

The EAGLE

A Publication of the Berkley Community School

Berkley
Community
School
A Great Place
To Learn

January 2018
Berkley Community
School
59 South Main Street
Berkley, MA 02779
508-822-9550

Jennifer L. Francisco,
Principal

Sarah A. Cogar
Assistant Principal

Special points of interest:

No School, January 15th to honor Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Berkley Community School Families,

We are at the time of year when we will be looking outside to see blankets of snow covering the earth! Snow always makes me think of fresh starts and new beginnings with its' crisp cleanliness and beauty. For the staff and students of the Berkley Community School, January, 2018 begins our fifth month of the school year. Yet, it is also a time for us to begin anew, like the snow outside...crisp and new. What a great time for us to greet one another for the first time in the new year, despite the fact that we are nearly halfway through the progress of our school year. May the year 2018 bring joy and happiness for all of us, and a wonderful year of learning and growth for the children of Berkley Community School.

On the same idea of being positive and forward thinking, Mrs. Cogar and I have been sharing information with our staff about the importance of teaching children to have a growth mindset. This learning comes from the work of Dr. Carol Dweck. "Over 30 years ago, Carol Dweck and her colleagues became interested in students' attitudes about failure. They noticed that some students rebounded while other students seemed devastated by even the smallest setbacks. After studying the behavior of thousands of children, Dr. Dweck coined the terms "fixed mindset" and "growth mindset" to describe the underlying beliefs people have about learning and intelligence. When students believe they can get smarter, they understand that effort makes them stronger. Therefore, they put in extra time and effort, and that leads to higher achievement." (Growth Mindset Revolution, <https://mindsetworks.com/science/>) It is important as educators and parents, that we are aware of how important it is to model the idea that with time and effort new things can be learned. Teaching this growth mindset model helps students to persevere with challenging tasks, and to be resilient learners and people. It is our intention to continue to look for ways to embrace this philosophy and to incorporate it into the school on a daily basis.

Sincerely,

Jennifer L. Francisco



Next Generation MCAS:

Each month until MCAS, Mrs. Cogar and Mrs. Francisco will share information to help parents get familiar with the Next Generation MCAS that all third and fourth graders will take in the spring. This month, we will share information from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education about achievement levels.

How do the new achievement levels compare to the legacy MCAS achievement levels?

The MCAS legacy achievement levels (Warning/Failing, Needs Improvement, Proficient and Advanced) were established as new tests were introduced between 1998 and 2006. Each time a new test was introduced, a new panel of educators was selected to set standards with new members and sometimes different methods. As a result, the legacy standards varied widely from grade to grade in their definitions of proficient. Because the next-generation MCAS program is rolling out with grades 3-8 together and grade 10 planned for 2019, the educators who set the new standards had the opportunity to ensure that the definition of "Meeting Expectations" is similar from grade to grade. The new achievement levels are "Exceeding Expectations, Meeting Expectations, Partially Meeting Expectations and Not Meeting Expectations". The new Meeting Expectations standards are designed to signal when a child is ready to succeed academically in the grade they are moving into. Eventually, this translates into college and career readiness. Right now, approximately 50 percent of Massachusetts's high school graduates complete college with either an associate's or bachelor's degree within six years after leaving high school. The next-generation MCAS is designed to help students know where they stand while they still have time to catch up. Waiting until they place into remedial courses in college is too late.

(Source: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/parents/results-faq.html>)

Stop Bullying Now

What can students and youths do to lend a hand to stop bullying?

Bullying happens when someone hurts or scares another person on purpose. The person that is being bullied has a hard time defending himself or herself. Usually, bullying happens over and over. Sometimes bullying is easy to notice, such as hitting or name calling, and other times it's hard to see, such as leaving a person out or saying mean things behind someone's back. Both boys and girls bully, and both girls and boys get bullied. Bullying is not fair, and it hurts. How can you lend a hand when bullying happens?

- Say kind words to the child who is bullied, such as "I'm sorry about what happened," and "I don't like it" Help them understand that it's not his or her fault. Be a friend, Invite that student to do things with you, such as sit together at lunch or work together on a project. EVERYONE NEEDS A FRIEND!
- Tell the student who is bullied to talk to someone about what happened. Offer to help by going along.
- Pay attention to the other kids who watch bullying. (These people are called "bystanders). Are any of them laughing or joining in with the bullying? If yes, these kids are part of the problem. Let those students know that they're not helping! DON'T be one of them!
- **Tell an adult. (This is IMPORTANT!)**
- Chances are, the child who is bullied needs help from an adult. The child who is doing the bullying probably does too. Often, the bullying does not get reported. But, who should you tell? Think about who you could tell in your school.

