



# Bulldog Bulletin

## Washington School Parent Newsletter

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### Beaver Dam Unified School District

*Learning for a Lifetime*

September 16, 2011

Dear Washington School Families,

I would like to welcome 300 students and families to Washington School. We have new staff members at Washington that will be joining us for our 2011-2012 school year.

Ms. Larson is our new grade five teacher. Mrs. Steil will be teaching grade four. Mrs. Streblov is teaching grade two this year. In grade one we have Mrs. Radmer who will be co-teaching with Mrs. Driedrich. We would also like to welcome Ms. Kahler who has joined our special education staff. Mr. Willihnganz who likes to be called Mr. Tom comes to us from the D.S.L.A. as an experienced teacher assistant.

It is important to note that Mrs. Streblov, grade two teacher is the interim principal for Washington School when I am not in the building.

In an effort to improve communication, I would like to invite you to come for "Coffee Break Sharing Sessions." You are invited to stop by on any of the following dates to talk about our school goals, your child's needs or anything you have on your mind that involves your child's education.

You are invited to Ms. Hyke's office:

Friday, September 30 from 7:30 - 8:30 a.m.

Friday, October 14 from 7:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday, December 7 from 8:00 - 9:30 a.m.

Please RSVP by the day before at 920-885-7376 extension 4401. If none of these days or times work for you, please feel free to call and schedule a time that is convenient for you to come in.

Sincerely,

*Martha Hyke*

Martha Hyke  
Principal



600 Grove Street  
Beaver Dam, WI 53916  
(920) 885-7376

## Welcome New Washington School Students

A total of 54 kindergarten children have now joined us at Washington School. In addition we would like to welcome the students who are new to our school this fall.

### Grade 1

Alejandra Gonzalez  
Jadion Mabry  
Sebastion Monheim  
Kaisha Cheers  
Samantha George

### Grade 2

Kalilah Mabry  
Taja Martinez-Doolin

### Grade 3

Bryn Johnson  
Jayden Mckee  
Raven Miller  
Donovan Shananaquet  
Carter Boehmer  
Kristal Hafenstein  
Riley

### Grade 4

Vander Hoeven  
Isaiah Hron  
Brett Mahnke  
Alexia Meyer

### Grade 5

Arturo Cardenas Pelayo  
Alex Rodriguez  
Max Milici  
Samuel Vander Hoeven



### **“Let’s Talk”**

Please tune in to the Beaver Dam Unified School District's "Let's Talk" radio program on WBEV 1430 AM on the fourth Thursday of each month from 11:10 a.m. - 11:50 a.m. when Superintendent Steve Vessey will talk about district topics. Call-ins are welcome and encouraged during the program.

## Character Education

During the month of September we are teaching students about GOOD DECISION MAKING by using three steps:

### **STOP**

**THINK** of your choices and the results of each  
**MAKE A GOOD CHOICE**

This month we are also teaching about the nature of conflict. Children are learning that conflicts are natural whenever people are together. As the year progresses, we will be teaching strategies for resolving conflicts with positive results.



# The Six Pillars of Character

(Definitions for Young People)

## TRUSTWORTHINESS

Be honest.  
Don't deceive, cheat or steal.  
Be reliable—do what you say you'll do.  
Have the courage to do the right thing.  
Build a good reputation.  
Be loyal—stand by your family,  
friends and country.

## RESPECT

Treat others with respect; follow the  
Golden Rule.  
Be tolerant of differences.  
Use good manners, not bad language.  
Be considerate of the feelings of others.  
Don't threaten, hit or hurt anyone.  
Deal peacefully with anger, insults and  
disagreements.

## RESPONSIBILITY

Do what you are supposed to do.  
Persevere: keep on trying!  
Always do your best.  
Use self-control: be self-disciplined.  
Think before you act—consider the  
consequences.  
Be accountable for your choices.

