



Bulldog Bulletin

Washington School Parent Newsletter

Beaver Dam Unified School District

Learning for a Lifetime

February 6, 2012

ATTENDANCE: A Key to Your Student's Success

Schools are responsible for teaching your child, but schools can't do their job if your child is absent. Learning builds day by day. A child who misses a day of school misses a day of learning.

Research shows that children who are in school most of the time do better on state tests. Studies also show that kids who are absent more often score lower on state tests. Being late for school hurts a child's learning, too. **A student who is 10 minutes late every day will miss 30 hours of instruction during the year!** Children can copy notes or make up an assignment, but they can never get back what's most important: the discussions, the questions, the explanations by the teacher and the thinking that makes learning come alive.

Your child's success in school depends on having a solid educational background - one that can only be gained through regular school attendance!

Here's how you can help improve your child's school attendance

Make sure your child stays healthy by eating nutritious food.

Make sure your child has enough sleep - elementary students need 10 - 12 hours each night.

Don't accept excuses for why your child "must" miss or be late for school.

Discuss with your child what happened at school each day.

Show your child why education is important. Give specific examples of how education helps people succeed.

Lead by example. If children see parents taking off of work for no real reason, they may expect to be able to do the same thing.

Research shows that attendance is one of the most important factors in school success!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Hyke

Mrs. Hyke
Principal



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



READING NIGHT

Tuesday, February 21
6:00 - 7:00 p.m.



“The Land of Many Books”

Come one, come all to enjoy reading. The staff at Washington school have found some wonderful books for children to enjoy and share. All students need to be accompanied by an adult.

February and March Pillar: FAIRNESS

A Fair person:

- Listens and thinks about what others have to say.
- Treats people fairly.
- Shares.
- Follows the rules.

February and March Conflict Resolution theme is: **THE BOSS BULLY.**

Classroom instruction includes identifying a bully and ways to safely and effectively deal with bullying.



Lost and Found

The Washington School lost and found table is overflowing with coats, sweatshirts, hats, mittens, boots. The lost and found table is located in the second grade hallway near the library. Please stop or have your child look through the lost and found if any clothing is missing. At spring break time, any remaining items will be donated to charity.



“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.

Congratulations

Safety Patrols for the month of January

Dayton Koehler Hailee Jahnke



From the PTO

The family fun night at the YMCA was a success. The children had a lot of fun.

I would like to remind you of the on-going fundraisers. We have a new sorter for labels which is located in the 5th grade hallway. When you bring the labels you have been saving at home to school, deposit them into the proper slot on the sorter. We are collecting Box tops, Piggly Wiggly receipts, Labels for education, and Our Family labels. These are the 4 different items we are collecting at this time. The funds we raise from this are used to pay for the different events we do throughout the year.

Sandy Dray, PTO President



Playground Supervision

Washington School has playground supervision beginning at 8:15 each morning before school. We have had students arriving before that time. Please do not have your children arrive at school before 8:15.

School Counselor News Mrs. Vessey



This month in school counseling there are several activities happening. All students in kindergarten through grade five will be visited by a member of pupil services to learn about age-appropriate protective behaviors. After the presentation students will take home a parent letter to inform of the discussion that took place. Parents, please follow up by discussing protective behaviors with your child(ren).

Meanwhile, students in grades 3 and 4 have finished learning about their personality type, learning style, and multiple intelligences. Students in 5th grade are setting academic and personal or social goals and will revisit them in a few weeks to monitor the progress of those goals. All students in grades 3-5 have used and continue to use the WISCareers elementary website to explore careers, values, and skills. If you haven't been to this website before, check it out at wiscareers.wisc.edu.

Gifted and talented education (GATE) Advisory Parents

*Bridging the **GAP** between your student, the BDUSD staff, and you.*

Our mission: To educate, advocate, and support the students in the Gifted and Talented Education program, their parents, and the staff who work directly with them in the Beaver Dam Unified Schools.

GAP invites you to the following information nights. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend the following events.

******Please note the date change on the first event – this was previously scheduled for March 13th. ******

Support your child in their **Transition** to the next grade level/school. Come with questions and ready to learn!! The presenters will be counselors representing the three building levels in the BD district.

