

# ***Bison E-NEWS***

## **Principal Lubbens Greetings:**

We are almost halfway through second quarter and mid-term is coming up on December 12th. If possible, please take a moment to check the portal with your son or daughter. The new CAMPUS Portal App has some amazing features, and is a powerful technology tool that can initiate some great conversations. Mondays and Thursdays in Prime Time are reserved for academic support, so your son or daughter will be having similar conversations with his or her prime time teacher. During these Academic Days on Thursdays after winter break, we will be starting a new flexible scheduler where your child can choose a Prime Time classroom teacher where he or she needs extra help for that day. We will be working out the kinks to this with our staff and students in the next coming weeks.

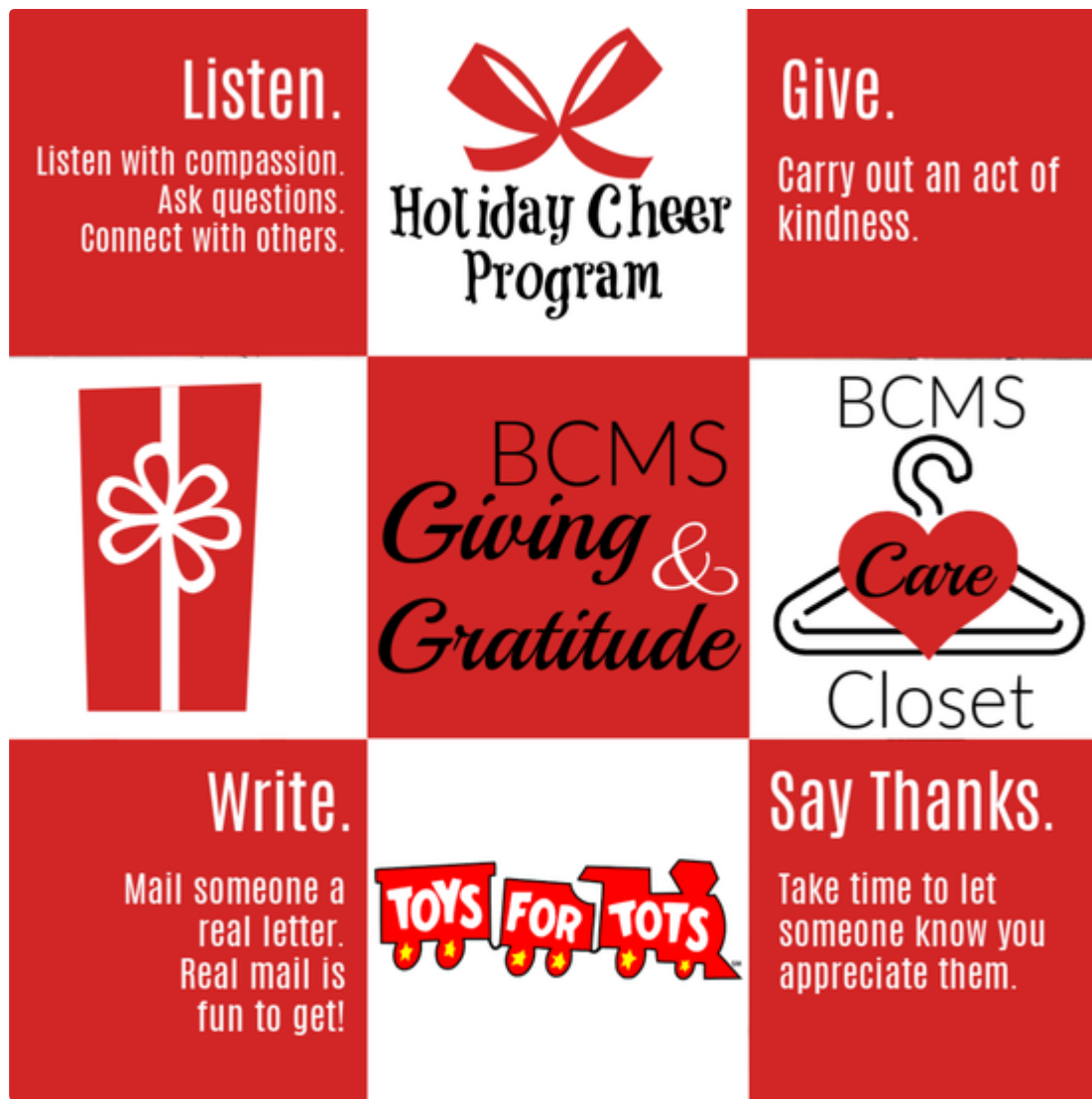
We continue to work hard on improving our parent communication here at BCMS. We want to form a true partnership with parents in order to better serve your child. Please call me if you have ways in which you feel we can improve our school communication.