## FAIRNESS

Play by the rules.  
Take turns and share.  
Be open-minded; listen to others.  
Don't take advantage of others.  
Don't blame others  
carelessly.

## CARING

Be kind.  
Be compassionate and *show* you  
Care.  
Express gratitude.  
Forgive others.  
Help people in need.

## CITIZENSHIP

Do your share to make your  
school and community better.  
Cooperate.  
Stay informed; vote.  
Be a good neighbor.  
Obey laws and rules.  
Protect the environment.

## The Goal of Character Education

The goal of character education is to build in the young attitudes, habits, instincts and predispositions toward doing what is right because it is right, not because it is advantageous.

Teach and show:

1. The ability to discern right from wrong and propriety from impropriety.
2. The commitment to do what is right and proper.

In most of the ethical problems we face, we know what we should do. We know what is right. The issue is: Are we willing to do what is right when it costs more than we want to pay?

## **Absent or Tardy**

Please phone all absences and late arrivals to school by 8:30 a.m. You may leave a message on our phone at 885-7376 any time when the office is closed.

## **PTO NEWS FLASH**

PTO Fall Fundraiser order forms will arrive September 20th in your children's folders. Please turn them back in on Wednesday, October 5th.

## **Welcome from the PTO**

Well another school year has begun and that means that the PTO will start having their monthly meetings again. If you've never attended a PTO meeting before, I strongly encourage you to give it a try. The PTO here at Washington is very active and we receive tremendous support from the staff. No matter what grade your child is in, we would love to have you at our meetings.

The meetings this year will be held on the following evenings at 6:00 p.m. in the multi-purpose room. Free baby-sitting is provided for every meeting. Mark your calendars!

October 18<sup>th</sup> - November 8<sup>th</sup> - December 13<sup>th</sup> - January 10<sup>th</sup> - February 14<sup>th</sup> -  
March 6<sup>th</sup> - April 10<sup>th</sup> - May 8<sup>th</sup>

Also, I would like to remind you of the on-going fundraisers. We collect Box Tops for Education, Labels for Education (Campbell's), Our Family Labels, and Piggly Wiggly receipts. We ask that you collect these items throughout the year. If you could sort the above and put them in separate baggies, it will make it easier for your child to deposit them in the correct slot of the new sorter (box) when they get to school. The sorter (box) is located in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade hallway. We will mail in our first group of labels in October. If you could send any items you have collected to school by Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>, it will make the first mailing.

If you have any questions regarding PTO please call me at 885-4155.

Sandy Dray  
PTO President





September 2011

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Throughout the school year inclement weather conditions may arise. The decision to delay or close school is made prior to 6:00 a.m., based on district policy and procedure and the best available weather information.

Please listen to radio stations WBEV 1430AM / WXRO 95.3FM or WMDC 98FM or watch Cable TV Channel 98 (Charter customers) or 993 (digital customers); Madison TV Channels WISC 3, WMTV 15, or WKOW 27; or Milwaukee TV Channels TMJ 4, WITI 6, WISN 12, or WDJT 58 for the latest weather-related announcements. Weather-related announcements will also be posted on the front page of the district's website [www.beaverdam.k12.wi.us](http://www.beaverdam.k12.wi.us) and on [www.wbevradio.com](http://www.wbevradio.com) and [www.wxroradio.com](http://www.wxroradio.com). Most television stations also post school closings on their individual websites.

If you feel the weather conditions pose an undue risk for your child, you are encouraged to use your own judgment in making a decision whether or not to send your child to school.

***First and Foremost: You Make the Call***

You are always the best judge of your own situation and what is best for your child. If school is held, and you find it is safer for your child to stay home or report late, we will strongly support your decision. The district makes a decision prior to 6:00 a.m. about what is best for all students and staff and that decision may not fit your individual situation.

