



**Discovery
Elementary**
BHM SCHOOLS

The Discovery Connections

A newsletter for parents of Discovery Elementary students

November/December 2018

Message from the Principal: Dr. Mathew Nelson

This month we will focus on “Contribution” as our foundational Discovery C and celebrate how we all contribute in so many great ways to help make Discovery Elementary such a great place! One huge example of contributing to our community was our annual contributions to the Thanksgiving Food Shelf community service project. We would like to thank DES families for participating and the parent volunteer coordinators Jessica Schmidt, Bonnie Thomas, Luke Schmidt, and Kathy Reding and all other parent volunteers for coordinating this wonderful, authentic learning opportunity for our students.



We want to extend a big thank you to all those who volunteered, donated, and/or came out to enjoy Family Fun Night! It was a great evening and the kids had a lot of fun, which is the most important thing! Special thanks to committee leaders Alena Gawtry, Jessica Kampschroer, Holly Wachter, Chelsie Kistler, and Katie Benson. The money raised in this event will directly, positively impact our students through offsetting field trip costs, supply fees, and extra value added items for our students at Discovery Elementary. Also, a planning note for next year is that we realize there is a lot going on this time of the year and next year we are planning to hold Family Fun Night in the early spring, most likely the last Friday in February.

In December we will be focusing on “Celebrate” because we sure do have a lot to celebrate at DES and we are thankful for that. I believe it is important for us to stop and reflect on and celebrate the many outstanding people who help us provide a high-quality experience for the students of Discovery Elementary. We appreciate all that is done by our teachers, educational assistants, secretaries, school nutrition employees, custodial staff, nursing department, social worker, and school psychologist to provide a high-quality learning experience for each individual student. The gifts of time and talent are always appreciated. We would also like to thank our dedicated parents, families, and community members for all that they do for the Discovery students.

As we move into the coldest winter months we will continue to remind the children to wear appropriate clothing for the weather. Playground rules and procedures for cold, wintry weather and information about emergency school closings can be found in the handbook and on the district website. District 877 elementary schools send students outside for recess **every day** that the temperature and/or wind chill are at or above 0 degrees. Students love playing outside and we just want to make sure they are dressed appropriate, and your assistance is greatly appreciated.

As I walk the halls each day, I continue to see our students smiling, enthusiastic, prepared, and ready to learn, while our teachers and staff are working hard to support students around every corner. Discovery Elementary School is truly a wonderful place to be and we are all thankful to be a part of this great school community.



“Together We’re Better”



Community "C" for October COOPERATE



The month of October the Discovery Students Community "C" was COOPERATE. Students and staff celebrate each month. Teachers selected this group of students that showed exceptional COOPERATION.

Front Row: Douglas Archer, Lincoln Weber, Levi Westbrook, Zoey Genz and Raelah Schrick
Back Row: Claire Martin, Isabella Johnson, Adeline Splittstozer, Kalah Nord, Abby Price and Easton Schlink

The month of November the Community "C" is CONTRIBUTE



Service Projects Planned

Planning is in place for a number of our annual service learning projects. We value these projects for the many lessons that they teach our students, as well as reinforcing our collaborative relationships with both our local community as well as our global community.

At the beginning of November we kicked off our annual Thanksgiving Food Shelf Project to help collect food donations to provide Thanksgiving dinners for local families who are in need. DES 5th graders will be unloading these donations at Zion Lutheran Church on Thursday, Nov. 15th. In December we will again participate in the local Silent Santa/Toys for Tots. More information will be coming soon.





Dear Families,

BHM School District has adopted a new literacy program designed to help students meet Minnesota's high academic standards and prepare them for future success. Teachers will use *Wonders* to help your child:

- Master foundational skills of phonics, vocabulary, spelling, and word study
- Engage in critical reading of complex text and find text evidence
- Become proficient in academic writing
- Take part in daily academic conversations with peers

What will your child experience in class?

In class, your child will be reading critically, writing analytically, and practicing foundational skills using *Wonders* books and support materials.

Your child's teacher will use a gradual release of responsibility learning approach. First, the teacher will clearly explain and model the week's skills and strategies, then provide guided practice opportunities before prompting children to either work independently or to collaborate with their classmates.

Students will read and reread short, complex texts in the Reading/Writing Workshop. They will learn to take notes, ask and answer text-dependent questions, and cite text evidence. Then, students will apply what they have learned to longer texts in the Literature Anthology and Leveled Readers.

Please ask your child about what they are learning at school during reading and writing time.

Thank you, as always, for your involvement!

The weather is getting colder.....

remember to start digging out those warm coats, snow pants, caps, mittens or gloves, and boots. Make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the cooler weather, as they go outside daily for recess.



Planning a Vacation?

Just a reminder that all vacations planned for days when school is in session must be given prior approval by Dr. Nelson in order for the missed days to be counted as excused absences. If you are planning to take a vacation, please stop in the office and fill out an absence vacation form.

Thank you for your cooperation in monitoring these absences.



Illness at school:

There has been a lot of buzz in the media over the past few weeks regarding illness and influenza season. Throughout the district, we are seeing cases of various illnesses. Viral illness, strep throat and gastrointestinal illnesses have been the predominant causes of student absences. Please continue to monitor your child's health and incorporate strategies to keep them healthy. Some things you can do to help prevent the spread of illness are:



- For the safety of all students-do not send your child to school if they are ill.
- Please continue to encourage your children to cover their cough by coughing into their elbow.
- Wash your hands. **Handwashing is the single most effective way to prevent the spread of illness.** Hand sanitizer is okay to use when soap and water are not available.
- Assure your child is getting adequate sleep. Elementary aged children need 9-11 hours of *sleep* each night.
- Encourage a colorful diet, filled with fruits and vegetables and lean meats.
- Listen to your child....if he or she is complaining of stomachache, general feeling of malaise, fever or sore throat over a period of days, consider having them seen by your health care provider.
- Review and follow the school district's exclusion policy for illness.
- When calling in your child's absence, if you feel comfortable please note the type of symptoms your child is experiencing. This allows the health office to better track illness trends.

Cold or Flu:

The CDC has much information on its website at CDC.gov. Below is a summary of the signs and symptoms of flu versus cold.

Signs and Symptoms	Influenza	Cold
Symptom Onset	Abrupt	Gradual
Fever	Usual	Rare
Aches	Usual	Slight
Chills	Fairly Common	Uncommon
Fatigue, weakness	Usual	Sometimes
Sneezing	Sometimes	Common
Stuffy Nose	Sometimes	Common
Sore throat	Sometimes	Common
Chest discomfort, cough	Common	Mild to moderate

Health screenings:

Health screenings (hearing, vision, height, weight and scoliosis) are in the final phase of completion for this school year. If there were any concerns as a result of the screenings, a referral to your health care provider will be sent home. Our hope is to have all referrals completed by mid-November. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the district nurse, Sue Thomson at sthomson@bhmschools.org

