

# BERNARD/CASCADE ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, Issue 7

May 2017

Western Dubuque Schools "Better Every Day"

## Principal News

Dear Cougar family,

May is here, and it's hard to believe that an entire school year has just about run out.

For me, it was an amazing first year as part of the Western Dubuque School District. I knew when I applied for this job that this was a great district, doing great things. However, I truly didn't understand it until I started here last July. This place is amazing and our schools in Bernard and Cascade are the best around! Our kids are so fortunate to have the support of wonderful communities, amazing teachers who would give anything to help them to succeed, and district leadership that is willing to invest in our greatest resource, our people!

We accomplished a lot this year. We feel that the interventions and instructional practices that we have put into place are exactly what our students need. We feel that this momentum will carry for many years to come. We are very excited to share our student achievement data with you in the coming weeks, the growth that our students have made is tremendous. From a physical standpoint, our buildings and grounds at Cascade Elementary are rapidly transforming. We moved into our new classroom addition in February, our new lunch room and kitchen will be complete to start next school year and the PTO is on the cusp of having enough money to build our \$23,000 literacy garden.

So as our students and teachers head off to summer vacation, we have a great deal to be proud of and a great deal to look forward to next year. Our journey from good to great is well on its way! Have an amazing, safe and relaxing summer! I for one cannot wait to get next year started!

Thank you for your support of our students and our schools!

Sincerely,  
Dan Wendler



**Dates to remember:**

May 8 - District ELL Field Trip  
 May 10 - BES/CES Reading Reward Fun Day at BES  
 May 10 - KCRG Weather Lab visits CES K-2  
 May 11 - Kindergarten Field Trip; 6th Grade Tour CHS  
 May 15 - 4th grade Field Trip  
 May 16 - 5th Grade Field Trip; Kndg. Junior Achievement Trip  
 May 17 - BES Field Trip, Rain date May 22; CES 1st grade Field Trip  
 May 18 - Color Run, Rain date May 23  
 May 22 - 6-8 Grades Band Solo Contest at CHS  
 May 23 - BES PreK Graduation  
 May 23 - 5-6 Grades Band Spring Tour  
 May 25 - 5-6 Grades Band Concert, 7:00 p.m., CHS  
 May 26 - CES/BES 3rd grade field trip  
 May 29 - No School, Memorial Day  
 May 30 - 6<sup>th</sup> Gr Recognition at Ellen Kennedy Aud., 2:00  
 May 30 - CES PreK Graduation  
 June 1 - Last day of school, 2 hr. early dismissal

**Fechas Importantes:**

Mayo 8- Paseo del distrito de la clase de ELL  
 Mayo 10- Día divertido en Bernard  
 Mayo 10- Visita de KCRG Laboratorio del tiempo K-2  
 Mayo 11- Paseo del kínder y tour de 6to grado a la preparatoria  
 Mayo 15- Paseo de 4to grado  
 Mayo 16- Paseo de 5to grado  
 Mayo 17 - Excursión de 1º Grado  
 Mayo 18 - Carrera de Colores, si llueve será el 23 de mayo  
 Mayo 22 - Concurso de Banda en la preparatoria grados 6-8  
 Mayo 23 - Grados 5-6 Tour de primavera de Banda  
 Mayo 25 - Concierto de Banda ala 7:00pm en la preparatoria grados 5-6  
 Mayo 26 - Paseo de 3er grado  
 Mayo 29 - No hay clases, Memorial Day  
 Mayo 30 - 2:00 Reconocimiento de sexto grado en el Auditorio Ellen Kennedy  
 Mayo 30 - Graduación de Pre Kínder  
 1 de junio - Ultimo día de escuela, Salida temprana 2 horas

**Cyndi Trumm, School Nurse****School Nurses Corner****NEW VACCINATION REQUIREMENT FOR THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR**

The Iowa Department of Public Health has made changes to the Iowa Immunization Law for the start of 2017-18 school year. This change requires **Meningococcal (A,C,W,Y) vaccine for all students enrolling in 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades** in addition to previous vaccination requirements.

\*For students entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade (born after September 15, 2004), they will be required to have **one** dose of meningococcal vaccine (after the age of 10) to enter school

\*For students entering 12<sup>th</sup> grade (born after September 15, 1999), they will be required to have **two** doses of meningococcal vaccine to enter school, or one dose if received when the student was 16 years of age or older.

There is **no** grace/extension period for this new vaccine requirement, what this means is that the law requires students be excluded from school if they have not received the immunization by the first day of school.