I know it is hard to believe, but we will be starting our registration process for next year following winter break. Students will be registering for next year's classes starting the second week of February. Please see the bottom this newsletter for more information on upcoming dates concerning your child's school programming for next year.

Thanks for sharing your child with us!

Matt Lubben  
BCMS Principal

## **Giving and Gratitude at BCMS**



Our Prime Time focus for the month of December is Giving and Gratitude. Prime Time groups will work together to collect items for families right here at BCMS. Here are a few ways BCMS students are helping out!

#### **BCMS Care Closet:**

The BCMS Care Closet's mission is to serve students who are financially struggling and in need of a little extra help with obtaining daily necessities. Any student in need is eligible to use the services of the Care Closet. Students can contact Student Services for assistance. (Your student's prime time will be assigned specific items to donate to our BCMS Closet):

#### **Toys for Tots:**

Toys for Tots is a program run by the United States Marine Corps Reserve, which distributes toys to children during the holiday season. BCMS is a Toys for Tots donation site. Our goal is to collect toys for teens and tweens. There are two large donation boxes in the front entryway of BCMS.

#### **Holiday Cheer:**

The monetary donations we collect for Holiday Cheer go to students who may need a little extra care over the holiday season. If you would like to contribute monetary donations to the Holiday Cheer fund please contact your grade level counselor.

Our lessons in Prime Time will encourage students to recognize moments of gratitude and keep track in a journal. We will watch this video on [The Gratitude Experiment](#). The video explains to students the importance of keeping track of people, places and things they are thankful for. Talk to your student about what they are writing in their thankfulness journal. It would make for a great family discussion!

Students can help out by making small changes: say thank you, listen to others, write a letter or carry out an act of kindness. We are excited to see the impact our students can make!!



## **Mark your calendars! AVID student recruitment will be here soon!**

What is AVID?

AVID is an acronym that stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination. It's a schoolwide system that promotes college and career readiness for all students. It's infused into everything we do at BCMS from instruction to systems to leadership and culture. AVID emphasizes and promotes best teaching practices in 5 areas of education: Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading (WICOR).

What is the AVID Elective?

The AVID Elective is a College Readiness course. The elective class supports the students' academic growth in all areas of WICOR. AVID students participate in Tutorials (a form of study group) twice a week, are held accountable for the organization of their binders, go on at least 1 college visit per year, and are immersed in a college readiness culture. AVID is a class just like any other-it's an elective course they take during the school day.

AVID is for students that have a drive to go to a 4 year college and want to dive deep into their education. It helps support organization, increases college awareness, and assists students in the navigation of the college entrance process. AVID also guides students that may fall in the academic "middle" to rise to the top through modeling as well as teaching of researched based study skills and supporting their Individual Determination.

There are 25 spots available for next year's seventh graders and 50 spots for next years eighth graders. The timeline for recruitment is below. If you have any questions please contact our AVID Coordinator, Megan Scherer at [mscherer@bhmschools.org](mailto:mscherer@bhmschools.org) or 763.682.8274.

