

Bennett Community School

300 Cedar Street

Bennett, IA 52721

January 2019

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Academics + Activities = Excellence in Education



District Point of View
Bennett CSD
December 2018

“Tomorrow, is the first blank page of a 365 page book. Write a good one.”

-Brad Paisley

Welcome to 2019! A new year is at hand and that means we are halfway through the school year. All I can say is wow! We always say how time seems to fly by but this year in particular the school year has gone by at the speed of sound! Speaking about great sound, I would like to thank the huge crowd that supported and attended the PK-6 Holiday Program this past month. The large 4-6th grade band did a fantastic job with their couple of songs. They were very nervous to play in front of a crowd as many were new musicians, but I believe they did an outstanding job! This performance is one of my favorite times of the year when we come all together and celebrate the holidays. A huge thank you to Mr. Johnston, Mr. Driscoll and all others who had a hand in this performance.

As you may have seen in local newspapers and media sources, the State of Iowa has come out with a report called the Iowa School Performance Profiles in accordance with the federally mandated Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Bennett Elementary was ranked as a school that met the state guidelines with an overall score ranking of 63.61. The state average for all districts was a 54.91 score, so as you can see from this state ranking system we are performing well. Of course, there is always room for improvements and we will strive for the any necessary changes to make improvements in our system.

Another positive note to share with you on a district level is our preliminary 2018 Unspent Authorized Budget. The Unspent Authorized Budget is the difference between the district's legal budget authority and actual expenditures in the General Fund for the fiscal year. For the second year in a row we have seen this figure strengthen in our general fund. It is projected to be at \$148,984 for FY 2019.

Last, I want to wish all our students and Bennett families a healthy, safe and positive 2019. We will continue to strive to help our students be prepared academically, emotionally and as a collaborator to be ready for what the world has to offer them.

“We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day.”

- Edith Lovejoy Pierce

Enjoy the new year,

Mr. Larson

Greetings from Science and Math



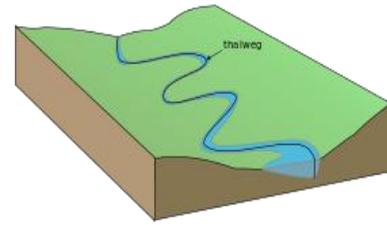
We have been busy in science over the last few months finishing up the Diversity of Life kit with the sixth graders. At the end of this kit we learn body functions of insects by studying hissing cockroaches (always the kids favorite) and the genetics which they also enjoy. In fifth grade we finished up the Living Systems where we learn everything is a system and it is made up of smaller components. In fourth we learned about different environments and habitats of animals. In Math the month of December has been full of division. The students are working very hard to master this difficult but necessary skill.

I hope everyone has a happy and safe New Year.

Mrs. Hennings



SOCIAL STUDIES



Happy New Year to everyone! We are having a great time and staying very busy.



In grades 1-3 social studies we are learning about the different landforms and bodies of water. They are learning what they are and what they look like. Their books are going to turn out awesome. The third grade is also learning about different Indian groups. They made a sand painting like the Navajo did. They will also be making some other things to go with the other groups they learn about.



Grades 4 & 5 are focusing on the southern region of the United States. They are learning the states and capitals, their resources, land and water, and why people live there.



In 6th grade they are learning about Canada and working on a report to share with their classmates about a province or territory they chose.

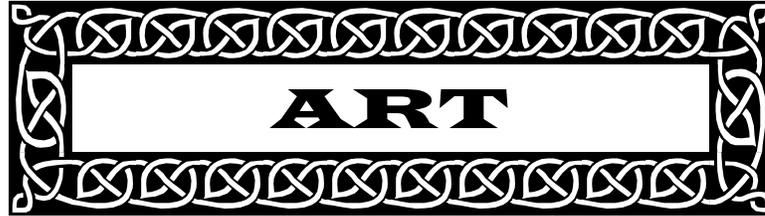


We hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday this year.



Happy New Year
Mrs. Wendel





ART

Did you notice the neat backdrop at the Christmas program that was painted by our 6th graders? They sketched out ideas, agreed on a plan, made some compromises and all helped to paint it. It turned out fantastic. Great job Dalton, Adria, Brad, Alex, Naomi, Michaella, Xander and Kadyn!!

In the art room the lower grades will be starting on some snowman projects, color mixing to make tints, using complimentary colors, and creating clay dinosaurs and animals. The upper grades will look at and do some Pop Art projects in the style of Andy Warhol, American Regionalism like Grant Wood and Cubism art in the style of Picasso.

