



DECEMBER 2016

# House of Blue

Bellevue Community School ~ District Newsletter

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## District News

From the desk of: MR. TOM MEYER

Learning for our students is continuous and is prevalent in many different formats throughout each building. Regardless of the grade level, we are working to make sure our students are building strong foundational academic and life skills for success throughout their lives. Our standardized test scores are strong overall; we provide many opportunities for the application of learning in real-life situations, and we provide the ACT for FREE for all Juniors as a college entrance exam to assist them with their future, but, as the old saying goes, "Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted." WE have a role to assist in "cultivating the talent of people" to allow them to grow through personalized learning opportunities. No test can accurately measure this, and we must continue to focus on developing skills in problem solving, working with others, thinking critically, and allowing students to study and pursue their passions while learning. We have a great district (staff, students, parents, and community members), and it is only going to continue to get stronger!

## Middle School & High School News

From the desk of: MR. JEFF RECKER

It has been a busy December at Bellevue MS/HS. Our students continue to do exciting things every day in their classes. From caroling about bones in Anatomy, to conducting a mock trial in Crim. and Civ., to researching and writing about how to improve our nation's schools in Comp. 105, our students have been very busy! Our Bellevue BIG program was put on display last week for leaders of Jackson County and the future Governor. Kim Reynolds visited our school as part of a Jackson County visit organized by Jackson County Economic Development. BIG students, along with Mr. Ernst and Mr. Jaeger, presented information and a sneak peak into what the students do in their program. It went very well, and our visitors were very impressed with the great things these students are doing!

Our fine arts department put on two great shows this week at our annual holiday concerts! I continue to be amazed by the talented students we have in the fine arts! Mr. Dockum, Mr. Davies and Mrs. Medinger have much to be proud of!

Our winter athletic teams have been very busy this month. Our girls team is currently ranked 15th in the state of Iowa. Mason Lyons won his 100th wrestling match as a Comet. With basketball, wrestling, bowling, cheerleading and dance all active during the winter, many of our students are able to participate in these extra curricular activities.

On Fridays during Comet Time we have focused on different character topics that tie into our overall theme of "Everyone has a Story." December's focus is "Celebration." On Thursday we will have an assembly to close out 2016 and celebrate all of the great things that have happened so far this year! Our Middle School students will participate in "Reindeer Games" the last periods of the day on Thursday. Thank you to Mrs. Bell and our middle school student council for setting this up!



## Elementary News

From the desk of: MRS. JEANETTE HARTUNG-SCHROEDER

Number sense is paramount to becoming a good math student. That number sense starts at the elementary level. The number 100 is important in our learning of mathematics. Mathematics is about patterns and recognizing patterns. Students begin to use the 100 chart (Number Grid) in first grade. In second and third grade, this chart is used as a tool in learning mental math. Below is part of a number grid. Here are some activities for you to do with your student.

Begin by asking questions such as: What can you tell me about this grid? What patterns do you see? Then you can gradually grow into questions such as: Using this section of the number grid below, put a finger on 23. Now add 17. Hopefully, you will see your student move his/her finger from 23 down to 33 (which is adding 10) and then count 7 more spaces and land on 40. If that problem was too difficult, try  $30 + 10$  or  $22 + 20$ . Hopefully, they will recognize that when you add 10, you move down one row. To add 20, move down two rows.

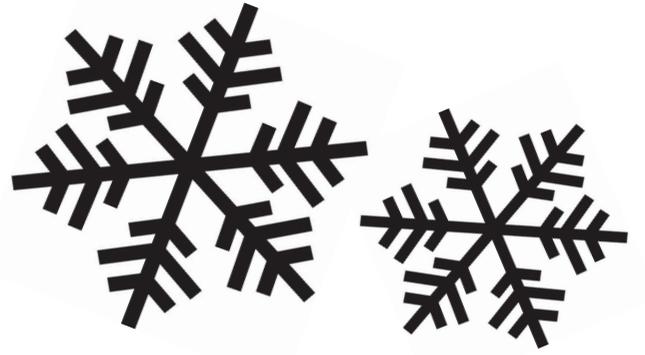
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50

Once your child can successfully use the chart for adding, try subtracting. Using the chart above, you could ask the question  $50 - 19$ ? Have your child explain how they got their answer.

Here are some additional starter problems you could use with a full size number grid. For the preschooler, have them color in the numbers that end in 0 with one color. What do you notice? With a different color, have them color in the numbers that end in 5. (Hopefully they would be able to say they are all found in a column.) For the 2nd-4th grader: Put your finger on 9. Subtract 1. Add 22. (They should be on the number 30.) Is the number you landed on divisible by 3? How do you know? (Add the digits and see if the total is divisible by 3. Or they could say because there are three rows of 10.) Double that number. What number should you be on? Answer: 60. For the 4th - 5th grader: Put your finger on 7 to the second power. ( $7 \times 7$  is 49) Subtract 3. Add 11. What number should you be on? (They should be on 57.) Is this number divisible by 3? (Yes) How do you know? (Add the digits and see if the total is divisible by 3.) Subtract 19. (38) Double that number. Is the number prime or composite? (Composite) How do you know? Variety of answers may be given. Such as: the number is 76 which is divisible by 2; or because the number is even. Subtract 13. What number should you be on? Answer: 63.



FBLA held a "Purple Out" to raise money and awareness for the March of Dimes.



3rd Grade drawing maps and showing different landforms.



Preschool making gingerbread cookies!



Wrestling in Action!



Bellevue Big Presents for the Lt. Governor



5th Grade Started D.A.R.E.



Winter Concerts were a Success!



*Believe in the Blue!*