Application process:

- January 23 - Letter out to teachers and parents for student recommendation
- February 28 - Informational meeting for students during Prime Time

- March 7 - Informational meeting for parents/students during conferences (beginning at 6 pm & 7pm in the media center)
- March 14 - Applications, family information, and short answer form due to Ms. Scherer
- March 21 & 22 - Student interviews
- Week of April 15-19 - Letter of status sent out

## STEAM Technology

Officer Erickson met with the STEAM Tech. students recently to discuss positive digital citizenship and technology safety. The overall theme encouraged students to make good choices when using both school and personal technology. Topics included keeping their school accounts safe, proper use of social media apps (i.e. Snapchat, Instagram, etc.), and the benefits of keeping open communication with parents and trusted adults both at home and in school if they feel they witness inappropriate technology use.



## Speech Team is Looking for You!

The BCMS Speech team will have an informational meeting on Thursday, December 6th in Mrs. Polaschek's room 600. Any student interested in joining the speech team is encouraged to attend. The speech team is a great opportunity for students too increase their confidence, public speaking skills, meet new friends, compete and more! Practices run from December to January, and there will be 5 meets throughout the month of January! Practice times can be flexible. See Mrs. Polaschek or Mrs. Ringler for more information or if you have questions!

## 9th Grade registration is right around the corner!

Dear 8th grade parents,

This is the start of an exciting time for you and your 8th grade student. As the time winds down on their middle school experience, it is time to begin looking towards high school. 8th grade students will be registering for high school in a few weeks. On Friday, January 4th the Buffalo High School Counselors will visit the 8th grade geography classes to discuss high school registration and pass out valuable information. Please take time to talk to your 8th grade son or daughter about the information they will receive.

Additionally, there will be an important Parent Registration Night in the Performing Arts Center at the High School on Tuesday, January 8th at 7pm. Please mark your calendars.

If you have any questions regarding this process, please call  
Ashley Kamphenkel 763-682-8217 (8th Grade Counselor)  
John Hayden 763-682-8204 (8th Grade Principal)



## ASBDA Small Ensemble

ASBDA Small Ensemble Day was on Saturday, October 27. Students from around the state gathered to play chamber music, giving a recita at the end of the day.

Pictured L-R Michael McNitt, Erica Kyllonen, Andrea Droen, Channing Wubben, Malaika Gallus, Reagan Stromberg, Danielle Rodenwald, Lindsay Hodge



Congratulations to Elliot Hibbard, Katherine Berg and Kiera McGorry who were selected to participate in the Central Minnesota Band Directors Association Middle Level Honor Band in January. Students will perform with other middle school band students from the Central Minnesota Region on Saturday, January 16 at Elk River High School.

## Winter BCMS Concerts

The Music Department is gearing up for the Winter Concert Season. See various concert dates below. Concerts are held at the Performing Arts Center at the High School

- \*December 3 Band 8 and Concert Band 7:30pm
- \*December 4 Band 7 7:30pm
- \*December 11 Orchestra 8 and Concert Orchestra 7:30pm
- December 17 Choir 8 7:30pm
- December 18 Orchestra 7 7:30pm
- \*January 7 Orchestra 6 6:30pm
- \*January 7 Band 6 7:45pm

# Knowledge Bowl at BCMS

BCMS Knowledge Bowl has been has had an unbelievable first half of the season. The teams have had success it the Intermediate (6th grade) and Junior High (7th/8th grade) levels. Knowledge Bowl is a competition where schools can bring multiple teams. BCMS has competed with 4 teams at the 6th grade level and 5 teams at the 7th/8th grade level.

After attending the first 4 meets, the amount of ribbons and hardware collected by the teams has been phenomenal. The results come after a lot of hard work. The teams began practice at the beginning of November in preparation for their first meet in Big Lake later in the month. That night the 6th grade team earned 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th place while the 7th/8th grade team matched the success by earning 1st, 3rd and 4th place. The teams did not let up and took home the team trophies for both divisions at the St. Francis Xavier-Buffalo meet. In addition to the trophies, 6th grade also earned 2nd and 3rd place. Even though their home meet was very large, the 6th grade continued to compete hard and claimed 1st, 3rd, 5th and 6th place. Again, 7th/8th grade matched taking 1st and 6th place honors. At Eden Valley-Watkins, the four 6th grade teams again took 4 of the top six places while 7th/8th grade teams took 2nd place.

