



**Discovery
Elementary**
BHM SCHOOLS

The Discovery Connections

A newsletter for parents of Discovery Elementary students

January 2020

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 2020 together! It is crazy how time flies 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 and return to the office by Monday, February 3rd.**

In December we participated in our annual Toys for Tots drive and the total amount that Discovery Elementary raised, including a donation of \$500 from Bank West, was **\$1445.56!!** 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.

You may have heard about schools being named “AVID” schools, and although we are an AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) school we don’t “wear it as a badge” because there are so many things that we do differently here at Discovery within our mission and culture that we believe make our school a great place for our students! Our school district is the process of systematically implementing philosophy into our schools. AVID is a nonprofit that changes lives by helping schools shift to a more equitable, student-centered approach. All of our classroom teachers at Discovery Elementary have been trained and engaged in formal AVID professional development as was as our many internal trainings focusing on the instructional techniques during our workshop days. At our upcoming professional development, we are going to focus in on the concept of focused note taking, and how to facilitate the note taking process for our students in mathematics. We are excited to continue our learning together, so that we can be at our best every day when our best is needed teaching your children!

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 huge thank you to the students, teachers, staff, and parents of Discovery School! Discovery was one of the principal contributors to the Food Shelf Thanksgiving Holiday Basket. We distributed Baskets on 11/14 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! We would like to thank the Parent Volunteers for their help in coordinating this Community Service Project, Kathy Reding, Holly Bode, Jessica and Luke Schmidt.

Greetings from the DES Café~

It has been a pleasure getting to know the kids the past few months. We have seen so much integrity right here in our café. The kids have come so far in such a short time. Learning their Pin numbers, the routine and finding their comfort zone, learning new foods, following café instruction and expectations of good manners while on their lunch break. Great kids, funny stories and many a smiles. Thanks for Sharing them with us. Please feel free to come join us for lunch sometime we would love to meet you too. January 31st is "National Hot Chocolate Day" and hot chocolate will be available for purchase during the breakfast schedule. I look forward to 2020 as we will plan some fun events and special days in the café and also we will be trying some new food items and samples will be available for them to try.

Tracey Madsen-Nutrition Services Manager 763.682.8431



December COMMUNITY “C” CELEBRATE



DES honors the Community “C”s students for December. The Community “C” for the month of December was CELEBRATE.

Front Row: Geno Relf, Sebastian Ungaro, Mabel Schmidt, Hailey Coleman, Avery Baker and Emma Rakos

Back Row: Danica Walker, Lydia Carlisle and William Schmidt

Not pictured : Gianna Anderson and William Klemetson



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.

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. Thank you!



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 3rd. 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 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 though out the month of December. The total raised, including a generous donation of \$500.00 from BANKWEST, was \$1,445.56 This exceeded last year's total. Pictured are DES student reps. Thank you for your part in the Toys for Tots Drive.



Front Row: Emily Boillat, Luke Ortman, Zander Robertson, Maehli Gawtry, Ella Iverson, Avery Baker, Lucas Ferguson, Josey Rappe and Sophia Volk
Back Row: Laura Barta Lindquist, Emma Weiland, Luke Samuelson, Lucy Mills, Lyla Pool, Jade Anderson and Randy Whitcomb from Bank West

Upcoming Informational Meeting for New Perspective Families

DES Informational presentation for perspective new families is Tuesday, January 28 at 6:30 p.m. in the Commons. During this presentation information regarding the Discovery Elementary School we will be presented including curriculum, philosophy, instructional techniques, and an overview of the school. At the end of the presentation there will be opportunities for perspective parents/guardians to have questions about the program and school answered. Although the presentation is geared towards perspective new families, if you have an incoming kindergartener you are welcome (not required) to attend.

Minnesota Landscape Arboretum- Chaska, MN

Lost and Found

We have a **large** supply of clothing items that are piling up in our bins. Has your child misplaced a sweatshirt, jacket, boots, hats or gloves? If so it might be there. Have your child stop and look at the lost and found racks to see if they can find their lost treasure!



The 3-5 students will attend a Plant-works/Water-works field trip at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Have you ever wondered why water is important for plants? Students will be involved in the hands on activities, using microscopes to explore the structure of plants that transport water.

Each classroom is able to take 3 parent chaperones. If more than 3 parent volunteers, classroom will draw names and you will be notified. Please, note that all parent volunteers will need a completed background check done in order to join us.

Mrs. Bauernschmitt, Mrs. Swedal and Mrs. Ericson's classrooms will attend on Wednesday, January 15 and Ms. Nelson and Mrs. Nelson will attend on Thursday, January 16.

Box Tops for Education is changing to fit today's families

Box Tops for Education has traditionally been a clip and submit program. It is now changing so points are earned digitally. You scan your receipt using an app and it gives the school of your choice credit. Check out their website at btfe.com to enroll and see how it works. If you still find box tops on packages, by all means, clip them and send them into school with your student. Every valid Box Tops clip is worth .10¢ for your school. The money earned goes towards student special projects, field trips, buses, any additional student needs and student technology.

NO MORE CLIPPING



EARN BOX TOPS WITH SELECT EMAIL GROCERY RECEIPTS

- 1 **SIGN UP** on the app or at BTFE.com
- 2 **SHOP** online at select stores
- 3 **FORWARD** your digital receipts
- 4 **EARN** Box Tops for your school

SCAN YOUR RECEIPT



2020 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.

We are starting to see cases of influenza (flu) in the schools. If you and your children have not had a current vaccination for influenza, you may want to contact your healthcare provider or the Wright County WOW Van at 763-682-7516 to determine if your family should receive a flu shot. It is not too late!!

Save the Date: Give Kids a Smile February 7th and 8th

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. More details should be available soon at www.mndental.org.

Tips for Staying Healthy, Happy and Safe

Give the gift of being healthy this holiday season with a few simple tips to keep you, your family and your friends, healthy this time of year and all year round!

- **Wash your hands.** By washing your hands often will help limit the spread of germs that can make you and others sick. Wash your hands with soap and running water for at least 20 seconds.
- **Eat healthy and get plenty of exercise!** Enjoy the holidays the healthy way with balance and moderation. Skip the tempting sweets and heavy side dishes by mixing in fresh fruits and seasonal vegetables. With the kids off of school, be active as a family everyday.
- **Bundle up!** Stay warm and dry by wearing appropriate clothing for being outdoors. Dress in layers of light, warm clothing and remember to wear hats, scarves, mittens and warm boots!
- **Handle and prepare food safely.** Follow these four simple steps to decrease your chance of getting sick from holiday eats. Wash your hands and food preparation surfaces often, avoid cross contamination between raw and cooked foods, cook foods, especially meats, to proper internal temperatures and refrigerate leftovers promptly.
- **Stress management!** Amongst all of the hustle and bustle, remember to take time for yourself. Take a moment to do some deep breathing exercises or meditation. Get plenty of sleep and don't over-commit yourself to prevent anxiety and pressure.

For more ideas to keep the whole family healthy, happy and safe during this holiday season, visit healthpoweredkids.org.