



December 2015 Newsletter

Principal's Message

Greetings. I know that by this time some families are probably wishing we were returning to school next week, but school will resume on Monday, January 11, 2016 at 08:10 AM.

Continue to take this time to provide opportunities for your children to extend and deepen their learning from high-interest reading to outings to area museums, science centers, and events. I am always amazed at the plethora of free events that are available about our great city. Recently I went to the new Broad Museum downtown and realized that this collection is one that takes more than a single trip. I hope that families are enjoying their time together and celebrating all of the academic and social growth of our students as a result of our collaboration. It is only when we actively partner together that our students' potential is maximized.

Our teachers and I are still actively engaged in growing our practice through professional development and reading. Currently I am reading *Mindset and moves* by Gravity Goldberg, whose study of Carol Dweck's research highlighted in the book *Mindset* has guided her work with actionable feedback. She recommends that during a conference with students one-on-one or in small groups rather than complimenting something they are doing in their reading or writing, we instead name the work they are doing and how it is impacting their learning. By doing this we stress that through effort, students can achieve any goal; and we also draw their attention to strategies that are working. Our teachers and I will continue focusing on this through our work together and with Growing Educators in January and April. We will be inviting families to our clinics so they can learn too how actionable feedback can make a difference in the work we do with our students.

Finally, I want to thank our families for their support of the district's decision to close schools on Tuesday, December 15th in response to a threat. As a reminder, in the event of an emergency, I would immediately use our email and phone systems to alert families to our response and action they can take. Our reunion gate is the handicapped gate in the Coeur d'Alene parking lot. In the event of an emergency that would require you reunite with your child, you would meet one of our staff at that gate. You should review with your child that we are always thinking of their safety and share with them what you would do. Also, please be assured that we will continue our drills at school. Thanks as always for your support. *Principal Jenkins*

Positive Behavior Support

As we enter a new calendar year, I always use this time and our summer break to reflect on how we can grow and strengthen. Most importantly as adults we must be the kind of human we expect our students to become. Children are keenly in tune with how we interact *and* act. When we park where we are not allowed, drive in ways that are dangerous, and speak and interact in ways that are not respectful, our students are witness to behavior we would not allow of them. We cannot therefore be surprised when they in turn break a rule or speak or act in ways that are disrespectful. Let's all resolve to be better models. It starts with us.

The grade with the best attendance wins an extra PE class with Coach David and Coach Brittany! Fifth grade wins again!

% of Students in Attendance 96%

Kindergarten	68.4%
First Grade	71.6%
Second Grade	71.3%
Third Grade	68.9%
Fourth Grade	67.9%
Fifth Grade	78.7%

Acceptable Use Policies

Many of our students have cell phones and devices with them on campus. As a reminder, students are not allowed to use cell phones during the instructional day. In addition, if students have a data plan, they must adhere to the district's acceptable use policy, which is outlined in the Parent / Student Handbook. Finally, games that have inappropriate content for children should not be played at school. Please remind your children of these guidelines. Thanks as always for your support.

Interactive Read Aloud

As part of our balanced approach to literacy, teachers engage students in an interactive read aloud for 10 – 20 minutes each day. This falls outside of the readers' workshop hour and is intended to provide opportunities for students to experience and practice reading strategies that they can use when they read their own books. Usually the read aloud is above the reading levels of most or all of the students and they can either be short pieces or longer novels, fiction or non-fiction. Teachers plan strategies to model as they read and for the students to practice in pairs or triads. When students see their teachers employing reading strategies as they read, they are more apt to use them themselves. Reading aloud every day to our students is a research-based, proven way to motivate them to read on their own, model good reading, promote critical thinking, and create a sense of community in classrooms.

Annual Spelling Bee and Pledge Drive

Grade level and school-wide spelling bee lists for our 7th annual spelling bee, which will be held on Tuesday, January 26th at 02:00 PM, have been emailed. **We highly recommend that students who have hopes of being in our school-wide bee start studying now.** This year the regional bee is scheduled for Sunday, March 13th at 02:00 PM. When we return in January, **we will begin our annual SpellCheck pledge drive**, which leads up to our spelling bee. This fundraiser supports our grade level field trips, school events, and equipment for recess. (Recently we just purchased brand new soccer nets for our students.) If each child in grades 1-5 were to raise at least \$20 in pledges, we would have enough money to fund all of our field trips and events for a school year. We will create incentives so that the students and the grades that raise the most money in pledges are recognized for their efforts. Please encourage and support our students as they engage in both our pledge & bee.

Important Dates

01/11/16 School Resumes	01/23/16 Scavenger Hunt Fundraiser
01/11/16 Coffee & Tea with the Principal	01/26/16 Annual Spelling Bee
01/11/16 DIBELS MOY & TRC Begins	01/28/16 Growing Educators Clinic
01/11/16 Spelling Bee Pledge Drive Begins	01/29/16 Spelling Bee Pledge Drive Ends
01/14/16 Emergency Drills	01/29/16 DIBELS MOY & TRC Ends
01/18/16 No School: MLK Holiday	02/01/16 5 th Grade Fitness Exam Begins
01/19/16 Mid-Term Notices Sent Home	02/01/16 Coffee & Tea with the Principal
01/20/16 Booster Club Meeting	02/03/16 Booster Club Meeting
01/21/16 Growing Educators Clinic	02/06/16 Winter Dance
01/21/16 SSC / ELAC Meeting	02/11/16 SSC / ELAC Meeting
01/22/16 Prospective Family Tour	02/15/16 No School: Presidents' Day