

# The EAGLE

Berkley  
Community  
School  
A Great Place  
To Learn

## A Publication of the Berkley Community School

### From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we close 2018, and look forward to 2019, I wish you the happiest of new years! I have been thinking a lot lately about MAKING A DIFFERENCE. Particularly, how we can make a difference for others in small simple ways. Look what happened when many families and staff members donated a few food items to our recent food drive...the net result was boxes and boxes of food that in turn will feed lots of people in our local community. In this new year, I am pledging to be on the lookout for simple ways to make a difference...taking time to stop and listen to someone who needs me, picking up litter when I see it, doing a kind deed for someone in need, making eye contact with clerks in stores and wishing them a nice day, opening the door for others...any simple way that might just make someone else's day a little more meaningful, or a little more uplifting. I invite you to be on the lookout for ways to do extra little acts of kindness this year...If we succeed, think of all the lives we will have touched! This would be a great thing to do with our children as well...it is never too early to start practicing the art of being thoughtful and kind to others!

Have a wonderfully happy holiday season, and a very happy 2019. As always, please feel free to call upon me at any time if I may be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

Jennifer L. Francisco



### “Next Generation MCAS Test”

In the spring, our third and fourth grade students will take the “Next Generation MCAS Test”. This will be the third time that this particular test is used in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, although students have been taking some form of MCAS tests for nearly twenty years. This new MCAS test focuses on students’ critical thinking skills, application of knowledge, and ability to make connections between reading and writing. Third and fourth grade students take the computer-based version of the test. Students earn one of the following achievement levels: Exceeding Expectations, Meeting Expectations, Partially Meeting Expectations or Not Meeting Expectations. Berkley Community School is committed to ensuring that our students are well prepared for the MCAS tests.

### MCAS Tutorial

Invitation letters will be going home very soon for third and fourth graders who have qualified for the free MCAS tutorial program. Please return the RSVP slip as soon as possible (before December 14th) as this helps us to organize the groups quickly and notify families of what day and time of session their child will be in. We are happy to be able to offer this program to our students, and we appreciate your help!

### BCS is Part of Amazon Smile

The Berkley PTO will now be participating in the Amazon Smile Program as a way to raise money. Amazon Smile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/04-3404921>, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to Berkley PTO to benefit the Berkley Schools. Happy shopping and thanks for helping us!

### What is Bullying?

Bullying is when you keep picking on someone because you think you are cooler, smarter, stronger or better than them. It is our responsibility at school to provide a safe, learning environment to all students. We educate students about bullying and maintain a zero-tolerance policy on bullying at BCS.

### What to tell children to do if they experience bullying:

- Tell your parents or trusted adults. They can help stop bullying.
- If you are bullied at school, tell your teacher, school counselor, or principal. Telling is not tattling. Don't fight back. Don't try to bully those who bully you.
- Try not to show anger or fear. Students who bully like to see that they can upset you. Calmly tell the student to stop...or say nothing and walk away.
- For more ideas and information you can visit [www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov](http://www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov).



### Buddy Bench

We are so grateful to have a Buddy Bench as part of our playground area! If you are not familiar with a Buddy Bench, it is a spot where any student who is in need of a playmate during recess can sit down. The other students know that if they see someone seated on the Buddy Bench, they should invite the child to join in play with them. Talk with your child about using the Buddy Bench if needed and about seeking out children sitting on the bench to play with.

### WOW Update

Since the last newsletter, the Words of the Week have been: legendary, stroll, flinched and depriving. Here are the featured sentences for this month:  
 Steve Jobs is legendary for creating Apple. Written by Christian Swartzendruber, Grade 1.  
 When I go for a walk with my mom sometimes we stroll along the street. Written by Stella Freitas, Grade 2.  
 I flinched when I almost got scratched by a cat. Written by Aria Sullivan, Grade 1.  
 The weather was depriving me of going outside. Written by Jacob Wilson, Grade 4.

### Practice Math Facts Daily

Every child must gain automaticity with math facts. Not having automatic knowledge of basic math facts slows students down and decreases accuracy when learning more advanced math (For example, students who don't memorize multiplication facts generally struggle to learn long division). The only way to truly achieve this is to practice every day. Students in K-2 should master all addition and subtraction facts. Students in grades 3 & 4 must master the multiplication facts. Please practice with your child each day! It will help them be successful!

