

BERNARD/CASCADE ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, Issue 3

December 2016

Western Dubuque Schools "Better Every Day"

Principal News

Dear Cougar family,

As we venture into this holiday season, I reflect on all of the things I am thankful for both professionally and personally. Life gives us ups and downs, but never more than we can handle. These last couple of weeks have taken my love and passion for Bernard and Cascade Elementary Schools and the Western Dubuque Community even higher than I could have imagined. Our families, staff, and students are lucky to live and work in a place that puts family first. A district that takes pride in not only education, but the well-being of those around them. I am blessed to have the opportunity to work in these communities and for an amazing school district with wonderful people and students. Thank you all for this opportunity.

This school year is absolutely flying by! We are over 1/3 of the way through the year and when we blink, the holidays will have passed and we will be doing mid-year assessments to determine how far we have come with each child, how far we still need to go, and what instruction we need to provide to get each and every child to meet their goals. Last year we ended with very strong data in literacy. As a whole, our students are achieving great heights. This year we have broken things back down to foundational skills, diagnosing where each child is and pinpointing instruction that will meet their needs. We refuse to let any child fall through the cracks despite our "overall" numbers looking "good." We are committed to each and every child. We will be sharing winter data and growth once we have it in February.

The building project at Cascade Elementary is coming along nicely! We are approaching the time in which we will be able to occupy our new space. The paint has just been completed, windows are installed and a new blacktop surface has been laid. Next week the ceiling will be hung and light fixtures will be installed. One area that is a waiting game is with the flooring. The concrete moisture levels must be adequate for the flooring to be laid with the warranty still being valid. Please check out our Facebook Page for recent picture updates. We will be hosting an open house once this phase of the new addition is completed. Please look for that around March!

Bernard Elementary is looking forward to hosting the December Western Dubuque School Board Meeting in the gym on December 12th at 6:00pm. Things have been going very well at Bernard Elementary! Our teachers have been spending a lot of time with new intervention and extension materials to maximize student learning. We have high goals this year at Bernard Elementary. We have been very up front as a staff that we are determined to have 100% of BES students proficient on spring 2017 assessments. This would be a first in our district to have an entire school achieve 100% proficiency! The teachers and students have been working diligently to make this possible! It is in our sights and we look forward to achieving this extremely lofty goal this school year!

Take time with family and friends this holiday season! We are looking forward to a productive three weeks at school followed by a much needed winter vacation! As always, please contact me with any needs you may have!

Happy Holidays!

Dan Wendler

Elementary Principal

Bernard & Cascade Elementary Schools



Dates to remember:

Dec. 1 - Supper with Santa, American Legion 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Dec 6 - DARE Graduation, Ellen Kennedy Center 7:00 p.m.

Dec. 20 - CES/Aquin Big Band performance at CES 8:45 a.m.

Dec 22 - 2 hour early dismissal

Dec 23-Jan 2 - No School, Winter Break

Fechas Importantes:

Dic. 1 - Cena con Santa, American Legion 5:30 a 7:30 p.m.

Dic. 6 - Graduación de DARE, Ellen Kennedy Center 7:00 p.m.

Dic. 20 - Presentación de la Banda de Aquin/CES en la Primaria 8:45 a.m.

Dic. 22 - Salida 2 horas temprano

Dic. 23-Ene 2 - No hay clases, vacaciones de invierno



Happy Holidays

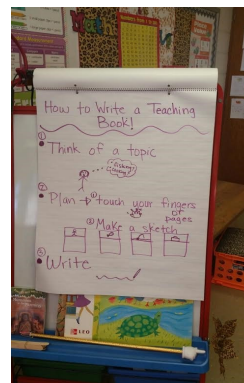
**Ms. Hoeger, 1st Grade BES**

The first graders at Bernard Elementary have been keeping busy with reading, math, writing and seasonal crafts. The growth has truly shined through in all of these young students.

In Writers Workshop, the first grade students have been learning and adding new strategies to their writing. Recently they finished writing about small moments in their life. They poured everything into those small moments by incorporating labels, speech bubbles, word wall words, etc. while making sure these were real things that happened

to them. Now they are working on short nonfiction chapter books. So far students are enjoying teaching about what they know about or what they know how to do well. They will work to have detailed pictures and their writing will answer all the questions one may have about their topic.

The class wishes you and your families a safe and happy holiday!



Mrs. McElmeel, 1st Grade CES

We are off to a great start to the school year in first grade! We are learning so much each day, having fun and enjoying the thrill of reading, writing and math. We LOVE the new math stations and games that we get to play at school and online. Literacy stations are another favorite part of our day. The different ways to read and write keep us busy and engaged. We particularly enjoy the puzzle station where we are doing 100 piece puzzles and the STAR station where we enjoy science and creative thinking activities.

We are also welcoming many visitors to the first grade classroom this year. One of those special visitors is Mrs. Michele Olson. She is a Naturalist with Jones County and she does wonderful and informative classroom visits three times a year. She will teach us about turkeys, owls and frogs/toads. We end the year with a field trip to Jones County Park and visit the nature center. Mrs. Olson then gives us a tour and nature lessons out in the wild.

In October and November we enjoyed guest speakers such as the Cascade Fire Department. They came to teach us about fire safety and how to get out of our house in case of a fire.



Ed and Darice Recker along with Gordy came to read books to us and with us at Halloween time. They will be coming again in December.



Before Thanksgiving, Clarke nursing students came to teach us about handwashing and using hand sanitizer. We were able to practice washing our hands under their supervision so that we can stay healthy!



Each of these guest speakers bring so much valuable information and fun learning activities to the classroom. We love having visitors and can't wait for more friends to come and teach us all they know.





Mrs. Boffeli, Counselor News

Counselor's Corner

Charity

An Angel Tree for Bernard Elem., Cascade Elem., and Cascade High School families, ages 0-18, is located at Fidelity Bank in Cascade. If you are interested in purchasing holiday gifts for someone in need, please take advantage of this opportunity by stopping by the bank during business hours. This is a great way for individual families, a group of friends, or a group of family members to help someone who is in need of basic clothing, books, and toys. As always, your generosity is appreciated!

Proceeds from the Supper with Santa night will also sponsor Angels from the tree.

Happy Holidays!



SEASON'S
GREETINGS

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