

Banks Middle School

December Newsletter

Dan Van Winkle - Principal

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BMS Staff

Leann Gallien - Counselor
Kim Javorsky - Secretary
Kim Carson - 6th Grade
Shannon Dotson - 6th Grade
Ashley Thomas - 6th Grade
Kellie Meeuwesen - Art
Koreen Bennett - Band
Laura Cummings - Language Arts
Madalyn Hatcher - Language Arts
Cole Linehan - Health & Phys. Ed.
Megan King - Health & Technology
Cathy Davis - Learning Specialist
Lori Marston - Learning Specialist
Kathleen Poulsen - Learning Specialist
Karla Clark - Math
Nick Rizzo - Physical Education
Tony Richeson - Science
Shawn Speer - Social Studies
Pat Marlia - Spanish
Janelle Calendar - I. A.
Ashlee Croissant - I. A.
Heather Hardman - I. A.
Heather Poetter - I. A.
Shari Ragsdale - I. A.
Aubrey Rue - I. A.
Sheri Rue - I. A.
Judy Stone - I. A.

7 DECEMBER 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The year is rolling and our staff and students here at BMS have really hit their stride. At the end of our second six-week grading period, 108 students still have a place on the honor roll with GPAs at or above 3.5. Our school-wide attendance average is up to 95% with 82 students maintaining perfect attendance for the second six-weeks and 40 who haven't missed a day all year. Our "chronically absent" group, or students who have missed more than 10% of the school year, has shrunk by about half to only 37 students. Thank you for supporting our students and helping them reach these levels of achievement.

Over the past several weeks, the teachers, staff, and I have made a concerted effort to invigorate our system of Positive Behavior Instructional Supports (PBIS). You might have heard your child talking about Banks Bucks and the different things they can buy with them, and it's this Banks Bucks economy that is the heart of our revitalized PBIS system. Teachers award Bucks when they see students exemplifying our community values of safety, respect, and responsibility. Historically, students could use the Bucks to buy from a small selection of items like pencils, water bottles, shoelaces, and other trinkets. They can still buy those items this year, but we've also started selling certificates for classroom privileges (like choosing their seat for the day, working in the hall with a friend, or having no penalty for a late assignment) and tickets to a pizza social held on the last school day of the month. Teachers and staff have made a concerted effort to recognize more positive behaviors and award more Bucks and our students seem excited to earn and spend them twice a week at our Banks Bucks Store.

Thank you also for allowing you children to contribute so generously to our holiday charity efforts. Our canned food drive brought in 888 pounds of food that went to the Banks Food Bank just before Thanksgiving, and we are currently accepting donations for our "Gold and Silver" coin drive which will end just before we leave for winter break. The proceeds from the coin drive will also go to the Food Bank to help those in our community who are in need.

I hope this letter finds you well. Have a wonderful and safe holiday season!

Sincerely,

Dan Van Winkle, Principal

Banks Middle School

Dates to Remember

Dec 12- 2nd Six Weeks Celebration
Assembly
Dec 18-Jan 1 - School Closed - Holiday
Break
Jan 2- First Day Back From
Holiday Break
Jan 15-No School Martin Luther
King Jr. Day
Jan 29-No School-Grade Day
Feb 19-No School- President's Day
Feb 21- Science Fair
March 11-Daylight Savings Time
March 16 No School-Grade Day
March 26-30-No School-Spring Break
April 17-Band Festival
May 1- 6-12 Choir Concert
May 4-No School-Grade Day
May 28-No School- Memorial Day
Ju 6-Expo

Announcements

Outstanding Students

The following students have been recognized by the staff as a "Student of the Six Weeks." All of these students have been recognized by the staff as demonstrating excellent peer modeling of safe, responsible, and respectful citizenship and academic effort.

Sixth Grade

Josie Kimmel
George Bergstrom

Seventh Grade

Hailey Evans
Jackson Lyda

Eighth Grade

Graci Eddy
Xavier Thompson

The Kindness Campaign

This fall student volunteers from all three grades have been working on a "Kindness Campaign". The goal of this series of projects is to encourage students to focus on and recognize kind actions. The first project is the "kindness tree" in our foyer. Student volunteers at lunch document acts of kindness that their peers have either seen or experienced and post them on the tree. Our initial goal is 300 acts of kindness school wide; that would be one per student and teacher! Our next project will be a "kindness challenge," encouraging acts of kindness both in and out of school.

Science Fair

The science fair will be on February 21st in the middle school gym from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. All the students are working hard to prepare an example of their work to display. Come enjoy an educational night filled with almost 300 student projects, OMSI brainteasers, RICE Rock Museum, the egg drop, and a cookie social!

Immunizations

Immunization exclusion day is fast approaching. All immunizations are due each year by the third Wednesday in February, which this year is February 21st. Historically, we most of our exclusions are due to a missing Tdap vaccination which is required for all 7th graders whose last tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis dose was received prior to 7 years of age. If your child is overdue for a required immunization you should be receiving an email from Mrs. Javorsky in the next few weeks. As always, feel free to contact the office with questions. Complete information about required immunizations is available at <http://www.co.washington.or.us/HHS/Immunizations/school-requirements.cfm>.

Lost-and-Found

We've got lots of stuff in our lost-and-found from the last six weeks. Most of it is P.E. clothes and sweatshirts, but we've also got water bottles, bags, lunch boxes, a student planner, a pencil case, goalie gloves, and even shampoo! Please come claim your stuff because all unclaimed items will be donated before we leave for winter break. For pictures of everything, see our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/BanksMiddleSchool/>