***Closing Due to Snow and Ice***

The district reviews the weather conditions with Weather Central in Madison. Conversations are then held with the bus transportation company, as well as with individuals who live in various parts of the district and who must drive the roads early in the morning. Safety is always our top priority. Whether or not the conditions will be improving throughout the day is also considered.

***Closing Due to Extreme Cold***

When the wind chill reaches the 35 degrees below zero level for the length of the day, then school is usually canceled. If the conditions are expected to improve during the day, then school may not be canceled. It is important that you work with your children so they dress for the conditions.

***Early Dismissal***

Early dismissal is not an option we like to use unless conditions are expected to get worse throughout the day. This is primarily due to the fact that many parents work and the children are safer at school. Please try to have a plan in place to handle late starts and early dismissals. It is helpful if your children are aware of the plan.

***Your Understanding and Cooperation is Appreciated***

For every person who is happy with a weather-related decision, there is someone who is unhappy. We appreciate your understanding of the difficulties and the timing of our decision. Your support in helping your child get to and from school safely on winter days is sincerely appreciated.

Sincerely,

Stephen Vessey  
District Superintendent



**Hasta al día información meteorológica en español, llame: 920-885-7520 #6.**

Estimados Padres:

A través del año escolar las condiciones atmosféricas pueden incrementar. La decisión de retrasar o cancelar la escuela se tomara antes de las 6:00 de la mañana y será basada en la póliza del distrito en la mejor información disponible del tiempo.

Por favor escuche la estación de radio WBEV 1430AM / WXRO 95.3FM o WMDC 98FM o vea el canal de televisión 98 (clientes de Charter) o 993 (clientes digitales); canales de Madison WISC 3, WMTV 15, o WKOW 27; o los canales de Milwaukee TMJ 4, WITI 6, WISN 12, o WDJT 58 para las recientes informaciones relacionadas con el tiempo. Anuncios relacionados con el clima también se publicarán en la página principal de [www.beaverdam.k12.wi.us](http://www.beaverdam.k12.wi.us) sitio web del distrito y en [www.wbevradio.com](http://www.wbevradio.com) y [www.wxroradio.com](http://www.wxroradio.com). La mayoría de las estaciones de televisión también posterior cierre de escuelas en sus sitios de web individuales.

Si usted cree que las condiciones atmosféricas plantean un riesgo indebido para su niño, use su propio juicio y tome la decisión de enviar o no enviar su hijo a la escuela. Aquí le mandamos algunas recordatoria sobre el cambio del tiempo.

***Sobre todo: Usted decide primero***

Ustedes son los mejores jueces para decidir lo mejor para su niño. Si hay escuela pero usted siente que es mas seguro de que su hijo permanezca en el hogar o esperar un poco mas tarde, nosotros los apoyaremos en su decisión. El distrito tomara una decisión antes de las 6:00 de la mañana pensando en lo mejor para todos los estudiantes y los empleados, esa decisión puede que no encaje con su situación individual.

***Cerrado por causa de la nieve o hielo***

El distrito repasa las condiciones atmosféricas con la central del tiempo de Madison. Nos ponemos en contacto con la compañía de autobuses, así como los individuales que viven en diferentes partes del distrito y tienen que conducir temprano en la mañana. La seguridad es siempre nuestra prioridad principal. Si las condiciones del tiempo van a mejorar durante el día esto será tomado en consideración.

***Debido a un frío extremado***

Cuando la frialdad del viento alcanza los 35 grados debajo del nivel cero para todo el día, generalmente no habrá escuela durante todo el día. Si se espera que las condiciones mejoren durante el día, la escuela posiblemente no cerrara. Es muy importante que usted se asegure que su niño esta abrigado para las condiciones del tiempo.

***Cancelar la escuela temprano***

El cancelar la escuela temprano no es una opción que tenemos el gusto de utilizar a menos que se espere que las condiciones empeoren a lo largo del día. Esto es sobre todo debido al hecho de que muchos padres trabajan y los niños están más seguros en la escuela. Por favor tenga un lugar donde su niño pueda ir en caso de que la escuela empezara mas tarde o se cancela temprana. Es beneficioso para su niño que sepa de este plan.