### Substitutes Needed

We are in need of Certified Teachers and Paraprofessionals to work as substitutes at the Berkley Community School and the Berkley Middle School. For information, please contact Mrs. Silvia in the Superintendent's office at 508-822-5220.

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:

- December 21st, 10:00AM, Grade 4 Winter Concert, Gym
- Holiday Break will begin on December 22nd.

### Mass.org

If you need assistance or would like more information from State agencies such as MASSHEALTH or Early Intervention, please check out Mass.org

### United Way Hotline

Did you know that if you call “211” you will be connected to the United Way Hotline where you can receive information and help from the United Way about a large range of services including child care, medical referrals, crisis assistance, etc.? Check it out!

### Cold Weather

Students will have outdoor recess on most cold weather days. Please be sure children are sent with appropriate outdoor clothing, and that all coats are labeled with their name.

### Berkley Public Schools Website

Please continue to access our district website at [www.berkeleypublicschools.org](http://www.berkeleypublicschools.org) to receive the most up to date information about happenings at our school. Simply click on the BCS link at the very top of the page.

### Mass. Department of Transitional Assistance

The department is pleased to offer free or reduced admissions to several educational and cultural institutions across the state by simply showing your EBT card at the ticket counter. Some of the institutes are: Children's Museum in Boston, Museum of Science, and Children's Museum of Easton. If you have any questions please visit their website at [www.mass.gov/dta](http://www.mass.gov/dta).

### Thank you!

The Open Shelves Food Pantry was grateful to receive the donations from our November food drive. We had a great response! Your generosity is appreciated.

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# Grade Level News

## Preschool News

During the month of December, preschool will be focusing on Family Traditions and Holidays. In math, we will be working on shapes and patterns while also focusing on number identification. In literacy, we will be focusing on our letters of the week, title, author and illustrator, as well as acting out a story. The holiday season is a great time for us to work on social skills through play, as well as manners and being thankful. While the weather is getting colder, we will still go outside for recess as long as the temperatures are in the "safe zone" and it's not snowing. Please be sure your child is sent in with a jacket (labeled with his/her name). Happy Holidays!

## Grade 2 News

In December, the second graders will be traveling around the world learning about how different cultures celebrate various holidays during this time of the year. In math, we will be tackling 2-digit addition. It is so important for your child to continue to practice his or her math facts. Please encourage your child to read as much as possible during any free time. The entire Grade 2 Team hopes you enjoy your time with your families during our winter break! Happy Holidays!

## Surround Care News

Our Clothe-a-Child Assistance Program is taking place now through December 10th. If you would like to help us clothe some children for the holidays or purchase a much needed toiletry item for their family, please stop by the Surround Care office at the Community School or the Cafetorium teacher's room at the Middle School and take a label from our Clothe-a-Child display. Each label will have a toiletry item on it or an article of clothing with the child's age, gender and size. All purchases must be sent in by DECEMBER 10th!!! We thank you in advance for your help with this program. Your generosity is greatly appreciated! As the cold weather approaches, we are still planning to go outdoors as often as possible so please remember to send coats, hats and gloves with your child each day. Thank you! Surround Care will be available to Surround Care families during the December Vacation week on December 26th, 27th and 28th (pending enrollment). We will be closed on December 24th, 25th, 31st and January 1st due to the holidays. December vacation week forms have already been sent out and are due December 7th. A separate notice will be sent to participating families with additional information regarding this week once enrollment is finalized. If you have any questions or concerns regarding Surround Care, please contact Michelle Terrien at 508-822-8567. Warm wishes for a wonderful holiday season!

## Notification of Community Events

We will now post all community-related events on our district website [www.berkleypublicschools.org](http://www.berkleypublicschools.org) under a tab titled "Community Information". Our intent is to provide you with a resource that includes up-to-date community-related information. We will post on this page, all community events as soon as they are received, in lieu of distributing by email. We encourage you to check the BPS website regularly to learn about new events that are happening in and around our school community.

