

# December Principal Newsletter

## Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am pleased to report that the 2018-2019 school year is off to a great start!

Our dedicated teachers are working hard every day to ensure students are engaged in learning. Of significance, our teachers do a fantastic job of integrating new and exciting technology into their daily routine. For example, first grade teachers are utilizing the Seesaw APP to enhance learning and store student work. Upper grade teachers are engaging students in assignments via Google classroom.

Follow me on Twitter (@BME\_Principal) to see many more exciting things planned for this school year. Additional information contained in this newsletter serves as a valuable resource to keep you updated on important information germane to teaching, learning, and enriching your child's school experience.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me in the Betty McElmon Elementary main office.

Sincerely,

*James J. Erhardt*

James J. Erhardt  
Principal  
@BME\_Principal



## How to Help Your Child Be Successful in School

1. Talk about school with your child. Discuss the happy experiences that took place during the school day.
2. Listen to your child. Discuss concerns that he/she expresses. Encourage and be reassuring.
3. Establish good routines for eating, sleeping, and doing homework. Homework should be done in a consistent location and away from distractions.
4. Read to your child every day.
5. Ask your child at dinner what they studied in school during the day. Ask specific questions about school to engage in meaningful conversations. Lastly, show enthusiasm for their school work.

## Grade Level Close-Up

The Kindergarten team has implemented some cool projects as a result of Foundation mini grants. For example, one teacher has implemented Yoga mindfulness sessions to address social-emotional learning. Another teacher has explored literature with students that contain STEM themes. Students are then engaged in hands-on STEM challenges. In addition to the Foundation grants, the Kindergarten team welcomes **Zero the Hero** on school days that end in the number zero. **Zero the Hero** reads aloud to students and engages them in some fun activities.

## Makerspace

Mrs. Somers has implemented a morning Makerspace program into her weekly teaching routine. The morning maker program is a way for third and fourth grade students to explore literature and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics). After reading a mentor text, students are presented with an engineering design challenge. Working in cooperative groups, they create projects using supplies that are stored in the maker wall.

## Read, Read, Read

The most important thing a parent can do to develop literacy and a love of books is to read aloud to your child every day. Some things to consider when engaging your child in a read aloud:

- Ask questions before, during, and after reading.
- Reading the same book over and over again helps students develop comprehension and builds vocabulary.
- Take turns with your child choosing books to read aloud. Your turn provides opportunities to introduce new titles and genres.

## Cool Website for Winter Break

The code.org website will engage your child in critical thinking skills by giving them the opportunity to create their own video games.

<https://www.code.org>

## Visit Us on the Web

There is a wealth of information about Betty McElmon Elementary School that can be found on the school website. Please visit us at the website address listed below:

<http://www.wlbschools.com/bme/site/default.asp>



## Upcoming Events

### Abbreviated Session

December 21, 2018

### Winter Break

December 24, 2018-January 1, 2019

### School Closed (Martin Luther King Day)

January 21, 2019

### School Closed

February 4, 2019

### School Closed

February 18, 2019

### Parent-Teacher Conferences

March 13 & 14, 2019 (Early Dismissal)

### PARCC 3&4

May 1-3, 2019 ELA

May 6-7, 2019 Math

**"Childhood is a Journey,  
not a Race!"**

**-Jim Grant**

