

Bigelow "BIG" News

Inspiring Leaders of Tomorrow

April

#BeBIG

2018

Important Dates

March 2nd – Spring Pictures

April 4th – Just Say No Meeting at Bigelow Hill (During lunch hour)

April 6th – Two- Hour Delay

April 11th – 5th Grade Field Trip

April 12th – ELA AIR Test Part 1 (Boes, Phillips, Nissen, Baker, Wenner, Felty)

April 13th – ELA AIR Test Part 2 (Boes, Phillips, Nissen, Baker, Wenner, Felty)

April 16th – Board of Education Meeting at Donnell Community Room 6:00 p.m.

April 17th – PTO Meeting at Jacobs 6:30 p.m.

April 18th – Student Lighthouse Meeting 8:15 a.m.

April 19th – ELA AIR Test Part 1 (Watts, Brown, Betts, Launder, Bishop, Stillings)

April 20th – ELA AIR Test Part 2 (Watts, Brown, Betts, Launder, Bishop, Stillings)

April 24th – Math AIR Test Part 1 (Boes, Phillips, Nissen, Baker, Wenner, Felty)

April 25th – Math AIR Test Part 2 (Boes, Phillips, Nissen, Baker, Wenner, Felty)



A Note from the Principal

Greetings,

Where has time gone? It is hard to believe we are one week into the fourth quarter already. We still have a great deal of learning that will be taking place before summer break begins with many events sprinkled in between as well. Be sure to review out important dates and follow us on Facebook to keep informed.

Our state testing will be starting this month. Our testing schedule has been posted on Facebook and I am also including it in this newsletter. This is the opportunity for your child to shine and show what they have learned throughout the year. It is important that we provide the best testing opportunity for your child. Please be sure that your child is present for his or her testing days. Testing in the classroom with his or her own teacher makes for a comfortable testing experience. It is important for our students to be well rested and encouraged to give their best effort. The teachers at Bigelow Hill will be providing a healthy and hearty breakfast for students on their testing days. If you have any questions please feel free to contact myself or your child's teacher.

Dr. Jennifer Theis

Habit of the Month

Put First Things First

"Putting first things first means organizing and executing around your most important priorities. It is living and being driven by the principles you value most, not by the agendas and forces surrounding you."

~DR. STEPHEN R. COVEY

House Challenge



The Leader in Me

April Newsletter

Leadership Roles at Home

Each new school year brings opportunities for academic growth and growth in all areas of development. Although children must be knowledgeable when they graduate, they must also be healthy, engaged, responsible, and caring people.

One of the best ways to help your child realize his or her worth and leadership potential is to provide an opportunity to lead. Most Leader in Me Schools offer student leadership roles as a way to teach:

- Responsibility.
- Leadership.
- Contribution.

Leadership roles can also be used at home.

To begin:

1. Talk with your child about the leadership role he or she might be interested in at home.
2. Discuss why he or she is interested in the role. Ask what leadership qualities your child has that will help. Ask how he or she will handle homework or other commitments with this new-role responsibility.
3. Together, discuss, write, and sign the paper detailing the leadership behavior and expectations of the role.

Give your child a week or so to adjust and then discuss how it's going. This may open a conversation on how to handle things that are too easy or too difficult. Express appreciation and celebrate success

Dr. John and Jane Covey

Are leaders born or made? This is a false dichotomy – leaders are neither born nor made.
Leaders choose to be leaders.
~Dr. Stephen Covey



AIR Testing Schedule

ELA Parts 1 & 2

April 12th Part 1 & 13th Part 2

Team 1 - Boes, Phillips, Nissen, Baker, Wenner, Felty

April 19th Part 1 & 20th Part 2

Team 2 - Watts, Brown, Betts, Launder, Bishop, Stillings

Math Parts 1 & 2

April 24th Part 1 & 25th Part 2

Team 1 - Boes, Phillips, Nissen, Baker, Wenner, Felty

May 1st Part 1 & 2nd Part 2

Team 2 - Watts, Brown, Betts, Launder, Bishop, Stillings

Science (5th Grade Only)

May 8th Parts 1 & 2

Boes, Betts, Nissen, Phillips, Watts, Brown

North End PTO

President – Elizabeth Behrendt
Vice-President – Kristy Szkudlarek
Secretary – Valerie Smith
Co-Treasurers – Amber Hirt, Deb Anders, Carolee Hertel

Next PTO Meeting...

April 17th at Jacobs – 6:30 p.m.

PTO is a great way to get involved with your child's school! We hope to see you at our next meeting!

FCS Students Presenting at Rotary



Reading Nook

READING is THINKING!

Reading Strategy of the Month – Making Predictions!

In addition to visualizing, making connections, and questioning, another strategy that helps readers to better understand what was read is to *make predictions* before and during reading. Readers should be predicting what they think is going to happen next in the text based on the information they know so far. Then they can read on to check if see if they are correct and adjust their thinking accordingly. This gives readers more of a purpose for reading. The more readers can visualize, make connections, ask questions, and make predictions while they read, the more they understand and remember what they read because they are THINKING!

How to Improve in Reading

READ! READ! READ! Students should be reading at least **20 pages** of a book **a day** at their level, which will take about 20-30 minutes. This would be either a whole picture book or to the end of the chapter closest to 20 pages. Have your child occasionally read aloud to you, because that's how the teachers have to assess reading progress.

The more you practice, the better you get!

The better you get, the more you enjoy it!

HAPPY READING!!

Counselor Corner

Parent Tips: How to Help Your Child Prepare for Standardized Tests

Before the Test

Be prepared

Many teachers will send information home about testing schedules and class preparation plans. Information that you should know includes:

What is the test and what will it measure?

Will the test results affect your child, school, or both?

Are there ways that you can help your child prepare for the test? (Narang, 2008).

Help your child in areas that are difficult for her

If your child has struggled with a particular area or subject in the past, you may be able to help her overcome some of that difficulty by providing some extra practice. Many workbooks target test preparation by offering practice exercises and questions like the ones students see on the test. Focus your practice on your child's weaknesses rather than her strengths so that she doesn't get bored with the exercises (Narang, 2008).

Give your child a chance to practice

If your child has trouble taking tests, try practicing test questions and studying new words. Your child's school or the library may have some samples to use. Keep the sessions short, and set small, manageable goals so that the extra practice boosts your child's confidence (Narang, 2008).

If you have concerns about the test or testing situation, talk with your child's teacher

Discuss your concerns with the teacher and/or school administrator. If you're not satisfied with the outcome, however, you can reach out to some other organizations that monitor testing, including your local PTA, The National Center for Fair & Open Testing or the ERIC Clearinghouse on Assessment and Evaluation (Narang, 2008).

If you believe that your child's difficulty with standardized tests may be the symptom of a problem such as a language or learning difficulty, speak with your child's teacher to learn if your child qualifies for any assessment accommodations.

On Test Day

Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and eats a healthy breakfast

Many teachers report that students who don't do well on tests haven't gotten enough sleep, and haven't eaten breakfast on the morning of the test. Doing both of these things will ensure that your child is working at full capacity (Narang, 2008).

Make sure your child is prepared

Some schools may supply the tools your child needs for the test, such as pencils, an eraser, paper, and a calculator. Others may require the students to bring those materials themselves. Check with your child's teacher to see if you need to provide your child with any of these materials. Also, check to see whether your child will be able to make up the test if she is sick on test day (Narang, 2008).

Remain positive

Staying calm will help your child stay calm. If she gets nervous about the test or is likely to experience anxiety during the test, help her practice some relaxation techniques that she can try once she's taking the test (Narang, 2008).

Miss Laura Dyer
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