***Su Comprensión y Cooperación es Apreciada***

Por cada persona que esta contenta con la decisión tomada relacionada con el tiempo, hay otra persona que no lo esta. Nosotros apreciamos su comprensión en la dificultad en tomar una decisión en un tiempo sincronizado. Su apoyo en ayudar a su niño a ir a la escuela y volver a casa si ningún incidente es sinceramente apreciado.

**Hasta al día información meteorológica en español, llame: 920-885-7520 #6.**

Sincerely,

Stephen Vessey  
District Superintendent

## **September – Community Bullying Guide**

### **What is bullying?**

**Stop Bullying now. Take a Stand. Lend a Hand.**

Bullying is aggressive behavior that is intentional and that involves an imbalance of power or strength. Typically, it is repeated over time. A child who is being bullied has a hard time defending himself or herself.

Bullying can take many forms, such as hitting or punching (physical bullying); teasing or name-calling (verbal bullying); intimidation using gestures or social exclusion (nonverbal bullying or emotional bullying); and sending insulting messages by e-mail (cyber bullying).

### **People Who Are Bullied:**

Have higher risk of depression and anxiety, including the following symptoms, that may persist into adult hood:

- Increased feelings of sadness and loneliness
- Changes in sleep and eating patterns
- Loss of interest in activities

Have increased thoughts about suicide that may persist into adulthood. In one study, adults who recalled being bullied in youth were 3 times more likely to have suicidal thoughts or inclinations.

Are more likely to have health complaints: in one study, being bullied was associated with physical health status 3 years later.

Have decreased academic achievement (GPA and standardized test scores) and school participation.

Are more likely to miss, skip, or drop out of school.

Are more likely to retaliate through extremely violent measures. In 12 or 15 school shooting cases in the 1990s, the shooters had a history of being bullied.

### **People Who Bully Others:**

Have a higher risk of abusing alcohol and other drugs in adolescence and as adults.

Are more likely to get into fights, vandalize property, and drop out of school.

Are more likely to engage in early sexual activity.

Are more likely to have criminal convictions and traffic citations as adults. In one study, 60% of boys who bullied others in middle school had a criminal conviction by age 24.

Are more likely to be abusive toward their romantic partners, spouses or children as adults.

### **People Who Witness Bullying:**

Have increased use of tobacco, alcohol or other drugs.

Have increased mental health problems, including depression and anxiety.

Are more likely to miss or skip school.

### **Monitoring:**

Be on the lookout for bullying not only in the classroom, but also in the hallways, cafeteria, bathrooms, gymnasium, on sports fields, other areas of the school, and on the school bus. To do so, you need to know the warning signs of bullying.

### **Being Bullied:**

Comes home with damaged or missing clothing or other belongings

Reports losing items such as books, electronics, clothing, or jewelry

Has unexplained injuries

Complains frequently of headaches, stomach aches, or feeling sick  
Has trouble sleeping or has frequent bad dreams  
Has changes in eating habits  
Hurts themselves  
Are very hungry after school from not eating their lunch  
Runs away from home  
Loses interest in visiting or talking with friends  
Is afraid of going to school or other activities with peers  
Loses interest in school work or begins to do poorly in school  
Appears sad, moody, angry, anxious or depressed when they come home  
Talks about suicide  
Feels helpless  
Often feels like they are not good enough  
Blames themselves for their problems  
Suddenly has fewer friends  
Avoids certain places  
Acts differently than usual

### **Bullying others**

Becomes violent with others  
Gets into physical or verbal fights with others  
Gets sent to the principals' office or detention a lot  
Has extra money or new belongings that cannot be explained  
Is quick to blame others  
Will not accept responsibility for their actions  
Has friends who bully others  
Needs to win or be best at everything

### **If you see bullying, you can stop it.**

#### **How to step in:**

There is not set formula for the best way to intervene when you suspect or observe a bullying incident. You must consider a variety of issues, including the safety of all children, the age and gender of the children involved, the circumstances surrounding the bullying, the form and type of bullying, and the role of bystanders.

