

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL – Dr. Mathew Nelson

Happy New Year! I hope that all of you enjoyed the Holiday Season with your family and now find yourself excited to get back to school and start 2021 together! It is crazy how time flies and to think that at Discovery Elementary it is already time for us to begin planning for the next school year in terms of enrollment and our annual lottery. **If you have a child who will be Kindergarten eligible next year and you would like them to attend Discovery, please complete the paperwork that was sent home with your child or call us to make sure we have them on our list.**

Although we will all miss Mrs. Uttke, we wish her well in her retirement and are pleased to introduce our new Discovery Secretary, Candice Rozeske! Candice started on January 4th and is enjoying getting orientated to Discovery Elementary and working with the students, staff, and families. As always, we encourage you to call with any changes to end of the day plans, but her email address is: crozeske@bhmschools.org.

In December we participated in our annual Toys for Tots drive in December and the total amount that Discovery Elementary raised, including a donation of \$500 from Bank West, was **\$1500!!** Wow, this is a contribution to Toys for Tots and is something to be proud and celebrate! Speaking of celebrate, in December we focused on “Celebrate” and in January we will be focusing on “Collaborate” as one of our foundational community C for the month.

As Dr. Thielman had shared prior to break, we will be planning a learning model shift this month and will be able to slowly move back to full in-person by the beginning of February. As a reminder, here is the timeline:

- January 19th - Kindergarten through second graders return to attending school daily; our 3-4-5 students will remain in hybrid (until Feb. 1st). **Early Dismissal Time Continues**

- February 1st - **Kindergarten through fifth graders return to attending school daily and we return to our regular dismissal time**

Though we know things can still change, we are hopeful that we can return to full in-person February 1 and stay in that model. Thank you again for all of your support and flexibility through these challenging times.

Please feel free to contact me if you ever have questions or concerns.

“Together We’re Better”

December Community "C" Students of the Month "Celebrate"





Report Cards on the Parent Portal

The students report cards are available electronically via the Infinite Campus Parent Portal twice a year. **The first report card will be accessible online, via the Parent Portal on Friday, February 5th.** If you aren't already set up with an account there is a one-time permission form that needs to be signed and verified to set up your login credentials. To get set up on the Parent Portal, please call 763-682-8400, email crozeske@bhmschools.org or stop in the Discovery School office. Information will be verified, and you will be given the website and access information. If you already have a middle or high school student with a Parent Portal account, you already have access to your elementary child's portal account as well. If you have any questions or would prefer to receive a paper copy of your child's report card, please contact Candice Rozeske in the Discovery office at 682-8400 or at crozeske@bhmschools.org

Annual Toys for Tots Drive a HUGE Success!



Discovery Elementary students and families participated in our annual Toys for Tots Drive, in collaboration with BANKWEST and the Buffalo Rotary. The students brought in change and cash donations throughout the month of December. The total raised, including a donation of \$500.00 from BANKWEST, was \$1,500.00, which exceeded last year's total. Thank you for your part in the Toys for Tots Drive, it helped spread a lot of joy to local families during the holiday!!!!

Emergency School Closings

Emergency School Closings If the district has to close school and send students home early, we will assume that your child will go to his/her normal destination. If your child must go to a different destination, please be sure that you have contacted the office with this information. We only need to know if there is a change for your child. District 877 weather related school cancellations are reported on KRWC 1360, WCCO 830, local televisions stations as well as the district automated notification phone system.

Gloves, Mittens and Hats-Oh My!

Winter temperatures and winds come and go these days, but we still have a number of children who arrive at school without appropriate cold weather outerwear. Unless the temperature or wind chill is below zero, all students go out for recess every day. It is essential that they have gloves, mittens, hats, a warm coat and boots. K-2 students will need snow pants, boots, these are also recommended for the upper grade students as well. K-2 should also have an extra set of clothing in their lockers for those emergencies. Please label your items so they can be returned to your child if lost or left behind. Thank you!

A Discovery Elementary School Legend Retires!

*Dear DES Families, Students and Friends,
I just wanted to say Thank you for the wonderful cards, greetings, gifts and well wishes sent to me as I leave Discovery. Your thoughtfulness meant so much to me and I am touched.
There is no doubt in my mind that I will miss being a part of the Discovery Family.
Thank you, Mrs. Uttke*



Discovery Elementary Welcomes Candice Rozeske, our New Secretary!

My name is Candice Rozeske and I am the new secretary for Discovery Elementary. I am originally from Wisconsin and currently reside in Montrose with my husband Adam, our two year old daughter Mila, and our dog Bentley. I am excited to work with all of the families of Discovery Elementary. Please don't hesitate to contact me should you need anything!

Email: crozeske@bhmschools.org

Phone: 763.682.8400

Updates from the Health Office

Holiday greetings from the entire health office staff! Although this time of year can be stressful for everyone, we hope you will have the opportunity to enjoy some relaxing time with family and friends!

2020-2021 Flu Season Update

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has indicated the flu season is just getting started (typically runs October-May; peaking between December and February). Per the CDC, it's not too late to get vaccinated. Flu vaccination is always the best way to prevent flu and its potentially serious complications. If you and your children have not had a current vaccination for influenza, you may want to contact your healthcare provider to determine if your family should receive a flu shot. It is not too late!!

