



**Discovery
Elementary**
BHM SCHOOLS

The Discovery Connections

A newsletter for parents of Discovery Elementary students

January 2019

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 2019 together! It is exciting 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. Any child(ren) currently enrolled at Discovery Elementary **will automatically be carried over for enrollment next year** unless we hear otherwise from you. **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 to you and return to the office by Wednesday, February 1st.**

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 **\$1486.63!!** 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 Discovery C for the month.

As we reflect back on 2018, I would also like to take a moment to specifically thank the parents and guardians for being involved in your child’s education. When you communicate with your child about his/her achievement, it 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 achieve to his/her full potential here at Discovery Elementary.

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!

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

“Together We’re Better”





A belated huge thank you to the students, teachers, staff, and parents of Discovery School! With your wonderful leadership, Discovery was the principal contributor to the Food Shelf Thanksgiving Holiday Basket. We distributed 320 Baskets on 11/15 which fed over 1,000 individuals a nice Thanksgiving meal! Your enthusiasm and planning the process again went very effectively and smoothly. Year after year Discovery comes through to help our friends and neighbors who need a little help right here in our Community of Buffalo!

Blessings to all,
Roger, Program Manager
Buffalo Food Shelf



Community "C"



DES honors the Community "C's" students for November. The Community "C" for the month of November was **CONTRIBUTE.**

Front Row Students: Sophia Volk, Cecelia Martin, Gunnar Holcombe, Greta Volk, Jacob Spaude and Titan Nelson

Back Row Students: Sean Haugen, Peighton Mulder, Preston Pool, Grant Benson and Jon Huston

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 outer wear. 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, 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.



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.

COMMUNITY "C"



DES honors the Community "C's" students for December. The Community "C" for the month of December was CELEBRATE.

Front Row: Miayla Phelps, Easton Rakos, Lydia Martin, Reed Thompson and Maci Botz
Second Row: Lyvia Schmidt, Lauren Olson, Noah Thompson, Noah Watrud, Josey Rappe and Ava Kramber

Discovery Box Tops for Education Contest is still running. So, keep saving your Box Tops. The classroom that brings in the most will be treated with a Root Beer Float! Contest goes until the end of January.

Discovery has collected Box Tops for Education for many years and we will continue with this. The money earned goes towards student special projects, field trips, buses, any additional student needs and student technology.

The students sure seem to have fun with this. If you would like sheets to tape them to, please have your son/daughter stop in at the office anytime.

THANK YOU for your support!





Farewell to Sue Thomson, Elementary School Nurse

I wanted to make you aware that I will be retiring from Buffalo Hanover Montrose Schools effective December 21, 2018. It has been an honor to work with so many students over the years and an even bigger honor to have been a part of the professional educational teams I have worked with throughout the district. BHM is a great district and I am proud to say I was a part of it. At the time of this writing, there is no information available on my replacement. I will make sure to have him/her introduce themselves in next month's newsletter.

We wish you much happiness in your retirement!!



Parent Portal

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, February 4th. If you aren't already set up with an account there is a one-time permission for that needs to be signed and verified to get up your login credentials.

To get set up on the Parent Portal, please stop in the Discovery School office to sign off on the permission form. 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 Sharon Uttke in the Discovery office at 682-8400 or at suttke@bhmschools.org.

Thank you DES Families!

DES students participated in their annual Toys for Tots Drive, in **Collaboration** with BANKWEST and the Buffalo Rotary. The students brought in change and cash donations through out the month of December. The total raised, including a generous donation of \$500.00 from BANKWEST, was \$1,486.63. This exceeded last year's total. Pictured are DES student reps. Thank you for your part in the Toys for Tots Drive.



Front Row: Elizabeth Plaisted, Noah Thompson, and Ellie Klemetson

Second Row: Olivia Thomas, Ben Toussaint, Garret Iverson, Patrick Breyer, Anna Scherber, Mia Prell, Grant Merz, Bailey Schindele, Norah Reding, Mady McCarthy and Caleb Mueller

Third Row: Dr. Scott Thielman, Santa Claus, Graciela Gonzalez, Debbie Uecker of BANKWEST and Mat Nelson

Notes From the Health Office



Give Kids a Smile Program-Free Dental Care-Feb. 1 & 2, 2019

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 many generous sponsors. Last year, 2,330 underserved children received care statewide over these 2 days. There were 124 clinics, 263 dentists and 1,678 volunteers who made this all happen.

Now in its 16th year, **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. 1, and Saturday, Feb. 2, 2019. 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 parents with the following information.

How are appointments scheduled?

After Jan. 1, parents 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. The list of dental offices will also be available online early in January.

When is free dental care available?

On Friday, Feb. 1, and Saturday, Feb. 2, 2019. Participating dental offices typically provide care on one of the two days and office hours 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. 1 and 2 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. Typically, the age range is 3 to 18. But, since it may vary, it's important that parents ask this question when making an appointment for their child.

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. 1 and 2 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. Typically, the age range is 3 to 18. But, since it 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.

Free Dental Care 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.

Wright County Public Health also had monthly visits from a mobile dental clinic every 3rd Tuesday and Wednesday of the month. Appointments are required. Information and appointments can be found by emailing slidingscale@childrensdentalservices.org or call 612-746-1530.



If you have any questions please contact the Licensed School Nurse at 763-682-8514.

