

BELLEVUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

January 2024



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Office Hours: 7:30 AM– 3:45 PM

From Principal Hartung-Schroeder

Hello Families of BES! We are starting to see an uptick in flu at school. With this short week, hopefully we will not increase the spread here at school. Wednesday, December 20 is the last day of school for 2023. Many teachers allow students to wear their Christmas pjs on this day. The day we return, January 4, is the traditional pj/sweats day. BES began doing this a few years ago as a fun way to transition back into the routine of learning. These dress up days are optional!

What will you do with your child(ren) over the next two weeks? Christmas break can be a great time for family memories. Load up the car and visit relatives (or neighbors, etc.) I suggest engaging in games where children experience taking turns. Even something as simple as Go Fish! with a deck of cards. Take a nature hike. Make meals together. Bake cookies. Even something as simple as dipping pretzels in almond bark is fun. Put puzzles together. Set aside a time where you read to the family. At school, every classroom has a book that is being read aloud to them. It doesn't matter the age, we all like to hear stories. Lastly, encourage the students to read to themselves 20 minutes a day. They should be in that routine. Keep it going over break! Books make great gifts! These suggestions may sound "old school." But that is intentional. Take a break from the electronics that we all are so accustomed to and enjoy each other's company. Happy Holidays!

From Nurse Kelley

The cold and flu season is here, and the easiest way to stay healthy is to get a flu and COVID vaccine. Unfortunately the number of people receiving the flu vaccine along with the COVID vaccine this year has decreased. It is not too late to go and get the vaccine not only to protect yourself but to also protect the loved ones you are visiting over the holidays.

How does the flu shot work? The flu is caused by the virus called influenza. It is an unpredictable virus that mutates or changes, which is why various strains of the vaccine are created. When you receive the flu shot, your body is being introduced to a non-infectious version of the virus. That bit of influenza virus tells your body to create flu antibodies. Antibodies are the proteins in your body that fight against illnesses. The vaccine tricks your body into fighting the flu without making you feel sick.

Is it safe? Yes. Being a non-infections version of the flu virus means that the vaccine cannot give you the flu. It is the best possible way to protect yourself and others from the virus. The more people that get vaccinated, the quicker we can stop the spread of the flu in our communities, homes, schools, and workplaces this fall.

When should you get a flu shot? Ideally, you should get the flu shot before influenza activity picks up in your community, but as long as the flu virus is circulating, vaccination should continue.

Congratulations 5th Graders!

On Monday, December 18, 2023 members of the Bellevue American Legion announced our *What the Flag Means to Me?* essay winners. This writing is tied to the students' opinion writing unit. Winners below are students Charlee Scheckel, Aly Gleason, and Bently Ernst. Legionnaires behind them are Mike Bonifas, Laura Eggers, and Chuck Kueter. Members from the Legion visited the classroom in late November and shared a video about respecting the flag, talked about flag etiquette, what the folds of the flag represent, and about their service to our country. Bently Ernst's essay was chosen as 1st Place and will move onto districts.



Important Dates

- January 3 – No School. Teacher Professional Learning.
- January 4 – School resumes.
- January 12 - Clinton/Jackson Co Ag Educator Coord. Jenna Stevens here for 3rd Grade
- January 15 - No School. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Teacher Professional Learning.
- January 16 – Challenge to Change here
- January 22– 2nd Field trip to UD for Jackie Robinson: A Game Apart show at 9:45 AM then to National Mississippi Museum
- January 23 – 9:30 AM Dental Screening for 4 yr olds
- January 25 - Jackson County Conservation here K-5
- February 14 - 1:10 Dismissal for Teacher Professional Learning.
- February 19 - No School. President's Day.