Intervene by separating the students involved. Do not immediately ask about or discuss the reason for the bullying or try to sort out the facts.

### **Refrain from Labeling**

When trying to understand the situation, refrain from labeling the incident bullying, or the individuals involved as bullies or victims. This helps encourage everyone to share information openly.

### **Reporting**

After each intervention, report the incident to the school principal or appropriate staff.

# Beaver Dam Unified School District Student Health Services

Kristin Chitko RN, BSN  
Nicole Scharfenberg RN, BSN  
Louise Wilson RN, BSN, MS, NCSN  
Health Services Supervisors

## Health Bulletin Food Allergy Implementation Measures

This school year Washington Elementary School will be implementing measures to protect students with severe **life-threatening** food allergies. Over the past several years the number of BDUSD students with severe allergic reactions to food has increased. In many cases the food does not need to be eaten by the student but simply the close proximity, touch, or smell can trigger an allergic reaction.

**In order to prevent a life-threatening allergic reaction the following measures are being implemented at Washington Elementary School:**

- Students and staff are asked *voluntarily* **not to bring any food item into Washington Elementary that contains nuts, peanuts, peanut butter, tree nuts (almonds, Brazil nuts, cashews, chestnuts, hazelnuts, macadamia nuts, pecans, pine nuts, pistachios), or nut products.**
- Any food items that contain nuts, peanuts, peanut butter, tree nuts (almonds, Brazil nuts, cashews, chestnuts, hazelnuts, macadamia nuts, pecans, pine nuts, pistachios), or nut products should be opened and eaten in the common lunch areas (student lunchroom and teacher's lounge) only --- not in classrooms, hallways etc..
- Students and staff who eat nut, tree nut, or peanut products are reminded to wash their hands after eating /touching such items as the protein residue that causes the allergic reaction can be transferred to objects (stair rails, desktops, door handles) and allergic individuals can inadvertently place it into their eyes/mouth resulting in a life-threatening allergic reaction. (Use of hand sanitizer does not work for food allergies.)
- Emergency Care Plans are written for all students with a known severe allergic reaction history. School staff are trained how to respond quickly in the event of an allergic reaction.

If we can decrease the likelihood of exposure to nuts, tree nuts, and peanuts, then the less of a chance we will need to implement that emergency plan. As students, parents and staff, we are sure you share our desire to create as safe an environment as possible for our students.

## Washington School Calendar of Events



Sept. 19 thru Sept. 30	MAP testing - grades 2 thru 5
Tuesday, September 20	PTO Fundraiser forms distributed
Tuesday, September 27	PICTURE DAY Order forms will be sent home earlier
Tuesday, October 4	Late Start - Staff Development Day School starts at 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday, October 5	Fundraiser Orders Due
Tuesday, October 11	Music Concert Grades 2 thru 5 6:30 p.m. High School Auditorium
Tuesday, October 18	PTO Meeting 6:00 p.m. - Multipurpose Room
Friday, October 21	PTO Halloween Dance 6:00 - 7:00 In the gym - with parent/guardian
October 20 and 25	Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences & Book Fair 4:00 - 7:30 p.m.
October 27 and 28	Fall Break - No School

### **Safety Reminder . . . Center Street Morning Drop Off**

Students may be dropped off on the school side of Center Street. We urge parents not to park or wait on Center Street in the morning, as it causes too much congestion with safety hazards due to double parking, etc. However, you may park on Liberty or Gilmore Street. Please remember, adult **supervision begins at 8:15 a.m.** Please do not have children arrive before that time. In addition, there is no adult supervision on the playground after school (3:07). Thank you.