Mrs. Meyer



Resource

January is a great time of year! It is the beginning of a new year, the second half of the school year, and my birth month! We will be very busy here in the resource room! We will continue to work on reading skills through 95% Reading Group lessons, math with fun activities, and writing with COPS (capitalization, organization, punctuation, and spelling). We will be busy working hard and learning lots!

I hope you all have a great start to the New Year spending lots of time with family and friends! See you around the halls at the great Bennett Elementary!

Mrs. Hein

Guidance

Dear family and friends of Bennett Elementary School,

If you ask any teacher, they will say the first half of the school year has flown by and I would be in agreement with each teacher. As the school year flies by, I am amazed at the growth and development of each student. As your school counselor, each grade has been working extremely hard on developing new skills. Over the past month students have worked on a variety of listening and communication skills, students were asked to listen at a broad range of noises and decipher his or her environment and then had to complete active listening interviews with fellow classmates. Students asked simple questions that involved making eye contact and following each question with "why?". The "why" question requires each student to listen to the details. This was a great exercise to find out details that classmates might not know. I would like to send a shout out to the 4th grade class for creating Christmas cards for a group of senior friends. As a whole, the 4th grade class made fifty cards that were delivered during the 5th and 6th grade caroling at a couple of senior living facilities. Way to go 4th grade, keep up the hard work! Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve the Bennett community and have a blessed holiday season.

Mr. Herman

**BENNETT COMMUNITY SCHOOL
PROCEEDINGS OF REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
DECEMBER 10, 2018**

The Bennett Board of Education met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, December 10, 2018 in the staff work room of the Bennett Community School, Bennett, IA. President Danielle Pratt called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Directors Danielle Pratt, Jeremiah Costello, and Greg Reynolds answered roll call and a quorum was declared. Director Ross Kleppe arrived at 5:35 PM. Director Lisa Syring was absent. Also present were Superintendent/Principal David Larson and Board Secretary Lonna Moeller.

Director Costello moved, seconded by Director Reynolds to approve the agenda. Motion carried 3/0.

The mission statement was read.

Staff/Student Forum: None

Public Forum: None

Superintendent's/Principal's Report, Mr. Larson reported that the BEA presented letter of intent to negotiate; ESSA designations came out last week and will be released to the public sometime next week; attended the IASB convention; attended the DOE site visit at the AEA; roof project was not a planned FY19 project and was not budgeted for, will wait until next fiscal year; preschool desk audit was completed and submitted, currently working on K-12 desk audit.

General Business of the Board:

8a: Director Kleppe moved, seconded by Director Reynolds to approve the minutes from November 12 and 20, claims totaling \$88,122.05 and November financials. Motion carried 4/0.

8b: A review was done of board policies 503.1-504.8. Director Costello moved, seconded by Director Kleppe to approve all policies as read. Motion carried 4/0.

8c: Director Costello moved, seconded by Director Kleppe to approve Symantec end point protection for 36 computers for 3 years. Motion carried 4/0.

Director Reynolds moved, seconded by Director Kleppe to approve the purchase of a new desktop computer for the board secretary/treasurer. Motion carried 4/0.

8d: Director Costello moved, seconded by Director Kleppe to table the approval of the Fortinet Fortigate security appliance. Motion carried 4/0.

8e: Director Kleppe moved, seconded by Director Reynolds to approve the physical plant and equipment levy resolution of election. Roll call vote was Directors Pratt, Costello, Kleppe, and Reynolds all ayes; no nays with Director Syring absent. Motion carried 4/0.

8f: Director Costello moved, seconded by Director Reynolds to approve the modified supplemental amount of \$35,562.00 for dropout prevention program for FY20. Motion carried 4/0.

8g: Director Kleppe moved, seconded by Director Costello to approve the purchase of HP color laser jet printer. Motion carried 4/0.

Announcements/Discussion: None

Correspondence: None

Adjournment: Director Costello moved, seconded by Director Kleppe to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 PM. Motion carried 4/0.

**Classes resume on
January 3rd
which is also the
beginning of the 2nd
semester.**

**BENNETT LEGION
TACO NIGHT
WEDNESDAY'S 5-8pm**



(No Taco Night on December
26th or January 2nd)

HACAP Mobile Food
Pantry
3-4PM January 8, 2019
Bennett Ambulance
Building