

**Bennett Community School**

300 Cedar Street

Bennett, IA 52721

February 2019

Volume 39, Issue 6

**Academics + Activities = Excellence in Education**



District Point of View  
Bennett CSD  
February 2019

***"Tragedy's playground. Don't learn safety by accident"***

***-Author Unknown***

The last week in January was Mother Nature's test on the lowan strength of endurance and fortitude to the elements of our local winters. Those brutal wind chill temperatures, winds, and large amount of snow really impeded safe traveling for many of our district families. I want to personally thank all our families for your flexibility and understanding with having to keep students at home to safeguard them, bus drivers and our staff. This is sometimes a difficult decision for a district, but I will tell you that I will always error on the side of caution when it comes to the safety of our Bennett family.

Bennett CSD has renewed our whole grade sharing agreement with the Durant CSD for an additional three years starting in August of 2019. This agreement has served many Bennett families well for their 7-12 grade students in the past and now into the future. We have been very fortunate to have two different districts (Durant and Tipton) for our local district families to choose from for the 7-12 grade sharing options. This makes transportation a little tricky with three different school calendar schedules to work with, but it is well worth the benefits that it provides our families and students.

Last, Bennett CSD will be administering the Iowa Statewide Assessment for Student Progress in March of this year. We have chosen as a staff to administer this assessment online with our local laptops and iPads since this is how other district assessments are given. This is the first year that this assessment is given so results will not be provided to the Iowa school districts until the fall of 2019 after benchmarks and norming levels are set by the state. We will provide the exact dates in the next few weeks so you can prepare students with hearty breakfasts, quality sleep time and monitor outside appointments during the testing week.

**"Tomorrow: your reward for working safely today."**

**-Attributed to Robert Pelton**

Spring is going to be early this year says Punxsutawney Phil!! I hope the groundhog is correct this year.....please!

Mr. Larson

## From the desk of Ms. Mackey

**PBIS News:** The staff and students at Bennett Community School have been working together to implement our PBIS goals and standards to meet the Iowa Core needs and assessments. In this process, I have been teaching lessons and working with students on Being Respectful, Being a Caring Citizen, Showing Self-Control, and Doing Your Best Work. We have been working on looking at situations in our classrooms, in our school, in our community, and in current events happening in our world. We have been working on building skills of working together to solve problems and what it looks like when we work together. We role play situations, read stories, play games, and yes, even sing and dance all together with our PBIS song. Our district is currently working on setting up goals and a plan to continue to build skills and assessments in our district to meet state PBIS standards and objectives. Our staff will be working together in planning and completing state surveys and getting ready to set goal for the 2019-20 school year.

The students have been earning DoJo points for meeting reading goals, math goals, turning in homework assignments, demonstrating PBIS goals in the classroom, in the hallways, on the bus, on the playground, in the cafeteria, and in overall situations. These DoJo points are then turned into "Bomber Bucks". I have asked school staff to let me know when they see students showing our PBIS goals and objectives and they earn extra in "Bomber Bucks" for demonstrating these skills. I have also asked the older students 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades to give "Bomber Bucks" to students they see making good choices or showing our PBIS skills. The kids then can use the "Bomber Bucks" to purchase items in the "Bomber Store". The kids can spend or save their "Bomber Bucks". This has enforced skills such as making choices and counting money. Whole classrooms also earn extra gym time, recess time, movie time, or other fun social time with friends.

This is an ongoing process and works to motivate and reward students for showing respect, making good safe choices, building self-control, and doing your best work. The students can also earn negative DoJo points, which take away from point totals if the students are not making good choices, are distrustful, hurting others, or not doing their best work. We then work as a team to make changes so the students can be more successful in and out of the classroom. We are working together to make Bennett Community School the best place for kids to learn and meet 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills.

Ms Mackey

## Preschool News: February 2019

We have been learning about the animals and climate of the Arctic. The kids enjoyed moving like penguins, watching science videos about polar bears, and learning other facts and information about other animals that live where it's very cold. We then moved climates to the jungle. We studied information about giraffes, elephants, lions, tigers, hippos, and zebras. We talked about which animals ate plants and which hunted for meat. We then traveled back in time to when dinosaurs roamed the Earth. We again discussed what they ate, what they looked like by their fossils that scientists found, and we moved and sounded like dinosaurs.

In our science units, we also count, measure, sort, and classify items within that unit. We also compare and contrast the animals, read stories about them, move like the animals, and learning interesting facts. I encourage the kids to think, predict, and come up with their own ideas about the animals also.

In literacy we continue to learn letters and the sounds the letters make. We work on rhyming words, "snap word", which are sight or memory words, putting letters together to make words, parts of words, and beginning, middle, and ending sounds in words. Who knew there was so much to learn in preschool?

Snack time is very popular with our preschool kiddos too! We are very thankful for the many parents that send in snacks and paper products for snack time. We do have our own private Facebook page that preschool parents join so they can see their child "in action" during preschool.

Ms. Mackey



# Notes from Nurse Kim

## Water Facts for Kids

With the addition of our new water fountain, I thought it would be a great time to talk about the importance of drinking water!

Our bodies are made up of approximately 70% water. Water helps regulate our body temperature, aids in the digestion process, and helps prevent constipation. Our bodies lose water throughout the day when we sweat, breathe, and go to the bathroom. It's important to replace the water we've lost so we don't get dehydrated.

Children are at a greater risk of dehydration than adults. This is because they are smaller in size and their metabolism uses up water and electrolytes more quickly than adults. Also kids are constantly on the move, losing water and electrolytes through sweat.

