

January Principal Newsletter

Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is hard to believe that the end of January is near and we are almost half way through the 2018-2019 school year. The BME teachers have been working hard to provide students with a nurturing and productive learning environment.

I wanted to remind parents/guardians of the instructional philosophy at BME. The teachers utilize benchmark assessment data to provide small group targeted instruction in both ELA and math. This allows us to differentiate the learning environment by content, process, and product, thus meeting the unique learning needs of all students in the classroom. This has been the bedrock of instruction at BME.

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



Character Education Conversations

1. Talk to your child about the meaning of empathy. Being able to place yourself in someone else's shoes is a good way to teach this character trait.
2. Talk to your child about persistence. Share with them a time in your life when you were persistent that paid dividends later.
3. Engage your child in a kindness challenge. Have them compliment three people each day for a week.
4. Talk to your child about the importance of citizenship. Take them to volunteer at a food bank, nursing home, etc.
5. Talk to your child about responsibility. Assign them an important chore in the house to demonstrate the value of being responsible for a family need.

Grade Level Close-Up

The first grade team has implemented an author study two times per week. Author study is a time that allows us to offer students intervention or enrichment. During December and January, the teachers introduced the famous author, Jan Brett. After reading her book titled **Hedgie's Surprise** and reading a non-fiction book, students created informational pieces on hedgehogs.

Maker Faire

Mrs. Somers will be implementing a Maker Faire on Friday, March 22nd, 2019 from 6:00-7:30 pm in the media center and cafeteria. This will be a time for students to step away from the television, computer games, etc. and do hands-on projects with a STEAM based theme. If parents/guardians have a hobby or tech related craft to highlight at a table, please reach out to Mrs. Somers.

Books & Beyond

Mrs. Curran is a fourth grade teacher at BME who will be our new advisor for the Books & Beyond program. Books and Beyond is an exciting recreational reading program designed to increase parent/guardian involvement in their children's reading and to build literacy skills. In the Books and Beyond Program, students, teachers, and school staff participate in a read-a-thon that generates excitement and creates a community of readers. Students select their own reading materials on any subject they wish and in any language. **All reading counts!** This includes reading aloud, either by or to the child. The goal is for all students to read. The total number of minutes is recorded. Prizes are given to random participants each month. The West Long Branch Foundation for Education sponsors this program.

Cool Website

The instructables website provides inspiration for hands-on STEAM projects you can do with your child at home.

<https://www.instructables.com/id/k-5-projects/>

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

Talent Show

January 25, 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

