

# BEARFOOT NEWS

**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.

## Math Club:

Our after school math intervention is beginning on Tuesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>. It will run for six weeks on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Please contact Mr. Keith or return the permission slip. Space is limited.

## Safety and Security

The Safety of our students is of the highest importance. If our students' most basic needs are not met then learning is unlikely to happen. As part of our commitment to safety we work to ensure we are ready for emergencies. On January 30<sup>th</sup> we will have our first school-wide lockdown drill for this year. We announce our first one to families to make sure that we can prepare our youngest students for what to expect and why we do them. Please take a few minutes to talk with your student to reassure them. A good way to talk about it is to liken it to Fire Drills. We practice to be safe. We will have a second unannounced lockdown in February.



## Clear Learning Goals:

Our learning at Bowdoin Central should be clear and supportive of all of our students. Part of what we focus on as educators is to make sure the learning goals of the lesson are clear, in student friendly language, and that teachers revisit them during teaching. This way students will have a clear idea to guide their learning. Ask your student what their learning goal for reading, writing, or math was for the day. We are also working on developing scales so that both students and teachers can track progress. The students should be able to identify what they know, what they still need to work on, and what they are working towards. It is about growth and understanding.



## MEAs at BCS

As we approach Spring it is time to start thinking about MEAs.

This year, as in the past, we will be testing 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students in ELA and Math. These important tests help us measure student progress and helps us as a school determine how we are doing to support our students in their learning. We have worked to reduce the amount of time testing and feel that if we are assessing students that we should use that information to improve our practice. We are still waiting on student reports from last spring from the State, but I am proud to report the following for our students 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade student from last spring. I have included a state comparison to give you a clear picture of how our students compare to the rest of Maine.

ELA: 63% of BCS students are at or above state level expectations. 46% of Maine students are at or above state level expectations.

Math: 57% of BCS students are at or above state level expectations. 39% of Maine students are at or above state level expectations.

### Community Food Bank

The Friends Helping Community food pantry, located at 1201 Main Street, 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.

- **February is Honesty and Integrity month at BCS. Ask you student about how they are living this daily.**
- **Winter Science Explorers:** is underway. If your student signed up you should have received the selection form back with the session that your student will be attending highlighted. Please make note of this date for planning purposes. Please send a note with your student on that day giving permission for your child to stay after school. Remember Science Explorers is a one day session!
- **Vacation Learning:** Over Winter break 117 BCS students read over 100 minutes. In addition 45 students participated in our vacation writing program. To reward this studious behavior we plan special snacks and stories and authors teas. The kids love these events and it helps prevent vacation slide.

### • Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendar

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

We continue to look for 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.

### Community Program – Free Lecture

“Combating Childhood Obesity” by Dr. Larry Losey, MD on Sunday, January 22 from 4-6 p.m. @ Brunswick Seventh Day Adventist Church, 333 Maine Street, Brunswick. Free Vegan Food Demonstration & Sampling.