



# Bonny Doon School

Superintendent/Principal's Newsletter

November 2018

## Life Skill of the Month: Self-Awareness

"Self awareness gives you the capacity to learn from your mistakes as well as your successes. It enables you to keep growing." ~ Lawrence Bossidy

### So Much Happening for our Students

With the school year in full action, it is exciting to see the many ways our students are engaging in classroom and at school. While visiting classrooms during the month of October, I had the chance to see "TKers" and "Kinders" exploring North America, 1<sup>st</sup> graders working on rhythm during music class, 2<sup>nd</sup> graders using math manipulatives, 3<sup>rd</sup> graders deep into narrative writing, 4<sup>th</sup> graders honing their editing skills, 5<sup>th</sup> graders completing creative book reports, and 6<sup>th</sup> graders at the Outdoor School as a few highlights. Our teachers are working hard to provide meaningful, engaging content for our students.

This month, all staff came to agreement on a common approach to support our students with conflict. Using a series of prompts from my prior training with Restorative Practices, all of the teachers and yard duties will now work with students using the following prompts to process to disrupting behavior with a student: What happened? What were you thinking of at the time? Who has been affected by what you have done? In what way? What do you think you need to do to make things right? For those impacted by another's behavior, we will be asking the following: What did you think when you realized what had happened? What impact has this incident had on you and others? What has been the hardest thing for you? What do you think needs to happen to make things right? I share these prompts with you for two primary reasons—the first is to provide you with an insight into our approach to support our students; and secondly as a resource for home. I have used these prompts with students of all ages, from pre-school though high school with positive impact.

Finally, our fall Parent-Teacher Conferences are quickly approaching. Please make certain to sign up. Students dismissed at 12:30 Nov. 9- 16 for conferences.

### Appreciation

#### **Thank to all who supported our school by purchasing Drive for Schools tickets!**

This year's funding will be used to support the engaging programs for our students including science, art and music.

## STARS November Mission: Word Work

Study habits \* Time management \* Accountability \* Resourcefulness \* Success: **Words are the building blocks of literacy.** Words, and a student's mastery of words, have a direct connection to a student's skills in reading and writing. For example, "sight words build speed and fluency when reading. Accuracy, speed and fluency in reading increase reading comprehension (*sightwords.com*)." Therefore, we feel that time spent on working on words is invaluable. For this reason we have dedicated an entire STARS mission to word work. *You can support your student at home by asking about any word lists which may have been assigned to an entire class or to individual students; setting a goal to practice and work beyond these words or word parts at home, will strengthen a child's reading and writing skills.*

Each month, as part of the classroom effort to support student learning, our teachers work with your student(s) establish a personal goal related to the month's mission (Word Work for November). One way to make a home-to-classroom connection is to **ask your student what their word work goals are, and how you can help them in their path to progress.** We recognize that home practice for the skills your student(s) is (are) learning at school is extremely important. In an effort to provide support for the home-to-school connection, please take a look at a few resources if you need some ideas.

### RESOURCES FOR HOME:

- **PrefixSuffix.com** ([www.prefixsuffix.com](http://www.prefixsuffix.com)): This site provides a focus on the power of root words to build vocabulary. There are various activities for you and your student(s) to "play". This may be especially helpful to our older students.
- **Sight Words** ([www.sightwords.com](http://www.sightwords.com)): This site will allow you to support your student's word work mission through site words and phonemic awareness. This web site can be especially useful for our younger and developing readers.
- **Spelling City** ([www.spellingcity.com](http://www.spellingcity.com)): This site is focused on supporting students with building both vocabulary and reading comprehension. While this is not a free site, it does provide an excellent resource to support your work with your student(s).

## Bonny Doon School Board Update

Welcome to our three newest Board members. These new trustees will take office starting with the December meeting. Three of our current Board Trustees--Amy McCabe, Lise Bixler, and Jim Keller, chose not to run for re-election, but their work and commitment is truly appreciated. Two community members and parents at our school filed paperwork with the county Elections Board: Brent Zacharia and Natalia Flechsig; these two candidates were appointed as they ran unopposed. At the October Board meeting, trustees appointed Catelyn Osorni, a new parent and community member in Bonny Doon. We appreciate the community interest and support for our school.

