

# BEARFOOT NEWS

## *Bowdoin Central School*

**Where Every Child Matters:** We prepare all children for a lifetime of learning by setting high expectations within a nurturing and thoughtful environment. To do this we are all **Safe, Respectful, and Responsible** so that we may all focus on learning.

### **Martin Luther King Jr. Day Monday 16th**

In observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day we will have NO SCHOOL on Monday, January 16th. Thanks to all families who attended our MLK Literacy Learning Fun Night on Wednesday. It was a chance to share an evening of learning and art in honor of this amazing and historical man.

### **Proficiency Learning**

Being proficient at something means that you are fully skilled or competent at doing something. It is the goal for all our students to become proficient in the content they study. This will occur with varied support. Starting in the Fall 2017 all students will receive new report cards that will report based on your student's proficiency on learning goals. The new reporting system will be "Empower". Student scores will be on a 1,2,3,4 scale, with 3 being the proficiency goal. More information will be forthcoming.



### **S.T.E.M. Learning**

What is S.T.E.M. you ask? It stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Math. It is an innovative way to think about science learning from a problem solving point of view that has been born of the world of engineering. Above: our third and fourth grade students explore materials in order to design a bridge that must be able to support a weight. The bridge must only weigh a certain amount as well. This type of engaging real-life problem solving activities teaches students to work within constraints of resources but encourages them to study design and be creative. Our next STEM lesson will be during Science Explorers in February when Dr. Kuldeep Rana from FHC Inc. will help the students design a simple machine to measure heart rate.



## Student Support Team

There are times as a student, parent, and teacher we feel lost. How do we best support our children if they are struggling? At BCS we are trying to make this difficult time easier for everyone by developing a Student Support Team. This team will develop a clear process for helping students receive the individualized support they need. Some of the improvements that this team will provide include.

- Clear processes for teachers to follow when a student is struggling.
- Small problem solving meetings with parents that are centered on identifying different ideas to support the student.
- Organized Think Tank meetings that will design goals and interventions based on objective student data.

We are currently designing the process, but this team will allow us to support the “Whole Child” with the same compassion that we have always done in a more methodical and data driven way.

- **Water Update:** Over the Holiday break we completed our much needed water update. On Christmas Eve our hardworking professionals replaced our well pump, up flow pipe, and wiring to the well pump. In addition our district facilities installed a second 500 gallon domestic water tank. This gives us a total of 1,000 gallons of domestic water on hand at any time. This is more than our daily usage. Facilities personnel then cleaned and flushed all water lines throughout the building. The state then tested our water. Thanks to the handwork of our dedicated staff we now have a high functioning and safe water system that can support our high demand. Thank you for your patience and cooperation through this time.

### • Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendar

January 16	No School – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 18	Bowdoin Parent-Teacher Club, BCS, 6 p.m.
Feb. 20-24	No School – Winter Break II
March 16	Half-day @ BCS, 12:10 p.m. dismissal
March 17	No school @ BCS
April 14	No School @ BCS – Professional Dev. Day
April 17-21	No School – Spring Break

### Calling All Kindergartners

It’s hard to believe, but we’re already thinking about the next school year. We are beginning to compile a list of students who will attend kindergarten next Fall. If your son or daughter will be five, on or before Oct. 15, 2017, please call the school and speak with Ms. Mayo. If you know of a neighbor, relative or someone else in Bowdoin (who might not get this newsletter and has a child in this age range), please let them know we are looking for them. This information is very important as we are now making budget decisions for next year and need to adequately plan for our kindergarten program.

### Lunch Program

Parents are reminded that you may apply for the free/reduced lunch program at any time during the year. Application forms are available in the school office or online at the district website.



## AND THE WINNER IS...

Thanks to all who participated in the  
Winter Box Tops/Labels contest!!

Thanks to you, BCS was able to collect a total of  
**4417** Box Tops and Labels!

The classroom with the most collected was  
**Mrs. Egan's Class with 1,200!**

Thank you to the other classrooms that also collected:

Mrs. Baker 185

Mrs. Talbot 616

Mrs. Benner 133

Ms. Toolin 140

Mrs. Boardman 192

Ms. Theberge 148

Mrs. Belanger 252

Mrs. Horrocks 304

Ms. Rice 273

Mrs. LaPointe 304

Mr. Crowe 670

**Awesome Job Everyone!!!**

### Winter Time Preparedness

Wintertime in Maine is a fun and beautiful time in our state. It is important that students have outside time and exercise daily. If the "feels like" temperature is 15 degrees or above we will have outside recess and motor breaks. It can also be a cold time for students not prepared. Please send your student to school with war coats, hats, boots, and gloves or mittens. Together we can ensure our students have a safe and fun time being active outdoors.

**Upcoming Events**

**Fedco Seed Sale:** It may look like winter outside but Spring will come back...it always does! We'll be selling seeds again this year with a new offering of organic seeds. An order form will be attached to an upcoming newsletter.

**Gryffon Ridge Spices:** We'll also be offering organic spices again this year from Gryffon Ridge, a local company that is Maine's only Certified Organic Spice Merchant. An order form will be attached to an upcoming newsletter.

**Community News**

**Boy Scout Troop Bottle Drive**

Bowdoin's Boy Scout Troop 639 will be out collecting bottles on Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. If you have any bottles you would like to donate to the troop, please call Greg Tobias at 319-4193 to schedule a pick up. The troop also has an account at Bootleggers in Topsham

**Breakfast With A Super Hero or Princess?**

The Mt. Ararat Class of 2018 will be hosting the Second Annual Princess and Super Hero Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup> from 8-10:30 a.m. in the MTA Commons. Snow date will be February 5<sup>th</sup>. Students will be dressed as princesses and super heroes to make this a fun family event to benefit the Class of 2018. \$5 per person with a \$20 max for a family of 4 or more.

**Community Food Bank**

The Friends Helping Community food pantry is available to assist residents of Bowdoin, Bowdoinham and the surrounding communities. The pantry, located at 1201 Main Street, Bowdoin, is open on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays from 9-10 a.m. If your family is in need of food assistance at a time other than the times above, you can call 449-6326. Please leave a message and a volunteer will get right back to you.