FREE COVID19 Saliva Test Kits

With the current rates of COVID 19 in Wright County as well as across Minnesota, it is never a bad idea to order saliva test kits in advance and have them available in your home should you or someone you live with develop COVID like symptoms (cough, fever, shortness of breath etc).

The test kits are FREE and provided by the state. It's reported that this test is just as accurate as the nasal swab test. This test only determines if you have COVID-19. It's NOT an antibody test that looks for whether you have had COVID-19 in the past. You can request up to five tests per household through the website link below. Tests are sent to a lab in Oakdale, Minnesota, using a prepaid package. Test results will be provided as soon as 24-48 hours after they have been processed.

Request a FREE saliva test at: <https://learn.vaulthealth.com/state-of-minnesota/>. Insurance coverage is not an issue. If you do have insurance, you will need to provide your information so your insurance can pay for your test. If insurance doesn't cover the entire cost of the test or you DON'T have insurance, the state will cover the cost. You will NOT receive a bill.

Please remember, if you or someone in your home has COVID like symptoms, let the school know and keep your child(ren) home until test results are received. If your family chooses not to test, please follow the [BHM COVID Decision tree](#) or contact your school health office for return to school guidance.

Save the Date: Give Kids a Smile February 5th and 6th

Each year, dental professionals from across the state participate in Give Kids a Smile, providing free dental care to children in need. The event takes place on the first Friday and Saturday of February and is made possible by the collaborative effort of the Minnesota Dental Association, volunteer dentists, and other generous sponsors. Registration begins January 1, 2021. More details should be available on the next page and at www.mndental.org/events/give-kids-a-smile and www.mndental.org/events/give-kids-a-smile/patients.

Give Kids a Smile Program-Free Dental Care-Feb. 5th and 6th

Below is information taken from the MN Dental Association's website regarding this upcoming dental program.

What you need to know about finding care for your child

Give Kids a Smile is a charitable program coordinated by the Minnesota Dental Association to provide free care to low-income children in need. The two-day, statewide event is Friday, Feb. 5, and Saturday, Feb. 6, 2021. The Association is committed to doing what it can to make quality care accessible to every child in Minnesota. If you know a child who could benefit from this program, please provide his or her parent/guardian with the following information.

Answers to common questions

How are appointments scheduled?

The [list of participating dental offices](#) is available online, allowing parents/guardians to call the office directly (check back regularly as additional clinics may be added and may offer alternative dates). After Jan. 1, parents/guardians may call United Way 211 (just dial 2-1-1) or 1-800-543-7709. Operators will have a list of participating dental offices and will be able to direct people to a location in their area. Parents will then call the dental office to schedule an appointment. Referral Specialists at United Way 211 can also assist in Hmong, Somali and Spanish Monday-Friday from 8am-5pm.

When is free dental care available?

On Friday, Feb. 5, and Saturday, Feb. 6, 2021. Participating dental offices typically provide care on one of the two days and office hours and services vary. In past years, especially in the Twin Cities metro area, some clinics have had dental appointments that have gone unused. So, if you know of someone who would benefit from this free service, please spread the word.

Are there eligibility requirements?

Dental professionals who are donating their time and talents to this program are concerned about the growing number of children who are unable to access needed dental care. Patients will typically not be asked to verify their eligibility for this free care. It's important to know that children must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian and must have an appointment in advance. **Sorry, but same-day, walk-in care is not available on these days.**

What services will be provided?

Services will vary from preventive care, which includes cleanings, sealants and fluoride treatment, to restorative care, which includes fillings. Information on specific services that will be provided on Feb. 5 and 6 will be outlined when an appointment is scheduled.

What is the age range of kids who will be seen?

Each participating dental office can set its own age range, up to the age of 18. Since the age range may vary, it's important that parents ask this question when making an appointment for their child.

Other things to keep in mind

In the weeks before the child's appointment, families or teachers should read age-appropriate books to familiarize the child with what to expect during their dental exam. Your school or community library should have some good choices.

On the day before the appointment, encourage families to drive together to the clinic. Just driving past the clinic helps ensure families know where the clinic is located and helps the child visualize - and feel more confident about - where he or she will visit the dentist.

Please remind families to respect the clinic's time and dedication. ***For every child who doesn't show up for his or her appointment, another child could have been helped. If the family must cancel, they should give the clinic at least a day's notice, so the clinic can identify another child who could benefit from free care.***

Reduced-cost clinics are available year round

Give Kids a Smile provides two days of free dental care for low-income children in need. In some cases, more immediate dental attention may be necessary. To assist you in finding ongoing dental services, the Minnesota Dental Association has compiled a list of clinics that may take medical assistance, general assistance, or offer services on a sliding fee scale. Please note that information on this list is subject to change. Before making an appointment, please call the appropriate clinic to discuss your needs and clarify fees, eligibility and other details. Click here to find [Resources for Ongoing Low-Cost Dental Care](#).

If you have any questions, please contact the district nurse, Heidi Gallart at hgallart@bhmschools.org or 763-682-8514.