Teacher (Which one would you talk to?)
School Counselor
Cafeteria Worker
School Nurse
Principal
Bus Driver or other adults you feel comfortable telling.
If you need help telling, take a friend along.

Recess Guidelines

As the new year begins, we wish to remind all families of the guidelines we follow at recess to keep all students happy and safe. The guidelines are:

- When exiting the building for recess, all students must WALK until at the bottom of the stairs.
- Keep your hands and feet to yourself.
- Play safely on the playground structure.
- Be respectful of what others are playing. Please don't run through a game that other people are playing.
- All toys, stuffed animals, and electronics should remain at home at all times. These items distract from learning that takes place in the classroom.
- Actively seek to include others. If some one asks to join your game or what you are playing, say "YES!" This is such a great way to be a good school citizen.

Remember, when the temperatures are not frigid, students will still have outdoor recess. Feel free to send boots and snow gear, as snow play will be allowed for only students with the proper attire.

Words of the Week:

The Words of the Week for December were: participant, gratitude and temporary.
My mom was a participant on my last field trip to Plimouth Plantation. Written by Nevaeh Noel, Grade 4.
When I got my new house I showed a lot of gratitude. Written by Molly Mann, Grade 2.
I got a temporary tattoo. It lasted a day. Written by Benjamin Quinn, Grade 1.



Preschool News

During the month of January, the preschool thematic units will focus on the season of Winter, Teddy Bears and Community Helpers. The literacy curriculum will focus on describing personal experiences using details, writing a letter and connecting speech with print. The math curriculum will focus on shapes and patterns.

Grade 2 News

December flew by! We had lots of fun learning about the various cultures and holiday traditions celebrated around the world. Over the next month during math, second graders will continue working toward understanding 2-digit addition and we will also begin 2-digit subtraction using various strategies. This is when mastery of basic math facts is essential. Please have your child practice his/her math facts each and every night. The students will continue to explore the various types of writing: expository, narrative and opinion writing. Our science units will also be starting soon. We wish you a safe, happy and healthy 2018!

Attendance Matters

Attendance matters for doing well in school and life! Good attendance starts in kindergarten and even in preschool. Absences can add up before you know it. Poor attendance is not just about unexcused absences or children willingly skipping school. Excused absences can affect performance too. If you are facing tough challenges related to school refusal, access to health care, housing or lack of food, you can and should seek out support from our school and community.

Surround Care News

Surround Care will resume on January 2nd. We will also be closed on January 15th due to the holiday. Please remember if your child is on a per diem schedule and you would like to substitute an alternate day for the holiday, a one week notice should be given. Payment statements will be sent to all families currently enrolled in Surround Care so be sure to check your family mailbox this month. These statements will show how much you paid for Surround Care services in 2017. If your child attended Surround Care in 2017, but they are NOT CURRENTLY ENROLLED in the program, you will need to contact Michelle Terrien at 508-822-8567 to request a payment statement. We would like to send a special thank you to all the generous families and staff members who assisted us in our Clothe-A-Child Program. All five children received a large box filled with clothing plus a winter coat, hat, gloves and a toy. Each family also received a large box filled with toiletry items. We thank you again for your help in making this assistance program a huge success! Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated!!! We hope you all have a wonderful holiday and a prosperous new year!

PTO News

We hope everyone had wonderful holidays with your loved ones. Storytime with Santa was a success! Thank you to all of you who were able to make this wonderful reading night event. We have received our Square 1 Art fundraiser for all the kids to get ready to begin this wonderful art project. Box Tops are continuing to be a success, the next collection date is January 26th so let's get those Box Tops cut and sent into school. Also, coming up soon, we will be having our Princess Dance.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



The Student of the Month Brunch will be on Thursday, January 18, 2018 at 10:00 AM in the café. We congratulate the following "Students of the Month" for December:

Mrs. Clement	Henry Ferrini	Ms. Nunes	Brody Furrh
Ms. Crockett-Hicks	Benjamin Quinn	Mrs. Campos	Alyssa Clement
Ms. Mastromarino	Jillian Brown	Mr. DaRosa	Zachary Ferreira
Mrs. Maxwell	Carolyn Morgado	Mrs. Dietz	Leilah Eugene
Mrs. Carlesi	Addison Williams	Ms. Gauthier	Emily Fernandes
Mrs. Como	Kaiden Pavao	Mrs. Kleinen	Sarah Perry
Mrs. Lindsay	Autumn Nicholson	Art	Isaac Louro (3G)
Mrs. Vieira	Adisyn Falke	Music	Mia Lopes (1CM)
Mrs. Borges	Anjali Malik	Physical Education	Corina Caso (2RC)
Ms. Freitas	Rylan Wesockes	Computer	Layla Carreiro (3N)
Mrs. Guilmette	Zachary Smith	Library	Hunter Lafountain (4PC)

Introducing...Mrs. Rose Carlesi, Grade 2 Teacher

Mrs. Carlesi attended the Fall River Public Schools for grades 1-12. Being educated in the city allowed her to meet many diverse and unique people. She attended UMass for her undergraduate degree and Fitchburg State for her master's degree. Mrs. Carlesi's favorite subject in school was reading. It was a time to learn about new places and meet interesting characters. She also enjoyed science because she liked to learn about the world and how things work. Mrs. Carlesi's favorite children's book was the Nancy Drew Mysteries. It was exciting to figure out the mystery using the many clues in the book. She stayed up many evenings because she couldn't put the book down until she found out who did it. She has worked at BCS for 22 years. The best part of her job is meeting the students in September and then watching them learn many new skills throughout the school year. Mrs. Carlesi and her husband have two amazing sons. Owen is a high school freshman, and Matthew is a seventh grader. Both boys share her love of learning. They also enjoy sports, especially ice hockey, soccer and tennis. Their furry family member is a 5 year old dog named Eddie who is very playful and energetic. Her favorite colors are blue and green. Her favorite food is seafood, especially salmon. Her favorite television shows are House Hunters and Hawaii Life. Her favorite relaxing activity is reading a book at the beach. Mrs. Carlesi enjoys spending time with her family. They have movie nights and eat lots of popcorn. She also spends a great deal of time at hockey rinks, soccer fields and tennis courts watching her sons participate in these sports. We thank Mrs. Rose Carlesi for being featured in this month's newsletter!

Grade 1 News

Welcome to 2018! The first grade team is asking everyone to please make sure the children are dressed appropriately for the cold weather. Students do go out for recess. Students that bring winter boots are allowed to go out onto the playground and field. Also, the first grade team would like to invite parents to volunteer for word rings. There are a couple of first grade classrooms that do not have consistent volunteers. This is an important part of helping students to become fluent readers. Being a part of this exciting process can have many rewards.

Grade 4 News

Happy New Year! Fourth graders will be busy working on long division this month. Please continue to practice their facts at home. The next book report will be on historical fiction and assigned by Mrs. McNamara. Students are hard at work in Literacy learning to participate in Literature Circles. Families can support their child's comprehension by asking questions about the books they're reading in class and in Literature Circles.

Labels in Clothing/Outerwear

Please make every effort to put your child's name or initials in his/her sweatshirts and jackets. We go to great lengths to return lost items, but it is much easier to do if the articles of clothing have initials or names in them. Additionally, many jackets look similar or are identical. We have had several instances of students accidentally grabbing the wrong coat on the way to recess. Labels really help decrease this occurrence! Thank you for your assistance.

Pick Up/Drop Off for all Before and After School Programs

Due to our enhanced safety procedures, all parents picking up for afterschool programs and dropping off for before school programs, should ring the bell for the office and wait to be buzzed in.

Morning Drop Off

Parents who drop their children off in the morning are asked to be aware that the earliest drop-off time is 8:45AM. Thank you!

School Committee Member Vacancy

Anyone interested in serving on the Berkley School Committee is asked to send a letter of interest by January 8th to: Berkley School Committee, c/o Superintendent's Office, 21 North Main St., Berkley, MA 02779. The School Committee will review letters of interest at their January 8th meeting. Qualifications per Policy #1300 are as follows: School Committee member must be a registered voter and must be a resident of the town. School Committee membership is not limited by gender, race, color, creed, religious or political conviction. School Committee member shall receive compensation for expenses as approved by town meeting.