Common Symptoms of dehydration:

Headaches

Poor concentration

Cracked lips

Dry mouth

Constipation

Lethargy

Dark urine

Recommended water intake:

Children under 8 years of age need at least 4-6 glasses of water. For children older than 8 years of age, a minimum of 6-8 glasses is recommended. If your child plays sports or is very active they will need extra water.



**Continued**

Tips to help your child stay hydrated:

Send a water bottle to school with your child

Encourage your child to drink water before, after and during physical activity

Offer water with a silly straw or special cup that they get to pick out

Add fun shaped ice cubes to water or add frozen/fresh fruit to water

Don't forget to be a good role model and drink plenty of water yourself! Encouraging water consumption can help make a positive change in the entire family.

## Band News

Like the rest of school band is off to a very slow start, but we are making a lot of progress. Now it is even more important that students practice at least 2-3 days at home to keep up with the missing days of band practice. All it takes is 20-30 minutes. Students need to remember to bring their instruments and music books every Wednesday and Friday.

Stay Warm,

Mr. Driscoll



# Kindergarten News

What a Winter we have had! We are trying to get back into the routines of Kindergarten, which is very hard with this winter weather we have seen. Here are some things that we have done since our last newsletter.



We had fun helping Mr. Larson celebrate his Birthday at school with a Birthday dance from GoNoodle. The Kids and Mr. Larson had some great dance moves. Go Noodle is a great way to get in brain breaks.

We missed our friends so much during our extended winter weather break, we took some time to “play” and catch up with what we did. In Kindergarten play is still important developmentally!



A few students got quite creative with their "play". They had so much fun creating this spot to play.



In Science we have been working very hard on our investigations. The students had fun learning all about FABRIC. Some things we investigated include what happens when different kinds of fabric get wet. We have also investigated PAPER. Some things we investigated were: what paper is best for writing, what paper is easy/hard to fold, and what happens to paper when it gets wet.



Testing is a huge deal in the start of our winter months, we are doing great and kindergartners are very comfy when they test!



## UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

### BENNETT COMMUNITY SCHOOL PROCEEDINGS OF REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING JANUARY 14, 2019

The Bennett Board of Education met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, January 14, 2019 in the staff work room of the Bennett Community School, Bennett, IA. President Danielle Pratt called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Directors Danielle Pratt, Jeremiah Costello, Ross Kleppe, and Lisa Syring answered roll call and a quorum was declared. Director Greg Reynolds was absent. Also present were Superintendent/Principal David Larson and Board Secretary Lonna Moeller.

Director Kleppe moved, seconded by Director Syring to approve the agenda. Motion carried 4/0.

The mission statement was read.

**Staff/Student Forum:** None

**Public Forum:** None

**Superintendent's/Principal's Report,** Mr. Larson reported that current 6<sup>th</sup> grade students visited both Tipton and Durant; ESSA rankings were released and we scored above the state average; NWEA winter window will start the end of January/early February; staff decided to take the new state assessment (ISASP) in March and to use the on-line version; Title I reading and math parent night held; special election on February 5 for the voted PPEL; water main break in east parking lot, will need patch work this spring/summer; bus 4 stalled during route and was towed, students were loaded to another bus and taken home safely; two new students will be starting on Wednesday.

#### **General Business of the Board:**

8a: Director Syring moved, seconded by Director Kleppe to approve the minutes from December 10, claims totaling \$122,728.91 and December financials. Motion carried 4/0.

8b: A review was done of board policies 505.2-506.3. Director Costello moved, seconded by Director Syring to approve the policies as read. Motion carried 4/0. A review was done of the following board policies with the following motions made to approve additions/changes as recommended:

8c: Policy 712 Director Costello moved, seconded by Director Syring. Motion carried 4/0.

8d: Policy 213 Director Kleppe moved, seconded by Director Syring. Motion carried 4/0.

8e: Policy 213.1 Director Syring moved, seconded by Director Costello. Motion carried 4/0.

8f: Policy 105 Director Syring moved, seconded by Director

Costello. Motion carried 4/0.

8g: Policy 606.3 Director Syring moved, seconded by Director Kleppe. Motion carried 4/0.

8h: Policy 705.1 Director Kleppe moved, seconded by Director Costello. Motion carried 4/0.

8i: Policy 705.1R1 Director Syring moved, seconded by Director Costello. Motion carried 4/0.

8j: Policy 710.1 Director Syring moved, seconded by Director Kleppe. Motion carried 4/0.

8k: Director Kleppe moved, seconded by Director Syring to approve the open enrollment request of Clay Engler from Bennett to Calamus-Wheatland for the 2019-2020 school year. Motion carried 4/0.

8l: Director Kleppe moved, seconded by Director Syring to approve the whole grade sharing agreement, memo of understanding and 28E agreement with Durant CSD. Motion carried 4/0.

8m: Director Syring moved, seconded by Director Kleppe to approve the district calendar for the 2019-2020 school year. Motion carried 4/0.

**Announcements/Discussion:** discussion was held on the possibility of a 3 way sharing option for superintendent.

**Correspondence:** None

**Adjournment:** Director Syring moved, seconded by Director Kleppe to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 PM. Motion carried 4/0.



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

**Bennett Community Club selling  
Root Beer Floats on February  
13th!!!!!!!**



**Community Club Breakfast Fundraiser for Bennett's 135th  
Celebration, Sunday, February 17th , 8:00-12:00pm at Ben-  
nett Legion. Serving pancakes, eggs, potatoes, biscuits/  
gravy, sausage, and drinks. Adults \$8, kids 4-12 \$5, kids 3  
and under free.**



**HACAP Mobile Food Pantry  
3-4PM February 12, 2019  
Bennett Ambulance Building  
Extras @ Peace Church  
5:00-6:30pm**