## BCS Activities Committee

We hope everyone had a very happy Thanksgiving with your loved ones. The BCS Activities Committee's 5th annual Holiday Craft & Vendor Fair was a tremendous success! We are grateful to all of you that joined us, donated items for the fair, or volunteered your valuable time to help make this event such a success! Please bring your family for a magical reading night at our annual Story Time with Santa on December 13th from 6:00PM—7:30PM. The first reading is at 6:00PM and the second reading is at 6:45PM. Looking ahead, our popular "Sweetheart Dance" as well will be returning this year so keep posted for dates soon! We hope you have a blessed and safe holiday season!

## Kindergarten News

It's hard to believe it's already December! This month we are introducing our first vowel, /a/. We will be doing "Wordbusters" and begin to sound out short words. We will also be learning all about rhyming words in literacy as well. In math, we will be comparing numbers 6-10 and introducing the 4 basic 2D shapes. We also look forward to some fun winter activities and sharing our family winter traditions.

## Grade 3 News

We had an amazing time on our field trip to Plimouth Plantation! Students were very excited and made great connections to what they are learning in school. Our third graders also did a wonderful job on their MA famous person projects and presentations. It was so great to see all of them dressed up as their famous person. We really enjoyed that day with them. In math, students will continue to be quizzed weekly on multiplication facts. Please work with your child on practicing and studying their multiplication facts. It is extremely important that students study their facts nightly in order to master each table. In ELA, all third graders are working toward independently completing text-based essays. We are practicing this skill in class in all subject areas. Please remind your child to take the time to include evidence in their writing and reread their work before handing it in. We hope you all have a happy holiday and enjoy the winter break!

## Grade 1 News

First graders will be participating in a book swap and Christmas around the world. Parents, please look for information coming in your child's folder. The first grade team is asking everyone to please make sure the children are dressed appropriately for the cold weather. Students do go outside for recess. Students that bring winter boots are allowed to go out onto the playground and field in snowy weather. 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. Finally, a reminder that students need to wear or bring in sneakers on days they have P.E.

## Grade 4 News

Happy Holidays! Fourth graders have done a wonderful job on their state float projects and we look forward to a few representatives attending the School Committee meeting to present their projects. Be on the lookout for the 4th Grade Secret Surprise letter for some holiday cheer in our classrooms. Students will also have two special 4th grade events this year with the Berkley Lights' On Ceremony on December 9th and a special winter concert at school on December 21st at 10:00AM. We also want to remind students to continue memorizing their multiplication facts. Best wishes for a wonderful winter season!



# STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



The Student of the Month Brunch will be on Thursday, December 13, 2018 at 10:00AM in the Cafeteria. We congratulate the following "Students of the Month" for November:

Mrs. Clement	Kathleen Tweedie	Ms. Nunes	William Lindberg
Ms. Crockett-Hicks	Ella Perry	Mrs. Campos	Evelyn Adey
Ms. Mastromarino	Aubrie Doehler	Mr. DaRosa	Alizae Chhoeun
Mrs. Maxwell	Lily Demoranville	Mrs. Dietz	Aidan Dookhran
Mrs. Carlesi	Brayden Germaine	Mrs. Kleinen	Vivianne Correia
Mrs. Como	Austin Hebda	Art	Harrison Lindberg (1DC)
Mrs. Lindsay	Julia Zager	Music	Raiden Fagan (1DM)
Ms. Gauthier	Dylan Dagenais	Physical Education	Lily Poissant (4LD)
Mrs. Borges	Lucy Gooch	Computer	Joshua Uon (3F)
Ms. Freitas	Ayden Medeiros	Library	Jacob Wilson (4ND)
Mrs. Guilmette	Jack Grogan		

## Introducing...Ms. Victoria Rusek, Grade 1 Special Education Teacher

Ms. Rusek attended St. Mary's Elementary School and Coyle & Cassidy High School. She attended Bridgewater State University and is now pursuing her masters there too. Her favorite subjects in school were math and science. Her favorite children's books were anything written by Dr. Seuss. This is Ms. Rusek's first year teaching at the Berkley Community School. Working with so many different students in different classes is what she likes most about her job. Ms. Rusek lives with her mom, dad and twin brother, Matt. Her family also has a new puppy, a mini labradoodle named Luna. Her favorite food is pizza, favorite colors are pink and blue, and her favorite vacation spot is the beach and she would love to travel to Italy and Greece. In her spare time, she enjoys yoga, reading books and hanging out with friends. We thank Ms. Rusek for being featured in this month's newsletter!