Please contact your healthcare provider as soon as possible to schedule these vaccinations. As a reminder please have your provider send an updated immunization record to school OR bring the updated record to school prior to the start of the school year.

If questions contact your school's health office or for additional information regarding the Meningococcal Vaccine Secondary School Requirement, please visit: <http://www.idph.iowa.gov/imm/tb/immunization/laws> or Frequently asked Questions : <http://www.idph.iowa.gov/Portals/1/userfiles/39/Mening%20School%20Requirement%20Q%20%26%20A%204-6-17%20Final.pdf>

## Mr. Meyer, 6th Grade CES

### Social Studies

In Social Studies this year, both 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes have been learning about the earliest resemblance of humans, or hominids, and progressed from there to the ancient empires that ruled the world. The students have been doing a great job investigating and learning about these ancient peoples. We have also been concentrating on the various similarities and differences which make these groups of people so unique to one another, as well as our ancient history.

### Writing

Mr. Meyer's 6<sup>th</sup> grade class recently finished up their Informative Essays. In these essays, students included information on the topic of Teen Activism and why it is so important. The students did a great job of using their resources to find worthwhile ideas on this topic. Various topics covered in these essays were the environment, girls' rights, pollution, and animal safety, to name a few.



Our next task is to tackle the objective of Literary Essays. The first step is Character Essays. We are working on reading short stories, and analyzing the characters that make up these stories. The students are focusing more on the character traits and mannerisms as they progress through their writing tasks. One of the short stories we are using is "The Three Little Pigs and the Big Bad Wolf". We will also be analyzing the key themes of these stories, in order to compare and contrast them in our writing. Our writing has been very strong throughout the year, and we hope to finish it off in a great way!



## Mr. Blakesley, 6th Grade CES

What a great time of year! The weather is turning around and the students are excited for the ending of 6<sup>th</sup> grade. May is a month full of activities and exciting events for these young adults. The students are looking forward to another year of outdoor education. This means the students will be traveling to Central Park to enjoy a day of canoeing, archery, pond study and fishing. Our fingers are crossed for more fantastic weather this year. The students are also excited about middle school and have begun the process of preparing for next year. The students will be going to the middle school for an orientation and introduction to their classes for next year.

In math class, the students are working through algebra concepts and discovering knowledge related to variables (x and y), constants and other difficult terms. The students enjoy a challenge problem each day which focuses on creating conversation and encouraging students to work towards solving a problem previously thought to be "impossible." Currently, the students are working through combining like terms on the way to solving more complex problems. Here are a couple examples to try yourself: (answers at the conclusion of the newsletter)

$$3n + 2n - 8 + 12 + 4 = 23 \quad 2(3n + 3) = 42$$

For reading, the students are reading the novel entitled, *The Giver*. In this, Jonas the main character, faces difficult decisions on his way to becoming one of the most valued members of his society. The only problem, Jonas doesn't agree with all of the choices that his society is making. It is a futuristic society where choices, emotions, and relationships don't exist. Jonas has to overcome adversity and work with *The Giver* to show the people of the society that the government is not looking out for their best interests. The students have also begun to study non-fiction and are doing research in class. Topics of study include: persuasion, SuperCroc, Helen Keller, Houdini and wondering if Wild Animals Should Be Kept as Pets?

The students are looking forward to closing the year out strong and finishing their time here at CES. The students will be recognized during a presentation on May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017, at the Ellen Kennedy Center, starting promptly at 2:00. We look forward to the celebration and hope to see you there!

Answers are as follows: Problem 1:  $n = 3$  Problem 2:  $n = 6$

## Mrs. Boffeli, Counselor News

### Counselor's Corner

A BIG thank you to the student body at Cascade and Bernard Elementary for celebrating Earth Day on April 21 by tidying up the school grounds!

Our 6<sup>th</sup> graders will be touring Cascade High School on May 11 in preparation for 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

As the year is coming to an end, your child will be participating in some school-wide activities and celebrations for their accomplishments! This will allow your child to gain a sense of closure and realize how proud our staff is for each and every student's accomplishments including our building wide goal! We have met goals due to your child's individual efforts and responsibility for learning which brings me to his/her individual report card which will be sent home at the end of the year. Remember that however your child does on his/her report card, it is important to praise and encourage all he/she has learned and how he/she has changed over the year! Have a safe and wonderful summer with your family!



### 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](mailto: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 4<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Farley, Iowa 52046.

563-744-3885 x 6040, [vicky.coyle@wdbqschools.org](mailto:vicky.coyle@wdbqschools.org)