March 6, 2012	7-8 PM	Elementary: Middle School: High School:	Ellen Garner Jenny Addison Nate Wilke
May 8, 2012	7-8 PM	Michael Cornale – M. S. Ed., NCSP Family Achievement clinic	

High Potential – At Risk

“Gifted kids represent our greatest assets but may become our greatest risk. By parenting them and teaching them in a way that harmoniously matches who they are we are not only able to help them develop into who they can be but also support them as they go out into the world.” Michael Cornale

Events will be held at the: **Educational Service Center (ESC)** in the large conference room.
705 McKinley
Beaver Dam, WI

Contact Kathi Wiedenhoef
GATE Intervention Specialist
Beaver Dam Unified Schools
(920)885-7300 ext. 1156
wiedenhoefk@bdusd.org



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 Alert Pertussis

Pertussis or whooping cough is once again a concern for our local community. There have been cases reported in the Beaver Dam community and in students and staff. We would therefore ask parents to be on alert for symptoms of pertussis in your children and family members and encourage prompt medical evaluation for symptoms. We also encourage parents to make sure their school-age children are up-to-date on their immunizations, including pertussis. Both these measures will assist in limiting the spread of this disease in our community.

Unfortunately, the re-emerging threat of pertussis is in addition to the normal cold, influenza and gastro-intestinal viruses that are "going around". Because so many of the symptoms (cough, runny nose, nasal congestion, sore throat) are similar for these diseases it makes it very confusing.

Call your health care provider or seek medical treatment if your child has:

- A persistent cough for more than one week or produces discolored mucus
- Sore throat that keeps him or her from eating or drinking
- Signs of dehydration, like dry mouth and dark yellow urine
- Fever over 102.0 ° F for more than 2 days
- An earache
- Breathing difficulties
- Decreased alertness
- Seizures

Generally pertussis, influenza, or colds are not serious for healthy school-aged children, but complications can occur. Pertussis can be serious in children under 6 months of age and influenza can be serious for the very young and elderly. Therefore it is particularly important to prevent the spread of pertussis and influenza.

As always sick children should not be sent to school. We want to prevent the spread of these contagious illnesses.

If your health care provider suspects pertussis your child will be placed on antibiotics and asked to stay at home for 5 days. This is important to stop the spread of the infection.

If you have questions please contact your health care provider, Dodge County Public Health Department (386-3670), or one of us. Thank you for your diligence in helping to control the spread of infections both at school and the greater community.

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 and on www.wbevradio.com and 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.

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 sitio web del distrito y en www.wbevradio.com y 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.

Beaver Dam Unified School District

EVERY STUDENT · EVERY DAY · ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Open Enrollment

Application Dates
February 6-24, 2012
Application Deadline:
February 24, 2012
no later than 4:00 p.m.

The Wisconsin Open Enrollment Program allows parents to apply for their children to attend school in another school district. Families who might be moving out of the Beaver Dam Unified School District and wish for their children to continue attending in the district, need to complete an open enrollment application for each child.

Apply online through the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction website at <http://dpi.wi.gov/sms/psctoc.html>

Paper applications are also available.

For more information or to request a paper application, contact Mary Posthuma at (920) 885-7470, ext. 1114 or posthumam@bdusd.org or visit our website at www.beaverdam.k12.wi.us.

NOTE

This is not the same procedure as applying for an In-district Elementary School Attendance Waiver. These forms are due in May.

Beaver Dam Unified School District

Friend of Education Nominations

Do you know an individual or organization who has made an outstanding contribution to the students of the Beaver Dam Unified School District? Nominate them for a *Friend of Education* award.

Each year, the Wall of Fame Committee honors up to 5 *Friends of Education* at the Wall of Fame Banquet. The district also displays plaques listing each year's *Friends of Education* on the Wall of Fame display at the High School.

Nomination forms are available at:

- ◆ School Offices
- ◆ Educational Service Center
- ◆ Beaver Dam Chamber of Commerce
- ◆ Beaver Dam Public Library
- ◆ Beaver Dam Piggly Wiggly
- ◆ Rehek's Food Pride
- ◆ District Website: www.beaverdam.k12.wi.us

Nomination Deadline

All nominations must be received by mail or delivery no later than

February 10, 2012 to
Beaver Dam Unified School District
Wall of Fame
705 McKinley Street
Beaver Dam, WI 53916

Nominations for *Outstanding Alumni* are also being accepted. Nominees must be a graduate of the Beaver Dam Unified School District who has made an outstanding contribution to society, displayed outstanding leadership, is a person of historical significance, or has been a prominent local, state, national and/or world figure.

For more information or to request a nomination form, please contact:

Mary Posthuma at
(920) 885-7470, ext. 1114 or
posthumam@bdusd.org
or visit our website:
www.beaverdam.k12.wi.us

The Beaver Dam Unified School District will honor the Year 2012 Wall of Fame recipients at the Sixteenth Annual Wall of Fame Banquet in April.



