to act it out for the class. We have to decide which amendment they are acting out. The students are having great discussions during this class especially with all that is happening in the news.

In Mr. Hummel's class, we have been reading *The Orange Frog* by Shawn Achor. The students are learning about the importance of positive psy-

chology (happiness) and how it can have an impact on everything they do. Ask them about the characters in the book! They should have a lot to share.

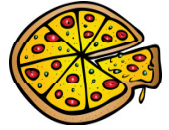
With the upcoming Iowa Assessments, it's important to get a good night's rest and to have a healthy breakfast. Thinking positively about this test can also be a great way to help them as well. Keep these two things in mind in the coming weeks.



Students work on Growth Mindset activities in Mr. Hummel's class

PTO News

The Bernard Elementary PTO is having a Family Dinner Night at the Painted Horse in Bernard on Monday, April 24 from 3:30 to 8:00 p.m. Buy any large pizza with any toppings for \$16.00 and the PTO will receive \$2.00 for each pizza sold.



Little Kids Track Meet

The Little Kids Track Meet for boys and girls in 1st through 6th grades will be held at Western Dubuque High School on Saturday, May 13. Meet Day Registration is from 9:15 to 9:45 with Field Events from 10:00 to 10:45 and Running Events following. Rain Date will be Saturday, May 27. For more information call/email: 563-876-3442/tom.jasper@wdbqschools.org.



Cyndi Trumm, School Nurse

School Nurses Corner



Each spring during Parent-Teacher conferences you should have received a school nurse report. I complete this health report on all students K-6th grade, and is my way of keeping you informed of screenings done on your student. I always took for granted you may understand what these screenings mean and how they are obtained but decided to take the time to explain every section.

Heights and weights are done in January; they are done in the privacy of my health office and information is shared only with your student. I always include last year's results on my report because students love seeing how much they have grown in the past year. They can't always tell by how short the pants have gotten!

Vision is usually completed by November using the wall chart and following guidelines set by the Blind Society. We only check distance vision, it isn't recommended to check for close up vision. Results of 20/20, 20/32 are within normal limits and no further testing is done. Students who may have results of 20/40 or higher are rechecked and if same results are obtained a vision referral is sent to parents.

The hearing of Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade students is done in October by Rachel Bishop, the Keystone Audiometrist. Students who fail hearing screening are rechecked after 2 weeks by Pam Goldsmith, the Keystone Audiologist. When students fail the second test parents are sent a written report from Ms. Goldsmith with recommendations. Please keep in mind if you have any hearing concerns on any student PK-12th grade we can set up a hearing test, just give me a call.

Blood pressure screening is done throughout the school year. Whenever I find a B/P reading which is out of the normal, I follow up with another reading a day or so later. Whenever two or more readings are abnormal my policy is to send a copy to you to share with your student's health care provider.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding the school nurse report you received.



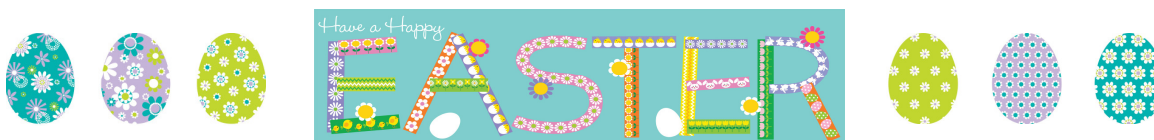
Mrs. Boffeli, Counselor News

Counselor's Corner

Iowa Assessments will be April 4-22 for students in 3rd-6th grade. Thank you for writing a letter of encouragement to your son/daughter at conference time. I am sure it will bring a smile to his/her face and a bit of confidence, too!

The sixth grade class will be visiting the Cascade High School on the afternoon of May 4 to prepare for their middle school experience. Mrs. Phillips, CHS Counselor, has planned an informational session, a tour of the facility and an opportunity to meet staff members.

Cascade High School students are mentoring here at Cascade Elementary as part of their Leadership class on Wednesdays. Again this trimester they are helping select students with academics and working on communication through various social activities. Our students are very excited to see their mentor each week! This spring, Ohnward Bank and Trust employee, Maggie Gravel, will be our guest with this group of fine students to enjoy an Earth Day project together as well.



HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

[Board Policy 501.16]

The board will make reasonable efforts to identify homeless children and youth of school age within the district, encourage their enrollment and eliminate existing barriers to their receiving education which may exist in district policies or practices. The designated coordinator for identification of homeless children and for tracking and monitoring programs and activities for these children is the Director of Student Services.

A homeless child or youth is defined as a child or youth from the age of 3 years through 21 years who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes the following:

A child or youth who is sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; is living in a motel, hotel, trailer park, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations; is living in an emergency or transitional shelter; is abandoned in a hospital; or is awaiting foster care placement;

A child or youth who has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;

A child or youth who is living in a car, park, public space, abandoned building, substandard housing, bus or train station, or similar setting;

A migratory child or youth who qualifies as homeless because the child or youth is living in circumstances described in paragraphs "1" through "3" above.

Please contact the building school counselor for questions and to support education of the homeless. You may also contact Mary Jane Maher, the District's liaison for homeless children and youth, to find out what services and supports may be available at 563-744-3371 or maryjane.maher@wdbqschools.org.

It is the policy of the Western Dubuque County Community School District not to illegally discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy please contact the district's At-Risk Coordinator, Vicky Coyle, 310 4th Street SW, Farley, Iowa 52046.

563-744-3885 x 6040, vicky.coyle@wdbqschools.org