

**Bennett Community School**

300 Cedar Street  
Bennett, IA 52721

Volume 39, Issue 1  
October 2018

**Academics + Activities = Excellence in Education**



## District Point of View

October 2018

**I am open for possibilities. I am open for choices. I always welcome new ideas. I am always eager to learn. I'm never going to close my mind from learning.**  
**-Cesar Millan**

Welcome to the 2018-19 school year! We here at Bennett CSD are off to a great start of the school year with many possibilities and new ideas taking place. We continue to find ways to give our students the opportunity to be eager to learn. Thank you in advance to promote that "eagerness" to learn at home also.

There are a few new ideas being promoted at Bennett Elementary this year. The first new idea is to change our master schedule to a "departmentalized" schedule. We now have teachers who are dedicated to one or two core areas of teaching. We now have a teacher for grades 1-3 ELA, 4-6 ELA, 1-3 Math/Science, 4-6 Math/Science and 1-6 Social Studies. Kindergarten and Preschool have stayed as self-contained classrooms. This type of schedule will enable our staff to work with students up to three to six years in their core areas of study. The learning curve of understanding student needs from one year to the next will be more efficient and focused. We are excited for this approach to educating our students.

Another major new change for this year is the use of a new math curriculum in grades K through 6th grade called Big Ideas. District staff decided on Big Ideas Math which delivers a unique and revolutionary curriculum providing a balanced instructional approach of discovery and direct instruction. This approach opens doors to abstract thought, reasoning, and inquiry as students persevere to answer the Essential Questions that drive instruction. Clearly stepped-out examples complete the lesson and provide students with the precise language and

structure necessary to build mathematical understanding and proficiency.

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be a little different this year with the departmentalized schedule. Homeroom teachers will be conducting conferences with their assigned grades. If you have a need to discuss your student's performance with another teacher we will find a means for communication with that staff member that night if they are available or with a phone call if needed.

I would like to welcome new staff positions/members, Joel Herman(Guidance Counselor), Debbie Meyer(Art Teacher), Karis Horstman(Office Secretary/Library Assistant) and Kim Shugar (Nurse) to the Bennett CSD. Please find a time to introduce yourself to these new staff members if you have not done so already.

Last, thank you for providing us the opportunity to educate your children. We truly appreciate you choosing Bennett CSD for their education!

**If you make an error, use it as a stepping stone to a new idea you might not have otherwise discovered.**      **-Roger von Oech**

Enjoy the beautiful Iowa Fall season,

Dave Larson



Principal/Superintendent

## Introducing our New Staff!!



### Mr. Herman-Guidance Counselor

Hello friends and families of Bennett Elementary School. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, I am Joel Herman, My wife, Shannon and I are residents of Nichols, Iowa and have two grown sons. I am your schools guidance counselor, and I look forward to providing services and support to your son or daughter, the faculty and staff, and each family associated with Bennett Elementary.

### Kimberly Shuger, RN

I am Kimberly Shuger and I am excited to be the school nurse at Bennett Elementary! I look forward to a great and healthy school year! I live in Wilton with my husband, Greg, and our two daughters, Lilly who is 12 and Lydia who is 10.

### Debbie Meyer-Art

I am excited to be here at Bennett Elementary! I have taught Art for about 5 years, 2nd grade, 3 y/o preschool, and most recently was a para-educator. I live in Park View. My husband and I have 5 children and 2 golden retrievers.

### Karis Horstmann Library/Secretary

Hi! I am new, this year, to the position of Library Aide/Secretary. Most of you know me as I grew up here and graduated from Bennett Community School, along with my grandmother, mother, husband Fred Jr. and our children, Matt and Sarah. Once a Bomber always a Bomber! I am looking forward to helping your children with their library choices and assisting them in any way I can.

## News from Resource

Hello everyone! Mrs. Hein here! I am so excited to get this school year started with your kids! We have many new and exciting things going on here at Bennett Elementary.

For those who are new to Bennett I am the resource teacher. If your student has an IEP, I get to work with them individually to help them gain some of those skills that are missing. I absolutely love working on these reading and math skills! I also get to go into the classrooms to help with math and some reading as well.

I can't wait to see what this year brings for learning, growing, and adventures!

## News from Social Studies

—Mrs. Wendel

Hello to all! This has been a very busy and exciting year so far. I am teaching 1-6 Social Studies this year. It has been very interesting and going well for both me and the students.