We are announcing an additional Board vacancy as Trustee Robyn Cooper has submitted her resignation. The new vacancy will be for the remainder of her term, two years. Please contact the school office if you are interested. Applications for interested candidates are due to our office no later than November 16th.

## Raccoon Readers

Last month I launched an upper grade-writing group. This month, we are introducing a 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grade reading initiative. Starting in the month of November and continuing until each of our first and second grade students have a chance, I will be welcoming students, one at a time, to my office to share their developing reading skills using a book of their choice. This is another fun way for the students and I to get to know one another, and a chance for them to show off their reading skills.

## Science and Garden Updates

Seeking science fair judges (from outside the school community) for Thursday, January 31st. Do you know someone with a science background that would work well interviewing our 5th and 6th graders about their science fair projects? Please have them contact me at:

Kate Sommer [ksommer@bduesd.org](mailto:ksommer@bduesd.org)

Thanks to the Gulbe Walsh family for supplying our garden with so much needed compost!

Thanks to the Dawson family for donating an abundance of seeds to the garden!

As always there are plenty of garden tasks available to accomplish if you'd like to support the school garden. Let me know!

## From Our Parent Club

Our movie night was a success! It was our biggest one yet! Thank you to everyone who helped contribute to the fantastic Halloween Festival!

Our next meeting is November 6th at 6:30pm. Please join us.

**Like us on Facebook Email Casey at [bduespc@gmail.com](mailto:bduespc@gmail.com)**

## November Calendar

Thurs. Nov. 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Staff Dev. Day-No Student Attendance</b>	
Tues. Nov. 6 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 Parent Club Meeting	Library
Mon. Nov. 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Veterans' Day: Student &amp; Staff Holiday—No School</b>	
Tues. Nov. 13 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 Foundation Mtg.	Staff Room
Fri. Nov. 9 <sup>th</sup> -Fri. Nov. 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Student Progress Conferences—12:30 Dismissal</b>	
Thurs. Nov. 15 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 Board Mtg.	Library
	7:00 Navigating Middle School	Kirby School Great Hall
Mon. Nov. 22 <sup>nd</sup> - Fri. Nov. 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Thanksgiving Break-No School</b>	
Thurs. Nov. 29 <sup>th</sup>	Family Dance with SPECTRA Artist Jerry Falek	Multi

## Acknowledgments

- Thank you to the students for their hard work, humor, and kindness.
- Thank you to the Parents' Club for the amazing work with the Movie Night, Pumpkin Carving Contest and Halloween Festival
- Thank you to the teachers, for working so hard to meet the needs of our awesome students

### *Repeated Items from Last Month*

## SPECTRA Arts with Jerry is Back!

As in the past many years, we are excited to welcome Jerry Falek back to our campus. For those of you new to this program, SPECTRA is a program through the Arts Council of Santa Cruz County that matches local artists with local schools to provide arts instruction to our

students. Jerry has been working with Bonny Doon School for many years, teaching various forms of dance and storytelling.

**Save the Date:** On November 29<sup>th</sup>, Jerry will be hosting “Dance with Jerry,” an evening event for our students and families. More information will be sent closer to the event date.

## **Parking Lot Safety**

A giant thank you to everyone for driving slowly through the parking lot, looking out for the kids, and pulling all the way up in front of the school for drop-off and pick-up. We appreciate that people in line to pick up students have not been leaving their car unattended. Traffic through the parking lot has been so much smoother so far this year!

If you pick up your child from school, please pull up and wait in the pick-up lane instead of parking and getting out of your car. Once the students are released for the day, the line will move quickly.

**Please remember that our lower lot is for staff parking. This lot should not be used for student drop off and pick up.**

## **Take the Bus**

Have you considered sending your child to and from school on the bus this year? The bus is convenient, inexpensive, and environmentally friendly. Plus, you won't have to deal with parking and traffic at school! A few years ago, we calculated that if you live more than one mile from the school, you will save money over the course of the year if you send your child on the bus. John is a wonderful bus driver; he's safe, cautious, and he truly cares about the kids who ride the bus.

In addition, students love riding the bus! It is a great time for them to hang out with friends, relax, and socialize after a day of school. Please call John in the transportation office at: 427-2144 for more information.