

Principal's Report

December 13, 2022

*JoLee Horvath and Margaret Hocking will attend the meeting as potential Board members to fill Tim's seat. I believe that whoever we don't choose will probably be willing to run in March.

*Abbie Vashaw will be attending the meeting to discuss her role as Special Education Coordinator/Preschool Coordinator.

*I am including a proposal for a support staff sick bank. I wrote it from Profile's negotiated agreement with their support staff.

*Attached you will find the fall benchmarking scores. I have included the STAR scores only because the Acadience Data Management System changed and they no longer provide a consolidated score by grade level. I am happy to report that the summary scores increased from the summary scores from last year from 54% to 60% for math and 51%-57% for reading. We will be benchmarking again in January.

*We were awarded close to \$22,000 in the form of a SAFE grant. This will allow us to create a vestibule on the basement floor to prevent delivery folks from having access to the whole building. It will also replace the two front side doors which don't always close completely. I am also looking into additional safety lights to make the crossing of the street safer.

*This week we held a family literacy night which included a supper put on by Tammy Sanborn's restaurant Smokin' T's, an author storytelling visit and bookmark crafts for kids. This was all paid for through the CLiF grant. There were just under 100 kids and adults who attended. Next week we have two evenings on concerts. I think everyone is enjoying the opportunity to get back into the building as a community.

*I have applied for a Excellence in Education Award. We will hear by January 14 whether we have made it to the next round. I am sharing the application with you because it celebrates all of the work being done for kids, families and community at BES. With the Annual School District meeting coming up in March, it reminds all of us that wonderful things are happening at BES due to the amazing staff, families and community.

*Winter activities begin January 6th!

Proposal for the creation of a sick bank for support staff at BES:

Currently our paraprofessionals get 10 sick days each year and are able to accumulate up to thirty days.

Due to the pandemic and all the sicknesses that are going around, I have support staff who are running out of sick days. I am proposing the creation of a sick bank for paraprofessionals (other support staff get more sick days yearly and are able to accumulate more days). Only support staff could contribute to the sick bank. This agreement would allow any support staff to donate from one to five days to the bank. In order for the bank to be used, the principal and two other members of the support staff would form a committee to make decisions about tapping into the sick bank. The sick bank will be capped at 100 days. In order to be eligible to request days, the employee must have:

1. Exhausted all available personal and sick days.
2. Have been ill due to due to incapacitating illness with a note from their doctor.
3. Have had to stay home with sick children with a note from their child's doctor.
4. Sent a written request to the Sick Bank Leave Committee asking to utilize donated days.

2022-2023 Bethlehem Elementary School Fall to Spring Benchmark Growth Comparison

STAR Assessment- Computer adaptive assessment used to determine student academic progress and inform instruction. **This test is not timed.** It is important to keep in mind that we are not always comparing the same students when looking at results due to students moving and out of the district.

- **Proficiency** equals the percentage of students in the same grade (nationally) who scored proficient or above in the given assessment category using a **40% cut off.**
- **Grade 2-All 2nd graders take the STAR Reading test which affects the percentage because many took the early literacy in the fall and were bumped up to STAR reading in the winter causing the decline in the percentage.**
- **Grades K-1 Early Literacy/ K Math-** Students in grades K-1 complete an Early Literacy Assessment along with students with special needs who are unable to take the Reading assessment.

Grade	Math Fall Proficiency	Math Winter Proficiency	Math Spring	Read Fall Proficiency	Read Winter Proficiency	Reading Spring
Kindergarten	Not assessed			64%		
First	61%			55%		
Second	64%			62%		
Third	65%			70%		
Fourth	40%			41%		
Fifth	63%			53%		
Sixth	65%			53%		
Summary	54%			51%		

- ❖ Also important to note: Many of the educational experts who assess the teaching of reading have found that the Lucy Calkins method is not as effective as originally thought. We considered adapting this program at the time we adopted Wonders. Thankfully, research shows that the work we do, especially with our beginning readers, is in fact, the most effective way to develop early reading skills. We look at the students' Rapid Automatic Naming as well as their Phonemic Awareness which are critical early reading skills. We then provide immediate support if students have not grasped these early skills. I am very proud of the work we do in the area of reading!
- ❖ Following the benchmark assessing all staff met to create a plan to address the needs of our students. Reading fluency has become a focus for our students which will hopefully yield improvement in the winter benchmarking.