We have been doing quite a bit in Social Studies and learning about the different regions in the United States, who our community helpers are, the differences between urban, suburban, and rural areas, making compass roses, and maps. The compass roses turned out awesome! Come check them out in the hallway if you have a chance.

We hope you have a great Halloween!



**News from 4-6th Grade Science****—Mrs. Hennings**

The school year is off and going!

In math class fourth and fifth grade have been working on place value, rounding, and comparing whole numbers and decimals. Sixth grade started off the year working with exponents, prime factorization, greatest common factor and least common multiple. All students are enjoying our new math curriculum Big Ideas. This new curriculum has many interesting components for students. It has many computer features that we will explore as the year goes on.

In science class 4th grade is working on classifying animals into vertebrate and invertebrate, hot blooded and cold blooded, and mammals, amphibians, fish, birds, and reptiles. We will be going into deeper study on plants coming up very soon. In 5th grade we are working on the spheres of the Earth. We have just completed the biosphere where students learned and reviewed about classifying animals and making food webs. We are moving on now to the geosphere where we will review and learn about the layers of the Earth, igneous rocks, metamorphic rocks, and sedimentary rocks and how they flow in the rock cycle. Our overall topic for fifth grade right now is systems so we are learning

**News from the Art Room****—Mrs. Meyer**

We are off to a great start in the Art Room! Kindergarten is busy reviewing shapes, mixing colors and drawing self portraits. First grade joins them in some projects exploring warm and cool colors, Mondrian inspired work and cardboard comb designs. Second and Third grades made name designs using lines and patterns and tried our hand at paper batik. Third graders have enjoyed circle weavings too. Fourth, Fifth and Sixth grades created some beautiful sunsets using line, pattern and color. Then Fourth and Fifth had a small intro to expressionism, raised foil relief, and showing perspective using fore, middle and background. Sixth grade is using a horizon line and vanishing points in their two point perspective line drawings. All of this in just the first few weeks of school!



## Bennett Preschool News

We have learned "All about Me" with songs, books, projects, and lessons that focus on our bodies and learning the rules at school. We continue to reinforce using walking feet in the school, using inside voices, and treating others with kindness and respect. We started our reading program with "Little Red Riding Hood" and "Pete the Cat". We are learning about writing the letter Aa and words that start with the /Aa/ sound. We are also learning about the color red. We are learning how our bodies move and names of our body parts. We have started the letter Bb work and "The Three Bears" story as part of the reading series also. We continue with all letters in the alphabet during the school year. Each day we work on phonemes, the sounds of letters and work on looking for patterns in words and how words sound the same. We also look for beginning sounds, middle sounds and ending sounds of words. All this early work helps the children learn to read words and learn to write words. This year we started Tucker signing so we teach a movement of our body with our left hand to show how a letter looks and sounds. It encourages movement and gives kids a visual to learn letters and words.

We also work on PBIS skills each day of showing respect, care, safety, and doing our best. We still work on filling buckets in our classroom with poms and work on kindness, respect, care, and doing our best every day.

We go outside daily so clothing and shoes that allow children to run and climb are recommended. Large motor activities are so important as part



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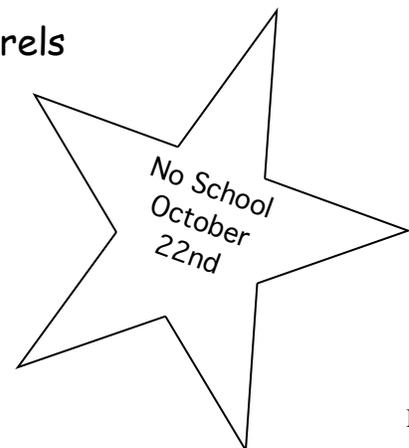
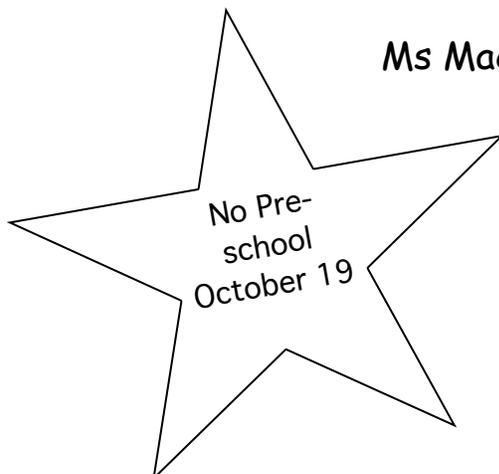
## Bennett Preschool News

of our preschool curriculum. We are working on balance, coordination, and making connections with our bodies and movement. We also sit on the floor a lot, shorts under skirts and dresses helps keep all areas covered.