Nurses Notes

Louise Wilson RN, BSN, MS, NCSN
Health Service Supervisor

Adolescent Prescription Drug Abuse

This February, Beaver Dam community members will be hearing a lot of information about the abuse of prescription drugs. That's because several organizations, including the BDUSD, have come together to alert the community to the increasing danger of prescription drug abuse, particularly in adolescents.

Although we often hear about young people abusing "street" drugs, such as marijuana and methamphetamine, prescription medicines have become the second most frequently abused type of drug among 12- to 17-year-olds (2002 National Survey on Drug Use and Health). In fact, most teens (56 percent, or 13.4 million) find that prescription medicines are easier to get than illegal drugs (www.family.samhsa.gov).

Abuse of prescription drugs covers a wide variety of medications. The prescription drugs most abused by teens are "opioid" pain relievers such as Darvon®, Dilaudid®, OxyContin®, Vicodin®, and products containing codeine or morphine. Teen abuse of prescription drugs also includes sedatives, tranquilizers, and stimulants such as Ritalin®, Concerta®, and Adderall®, which are known for treating attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

A False Sense of Security

Because prescription drugs have been tested and are prescribed by doctors, adolescents may see no harm in using them—even if the medication was prescribed for someone else. Taken by the right person, at the right time, and in the right amount, prescription drugs are generally safe. Yet, like other forms of substance abuse, misuse of prescription drugs is risky. Abuse of pain relievers and drugs used to treat anxiety and sleep disorders can lead to dependence and addiction. In fact, abusing prescription pain relievers can be "as dangerous-and addictive-as using street narcotics and other illicit drugs" (National Institute on Drug Abuse).

High doses of stimulants, used to treat conditions such as ADHD and obesity, can cause high body temperatures and irregular heartbeat, paranoia, and hostility. In addition, teens may increase the risk by "pharming" mixing prescription drugs—or combining them with alcohol or illegal drugs.

Be Alert

To help prevent prescription drug abuse in your home, monitor your child. You can store prescription drugs where teens cannot get them, watch for missing drugs, keep an eye out for drugs in a teen's possession, and look for physical signs of use. Prescription drugs are amazingly easy to buy on the Internet, so look at the history of Web sites your teen has visited and check credit card receipts.

Set an Example

Still, there is more to prevention than being watchful. Youth take cues from their parents. So, set a good example in your approach to prescription drugs:

- Only use medications when necessary. Being quick to seek prescriptions and to constantly reach for the medicine cabinet can give kids the idea that there's a "pill for every ill."

- Consider non-drug measures such as exercise, relaxation, meditation, or massage for relief of minor pain or other situations when prescription drugs are not vital to your health. Tell your kids about these options and when they apply.
- Show caution in taking prescription drugs or giving them to family members. Openly read instructions regarding prescribed doses, time between doses, and the need to avoid substances such as alcohol and certain other medications or foods when taking a prescription.
- Keep medicine containers closed and out of the reach of young children and pets.
- Ensure safety. Check labels about what not to do—for example, driving, using machinery, or climbing ladders when taking prescription drugs—and enforce these safeguards with family members.
- Be consistent. Making exceptions because you're too stressed out, uncomfortable, or in a hurry undermines your stance on prescription drugs.
- Start early. Reinforcing a message of caution and restraint before your child reaches adolescence can build a solid foundation for resisting temptations and outside influences (<http://family.samhsa.gov/be/prescriptionharm.aspx?printid=1&:>).

While most teens do not abuse prescription drugs, the rapid growth of the problem shows that parents need to pay attention. Stay alert, set a good example, and talk to your child about the dangers of abusing prescription drugs.

Conversation Starters

1. Why do some people gulp down something without knowing if it's bad for them?
2. Do you think medications can do harm?
3. What does "illegal drug" mean to you?

Proper Disposal of Unused Prescription Medication

1. DO NOT flush unused medication down the toilet! It contaminates the water supply. Instead: Take advantage of community pharmaceutical take-back programs that allow the public to bring unused drugs to a central location for proper disposal.*
2. Mix prescription drugs with an undesirable substance, such as used coffee grounds or kitty litter, and put them in containers, such as empty cans or sealable bags, to make sure the drugs aren't found and abused by someone else.

