

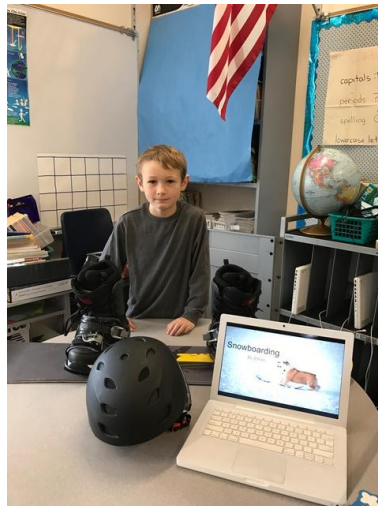
Bearfoot News

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.

Core Values Bridge:

It is important to involve families in the work we are doing at BCS. We want to ensure that our community feels a part of our mission at the school. This year we are working to live our values and vision. It is my hope that when visitors walk into Bowdoin Central School they get a strong sense about what is important to us. Starting this month we are going to send home a monthly BCS Values Bridge. This will be a reading to share as a family that is directly related to our Focus Value. These are short stories that are hopefully engaging to your families and bring home an important message. This month we are sharing "The Empty Pot" by Demi. This story emphasizes the importance of honesty and integrity. We also include a couple of discussion questions or prompts to help with a discussion about the message. We hope that you enjoy these as a family and find them helpful. We feel that it is another link strengthening the bond between the school and the community.



Calling All Experts:

Nonfiction writing is an important part of communicating with the world around us. Students at Bowdoin Central work to improve these skills everyday. Whether students are supporting positions with evidence to persuade or are teaching others about topics of interest. Our students will continue to grow as effective communicators. We try to provide our students with authentic experiences to share their learning. Last week all of our third grade students shared presentations about a topic that they are experts on. The students researched and structured easy to follow clear presentations on a wide array of topics including, pet care, fish, lizards, basketball, Disney, Pokemon cards, snowboarding, dragons, among many other interesting topics. Great job student presenters!



Safety:

We conducted our first lockdown drill of the year this past Tuesday. The students and staff did a great job being calm and following their teachers' directions. I met with a couple of classes to go over questions they had and as a staff we debriefed at our Faculty meeting on Wednesday morning. We will continue to practice and work to further improve all of our safety and security planning. Next month we will conduct another drill with Police and EMS observers to help provide feedback into these important preparations.

Welcome Chris Keefe:

We are happy to announce the arrival of a new educational professional into the BCS family. Chris Keefe is a local, having grown up in nearby Richmond. He is a dynamic young educator who is joining us as an Ed Tech III. He will be working with a number of students and classrooms throughout the school. If you see Chris please introduce yourself and welcome him into the community.

- **Everest Base Camp at BCS:** On February 8th and 9th Mt. Everest is coming back to Bowdoin Central School. Mountaineer and Everest Climber, Ed Webster will work with our 5th grade students to teach them about setting goals, leadership, and outdoor preparedness and survival. Students enjoy this two day learning experience. Please ensure your student is dressed for being outside during prolonged time during those two days.
- **Literacy Learning Fun Night:** Our next Literacy Learning Fun Night is scheduled on February 13th from 5:30-6:30PM. We will be focusing on kindness, making Heart Maps, and introduce the Great Kindness Challenge. Consider joining our students and staff for this fun filled learning evening.
- **Aspirations:** The week of April 10th will be Aspirations Week at BCS. Professionals from various careers will present to classrooms and we will have a number of themed days during the week. Our goal is to expose our students to the huge variety of opportunities that lay ahead of them and to allow them to learn more about some of them. This month our fifth graders will begin their work on the Aspirations Project. Students will select a career that they have interest in, research the topic, and develop a presentation to present to the community. As a part of the project all 5th grade students will receive a \$100 Seed money grant for college funding.
- **Colors Week @ BCS - February 6-10**
We will be celebrating "Colors Week" here at BCS next week. This school-wide educational program will focus on local produce and the importance of eating fruits and vegetables. Students are encouraged to wear the "color of the day" as part of the fun. Each day the hot lunch menu will include food choices that represent the color of the day.

Monday: Red Tuesday: Rainbow (wear any color)
Wednesday: Green Thursday: Yellow Friday: Blue

100 Cans of Caring Returns To BCS

One of the classroom 100's projects that the First Graders are organizing is a food drive. We are collecting 100 "Cans of Caring" to donate to the local food pantry. Please help us reach our goal by sending in some canned goods or non-perishable food items. You can see our growing display in the school lobby. (Thank you for caring and sharing!)

Jr. Duck Stamp Competition – It's Not Too Late

It's not too late to take part in the Jr. Duck Stamp Competition. All you have to do is:

1. Get a registration form, a quality piece of art paper and a list of eligible waterfowl from Ms. Mayo in the office or from Mrs. Volk (Room 165).
2. Draw your favorite waterfowl with pencil, colored pencil, crayon, markers and/or watercolors. You can do this at home on your own or at school on Wednesday afternoons (except 2/15) from 3:30-4:30 p.m. and on Thursday mornings from 8:00-9:00 a.m. with Mrs. Volk.
3. Return your artwork and completed registration form to school by March 3rd. (Please note this is a week earlier than originally published.)

If you have any questions please talk to Mr. Keith or Mrs. Volk.

Fedco Seed Sale Time!

Information and an order form for the Fedco seeds sale is coming home with this newsletter. It is still winter, but Spring will eventually arrive! We chose this fundraiser for several reasons. It supports a Maine company that offers quality products, the product promotes healthy living, and the bottom line is the profit will support outdoor growing activities and improvements here at BCS.

Orders are due back to BCS by February 28th. All seeds are \$2.00 per packet. Money is due upon sale of the items. Checks should be made payable to Bowdoin Central School. Each sheet has several order forms so you can separate sales to friends, family, neighbors, or co-workers. The items will come separated by order and ready to deliver. If you need another order form, see Ms. Mayo in the office.

Organic Seeds Also Available

Fedco also offers Organic Seeds. All organic seeds are \$2.50 a packet. If you'd like to order organic seeds, see Ms. Mayo for an order form.

Basketball Skills Program To Start

A registration form for 1st & 2nd graders interested in the Basketball Skills program is coming home with this newsletter. Forms are due back to the office by February 13th.

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 – Prof Dev. Day
April 17-21	No School – Spring Break