Thursday, December 6th will be the last meet of the season in Monticello where the younger students work to earn all of the teams top honors again. 7th and 8th grade will also complete in Monticello to wrap up a very successful season.

Pictures include:

5th/6th grade Team 1 with the team trophy at St. Francis



## Health and Wellness Notes

This time of the year, we start to see more school absences due to colds and flu. Here are a few reminders to avoid illness.

1. The first defense is the annual flu vaccine. It is recommended for individuals 6 months and older and is especially important for individuals with chronic health concerns like asthma and heart disease, the elderly, young children and pregnant women.
2. Wash your hands frequently. Use warm soapy water and friction by rubbing your hands together for about 20 seconds.

3. Cover your cough.
4. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
5. Stay home if you have the following symptoms: a fever of 100.5 or greater with a cough and/or sore throat.

Annually thousands of Americans are affected by the flu with symptoms such as; fever, sore throat, headaches, chills, cough, body aches and fatigue. If your child exhibits these symptoms, please have them stay home until they are fever free for 24 hours and encourage them to drink lots of fluids and rest. Please remember to call the Middle School attendance line (763)682-8242 to report your child's absence.

If at any time your child does not feel well during the school day, they are to visit the School Health Services Office. Our Health Para, Mary Piekarski, will assist them and will give you a call if your child needs to go home. Please feel free to call our School Nurse, Karen Schultz, with any health related concerns for your child.

One additional reminder: Our community has a wonderful opportunity through the Bounce Back Project to promote health through happiness. This approach to health is FREE, has lifelong benefits, and is easy to do. Engaging in happiness strategies has shown to boost immune function, increase life expectancy, and is a way of coping with stress. For more information about these strategies to promote health, please visit the following website: <http://www.bouncebackproject.org/>

Immunization Information for Parents Of 6th Grade Students:

For 7th grade the Minnesota Department of Health requires students to have a booster shot of Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis) and Meningococcal. Please talk with your doctor about these important immunizations for pre-teens. These immunizations are due at the beginning of the school year. You also have an option to submit a conscientious exemption form if you are opposed to these immunizations.

## **BCMS yearbooks available to order online**

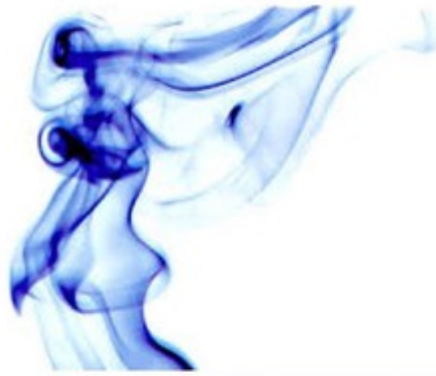
The online store is now open to order a yearbook. Book price is \$35.00

You may pay with cash or checks. Make any checks payable to BCMS. You or your student can turn them into the front office, Natasha, or Jeannie.

You can also order online using the link below:

<http://www.jostens.com/apps/store/customer/1062892/Bufalo-Community-Middle-School/>

Book Price \$35.00



# Let's Clear the Air

## An Informational Presentation and Discussion Around Teen Vaping and E-Cigarette Use

**WHEN:** Monday, December 10, 2018, 6:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** BHS Performing Arts Center

**WHO:** Parents and families of BHS students

*Please join us for this free event to learn together about vaping, device types, misconceptions, prevention, and how to discuss the topic with teens. Community experts, law enforcement, and school officials will present and be available to answer questions after the event.*



## Buffalo Community Middle School

Facebook

@BCMSBison

"Doing What's Best for Kids!"

1300 Minnesota 25, Buffalo, M...

763-682-8200

mlubben@bhmschools.org

bhmschools.org/schools/buffa...