Sources:

http://www.theantidrug.com/drug_info/prescription_drugs.asp

National Institute on Drug Abuse

Parents. The Anti-Drug. [What's Driving Teens to Abuse Prescription Drugs?](http://www.family.samhsa.gov)

www.family.samhsa.gov

Beaver Dam Unified School District

Student Services Department

705 McKinley Street

Phone (920) 885-7470

Beaver Dam, WI 53916

Special Education
Psychological Services
Social Work Services

Nursing Services
Federal Programs
Counseling Services

February 2012

Dear Parents,

During the months of February and March, a member of your school's Student Services team will be talking to each of the K-5 classrooms about personal safety and protective behaviors. We wanted to make you aware of it, so you can help answer any questions your child may have and continue the discussion at home.

These lessons are part of the district's personal safety curriculum and include topics in physical and sexual abuse, strangers, safety, networking, appropriate and inappropriate touches, and other related topics. The topics and presentation is adapted to the age of the children. The overall goal of this unit is to recognize and deal with potentially dangerous situations. It encourages open communication with one's family and emphasizes family safety rules.

These lessons will also stress to students the importance of learning/knowing certain information about themselves. In the event of an emergency situation, it would be very important for a child to know such information as their phone number, address, etc.

We will be discussing the importance of knowing this information, appropriate times to share this information, and how it helps them be more responsible for themselves.

Together, we can help your children learn protective behaviors to help keep them safe. If you have any questions, or if you would like more information on this topic, please feel free to call your child's school and ask for a member of the Student Services team to contact you.

Departamento de Servicios de Estudiantes

Educacion Especial
Servicios Psicologicos
Trabajo de Servicios Sociales

Profesion de Enfermera
Programas Federales
Servicios de Consejos

Febrero 2012

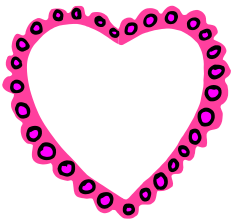
Queridos Padres,

Durante los meses de febrero y marzo, un miembro de los servicios de estudiantes va a hablar en las clases de K-5 sobre seguridad personal y comportamiento protector. Queremos que usted este informado sobre ello para que de esta manera poder responder a cualquier otra pregunta que su niño tenga y continúe la conversación en casa.

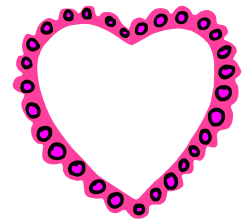
Esta lección es parte del currículo de la seguridad personal e incluye temas de abuso físico y sexuales, personas desconocidas, seguridad, networking, cuando tocan apropiadamente o desapropiadamente y otros temas relacionados con lo mismo. Los temas serán adaptados según la edad de los niños. En general la meta de esta unidad es reconocer y tratar los peligros potenciales. Anima a tener una comunicación abierta con la familia y enfatiza las reglas familiares.

En esta lección acentuamos a los estudiantes la importancia de aprender/saber cierta información sobre ellos mismos. En caso de emergencia, seria muy importante que el niño supiera estas informaciones como el número de teléfono, dirección, etc. Nosotros hablaremos sobre la importancia de conocer esta información, momentos apropiado para compartir esta información y ayudarles a como ser más responsables.

Juntos, podemos ayudar a sus niños a aprender comportamientos de protección para su seguridad. Si tiene alguna pregunta o si le gustaría tener más información en este tema, por favor llama a la escuela de su hijo/a y habla con una persona de los servicios para estudiantes.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Monday, February 6	Parade of Bands - 7:30 p.m.- High School North Gym
Tuesday, February 7	P.T.O. Meeting 6:00 p.m. Multipurpose room - childcare provided
Wednesday, February 8	Parent Teacher Conference letters due back
Friday, February 10	Katie McKy - Writer/Speaker K-5
Tuesday, February 14	Valentine's Day - Classroom parties 2:30 p.m.
Wednesday, February 15	Kindergarten Registration: 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.
Thursday, February 16	String Fling - 7:00 p.m. High School South Gym
Thursday, February 16	Kindergarten Registration: 9:00 a.m.– 6:00 p.m.
Friday, February 17	Kindergarten Registration: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday, February 21	Reading Night 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Friday, February 24	NO SCHOOL
Monday, February 27	Parent Teacher Conference appointments sent home
Tuesday, March 6	P.T. O. Meeting 6:00 p.m. Multipurpose room - childcare provided
Thursday, March 8	LATE START- School begins at 10:30 Parent Teacher Conferences 4:00 - 7:30 p.m. Book Fair
Tuesday, March 13	Parent Teacher Conferences 4:00 - 7:30 p.m. Book Fair
Thursday, March 15	P.T.O. Sponsored Bounce House
Friday, March 16	Opera for the Young—1:30 p.m. Hansel & Gretel
March 19 thru March 23	Spring Break