Preschool hours are 8-11, but we encourage children to eat breakfast at school and can start eating at 7:30 am. The children then can enter the classrooms at 7:40 and start the transition into the school day. Please be prompt with drop off and pick up times. We end our day with the bus ride home or parents/family picking up at 11:00am. We continue to work on this process and getting everyone home to the right location. Please call or send notes if things change for your family. We have an extended day on Tuesday for children that were 4 years of age by September 15th. We work on more letters, sounds, numbers, and skills needed to be ready for learning in kindergarten.

Please check out our private Bennett Preschool 2018-2019 page on facebook. You can join by sending a request to join the page. It is a private page, so I will need to approve all members as part of the process. You have to ask to join to see posts and pictures.

Ms Mackey and Mrs Garrels



## LIBRARY NEWS

Library Class Schedule for the 2018-19 School Year:

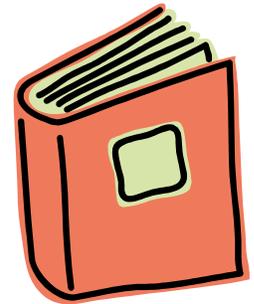
Monday: 2nd & 6th Grades

Wednesday: 4th & 5th Grades

Thursday: 1st & 3rd Grades

Friday: Kindergarten

The year started by talking about how to act in the library and how to care for the books. Now I am reading aloud 10 minutes at the beginning of each class. Kindergarten & 1st have heard Creepy Underwear and Creepy Carrots, among other age appropriate books. 2nd & 3rd are hearing The Case of The Lost Boy, 4th is A Dog's Life, and 5th & 6th are hearing Brian's Winter.



Please help your students remember their library books on their scheduled library day!

Mrs. Horstmann



### Healthiest State Initiative

“Walk more. Connect More.” encourages participants to walk with others, like your classmates and teachers. That’s why Bennett Elementary will host a community walk on October 3rd at 11:15am starting at Bennett School parking lot. All 4th through 6th graders will walk from 11:20am-11:40am. All Kindergarten through 3rd graders will walk from 11:40am-12:05pm. We hope you can join us at either time.



### Are you ready for Flu season?

Cedar County Public Health will be hosting a flu shot clinic at Bennett Elementary on October 8th from 8-9 for students only and 3:30-5:00pm for the public.





**UNOFFICIAL MINUTES**

BENNETT COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
 PROCEEDINGS OF REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING/ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
 SEPTEMBER 10, 2018

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BENNETT COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
 PROCEEDINGS OF REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING/  
 ANNUAL MEETING  
 SEPTEMBER 10, 2018

The Bennett Board of Education met for its regular monthly meeting and annual meeting on Monday, September 10, 2018 in the staff work room of the Bennett Community School, Bennett, IA. President Danielle Pratt called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. Directors Danielle Pratt, Lisa Syring, Ross Kleppe, Jeremiah Costello, and Greg Reynolds answered roll call and a quorum was declared. Also present were Principal/Superintendent David Larson and Board Secretary Lonna Moeller.

Director Syring moved, seconded by Director Costello to approve the agenda. Motion carried 5/0.

The board voted for president. There were five votes for Danielle Pratt. Danielle Pratt was declared president for the 2018-2019 school year.

The board voted for vice-president. There were three votes for Lisa Syring and two votes for Jeremiah Costello. Lisa Syring was declared vice-president for the 2018-2019 school year.

Director Syring moved, seconded by Director Kleppe to appoint Lonna Moeller as the board secretary and district treasurer. Motion carried 5/0.

Director Syring moved, seconded by Director Costello to meet the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. and to use Roberts Rules of Order. Motion carried 5/0.

Director Syring moved, seconded by Director Kleppe to reaffirm the existing board policies for the 2018-2019 school year. Motion carried 5/0.

The following committee assignments were made:

9a: Director Syring moved, seconded by Director Costello to appoint Kimberly Shuger as Level I Investigator and to appoint Bobbi Havill as the Alternate. Level II Investigator is the Cedar County Sheriff. Motion carried 5/0.

9b: Director Kleppe moved, seconded by Director Costello to appoint Bobbi Havill as the Affirmative Action Investigator. Motion carried 5/0.

9c: Director Syring moved, seconded by Director

Kleppe to appoint Costello and Reynolds as representatives to the Cedar County Conference Board. Motion carried 5/0.

