

## **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 2024 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 regarding 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.**

As you know, in December, we participated in our annual Toys for Tots drive, and this year, instead of focusing on collecting monetary donations within classrooms, students and their families brought in donations of toys that elementary-aged children would enjoy, and they filled 4 large containers! To make the service project even more hands-on, Bank West donated \$500 in Target credit, and the Student Representatives went shopping and donated an additional \$500 worth of toys! After shopping, the student representatives loaded up all the toys and delivered them to Stellis to be sorted for distribution. Wow, this is a contribution to Toys for Tots and is something to be proud of 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’s for the month. One way that we collaborate better is by having Empathy and the important ability to understand and connect with other people’s feelings. Please find an Empathy Family Connection resource from our Purposeful People curriculum on page four of this newsletter.

As I reflect back on 2023, I would also like to take a moment to specifically thank the parents and guardians for being involved in your child’s education. Communicating with your child about his/her achievement sends a message to your child about the importance of learning and working together to meet goals. Children are always watching us, and our actions often speak louder than words. We appreciate all you do as we partner with you to help your child reach their limitless potential here at Discovery Elementary and beyond.

The I Love to Read Month Committee at Discovery Elementary is busy finalizing the month-long literacy-focused events, including details of the Read a Thon fundraiser. Our annual Read-a-Thon is our one and only school-led primary fundraiser for the year. The advantage of a fundraiser like this is that the focus is on literacy and 100% of the donations go towards the students of Discovery Elementary. More information will be sent home the last week of January about this fundraising event. Thank you in advance for your support of this and the students of Discovery Elementary!

Again, Happy New Year, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you ever have questions or concerns.

**“Together We’re Better”**

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



### Report Cards Coming to 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 Monday, January 31st.**



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](mailto: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](mailto:crozeske@bhmschools.org)





## Annual Toys for Tots Drive is another 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 four large boxes of toys and BANKWEST donated \$500 for our student reps to go to Target and shop for specific items that were needed for Toys for Tots! The students shared how great it felt to give to others and spread joy to local families during the holiday season!

Thank you for your part in the Toys for Tots Drive!

**KRWC**  
AM 1360

### Emergency School Closings

**WCCO**  
NEWS RADIO  
830

**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 television stations as well as the district automated notification phone system.



# EMPATHY

## Family Newsletter

PurposeFULL  
People

### Empathy Overview

This month's focus is Empathy. One way to think about Empathy is "understanding and connecting with other people's feelings." Empathy is a practice that can help us grow strong relationships.

Empathy is 1 of 3 traits we will focus on throughout the year that helps students **Be Kind**. Across grade levels, students will be developing skills like perspective-taking, conflict resolution, and leadership.

### Conversation Starters



- What does Empathy look like to you?
- Is it hard for you to share how you feel with others? Why or why not?

### PurposeFull Pursuits

*Have some fun connecting as a family this month while practicing Empathy. Here are 2 "PurposeFull Pursuits" you can complete together!*

#1

Empathy is understanding and connecting with other people's feelings. Schedule a family movie night so that you can specifically watch for feelings and emotions. Let everyone know that you'd like them to point out how the characters in the show are feeling and that you will pause periodically to discuss Empathy. As emotions are identified, invite one another to Empathize by sharing about a time they felt that way or imagining how they might be feeling in that moment.



#2

*Review the definition of Empathy as a family! Remember that Empathy is understanding and connecting with other people's feelings.*

Find a time to sit in a circle together and celebrate all the ways you have seen each other practice Empathy. Take turns sharing responses to the following prompts or make up your own! Remember to practice Empathy as you listen to each other.

- What is 1 way a family member has shown you Empathy lately?
- Share about a time when you felt like someone really listened to you.