9d: Director Kleppe moved, seconded by Director Syring to appoint Pratt as the representative to the Scott County Conference Board. Motion carried 5/0.

9e: Director Kleppe moved, seconded by Director Syring to appoint the entire board to the Negotiations Committee. Motion carried 5/0.

9f: Director Syring moved, seconded by Director Costello to appoint Reynolds and Kleppe to serve on the Health Insurance Committee. Motion carried 5/0.

9g: Director Costello moved, seconded by Director Reynolds to appoint Costello and Syring as representatives of the District Advisory Committee. Motion carried 5/0.

9h: Director Syring moved, seconded by Director Kleppe to appoint Pratt and Reynolds to the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Motion carried 5/0.

9i: Director Syring moved, seconded by Director Costello to appoint Pratt and Kleppe to the Whole Grade Sharing Sub-Committee. Motion carried 5/0.

9j: Director Syring moved, seconded by Director Kleppe to appoint Costello to serve as representative of the staff handbook committee. Motion carried 5/0.

**Staff/Student Forum:** None

**Public Forum:** None

**Superintendent's/Principal's Report:** Mr. Larson reported that current enrollment is 88; attended superintendent's meeting and emergency planning meetings are set for the fall, district plans are due to the state June 30; CAR, SES and transportation reports due September 17, BEDS fall reporting due October 15, and Operational Sharing due October 31; staff handbook committee will meet this Thursday.

**General Business of the Board:**

13a: Director Syring moved, seconded by Director Kleppe to approve the minutes from August 16 and August 24, claims totaling \$31,024.32 and August financials. Motion carried 5/0.

13b: A review was done of board policies 1006.3-1007. Director Syring moved, seconded by Director Kleppe to approve the policies as read. Motion carried 5/0.

**UNOFFICIAL MINUTES** *continued*

school year. Motion carried 5/0.

Director Syring moved, seconded by Director Reynolds to approve the open enrollment request of Piper Hermiston from Bennett to Durant for the 2018-2019 school year. Motion carried 5/0.

Director Syring moved, seconded by Director Kleppe to deny the open enrollment request of Clay Engler from Bennett to Calamus-Wheatland for the 2018-2019 school year. It was received by the resident district after the deadline. Motion carried 5/0.

13d: Director Syring moved, seconded by Director Costello to table the approval of the preschool handbook. Motion carried 5/0.

13e: Director Costello moved, seconded by Director Reynolds to approve the extended preschool teaching contract for Karen Mackey. Motion carried 5/0.

13f: Director Syring moved, seconded by Director Reynolds to approve the bid from Michel's Tree Service to remove one tree and trim several others. Motion carried 5/0.

13g: Director Costello moved, seconded by Director Reynolds to approve naming no legal counsel at this time. Motion carried 5/0.

13h: Director Syring moved, seconded by Director Reynolds to approve naming Liberty Trust and Savings Bank as depository. Motion carried 5/0.

13i: Director Kleppe moved, seconded by Director Syring to approve the affidavit of depository bank as presented. Motion carried 5/0.

**Announcements/Discussion:** the maintenance director will attend the next meeting to discuss the options and bids for roof replacement.

**Correspondence:** None

**Adjournment:** Director Syring moved, seconded by Director Reynolds to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 PM. Motion carried 5/0.



## Greetings from Bennett Elementary Pilots,

P.I.L.O.T.S. stands for Parents Involved in the Learning of Today's Students. Pilots is a PTA group that was started many years ago and was given the name because the Bennett Bombers needed some P.I.L.O.T.S. to lead the way & help give our students some fun events & activities while getting a great education.

We are a small group of parents that gather just a few times in a school year to work on box tops & Our Family labels, plan events such as Santa's Workshop or the annual Easter Egg Hunt. We also raise money to help pay for field trips, donate meals to our teachers during Parent-Teacher conferences, buy classroom supplies for our teachers or just lend a hand when needed.

Many people think they are much too busy to be involved, but in all honesty, it doesn't take up much of our precious time. Most of us parents that are already part of Pilots work full time jobs, run our kids to all their extra curricular activities, help with homework, make dinner every night, etc & still make time for our small group just a few times in a school year. We do most of our communicating with each other through text messages or email & only have meetings when necessary.

If you would like to be a part of P.I.L.O.T.S. please contact myself or another member. We would be happy to have your help giving back to our school & our kids!

Once A Bomber.....  
Always A Bomber

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