



Bulldog Bulletin

Washington School Parent Newsletter

Beaver Dam Unified School District

Learning for a Lifetime

November 2, 2011

Dear Parents,

In light of the many incidents of bullying across our nation that have resulted in the loss of precious life, I felt compelled to include this article.

“What parents can do about childhood bullying.”

An expert explains how to determine if your child is a bully or a victim — and how to take appropriate, effective action!

By Marlene Snyder, Ph.D.—

“If you're a parent concerned about bullying, it's important to recognize the signs that a child is a bully, as well as the signs of one who is being victimized. This is especially true if your child has a learning disability (LD) or Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (AD/HD), conditions which make kids more vulnerable to bullying.

Being alert and observant is critical, since victims are often reluctant to report bullying. Many victims don't report it to their parents or teachers because they're embarrassed or humiliated by the bullying. They may assume that adults will accuse them of tattling or will tell them to deal with it themselves. Some victims believe there is nothing adults can do to get the bully to stop. Naturally, bullies don't discuss their misdeeds with their parents or teachers. If their bullying behavior is reported and their parents confront them, bullies usually deny their involvement.

The victim: signs and symptoms

A child who is a victim of bullying may display one or more of the following behaviors at home*:

- Comes home from school with clothing that's torn or in disarray, or with damaged books.
- Has bruises, cuts, and scratches, but can't give a logical explanation for how he got them.
- Appears afraid or reluctant to go to school in the morning, complaining repeatedly of headaches or stomach pains.
- Chooses an “illogical” route for going to and from school.
- Has bad dreams or cries in his sleep.
- Loses interest in school work, and his grades suffer. If your child normally struggles in school because of a learning disability and is teased about having LD, school may become unbearable for him.
- Appears sad or depressed, or shows unexpected mood shifts, irritability, and sudden outbursts of temper.
- Requests money from you to meet the bully's demands and might even resort to stealing money from you or other family members.
- Seems socially isolated, with few—if any—real friends; is rarely invited to parties or to the homes of other kids. His fear of rejection may lead him to shun others.

The bully: signs and symptoms

A youngster who is bullying other kids may display one or more of the following behaviors at home*:

- Has a strong need to dominate and subdue others; asserts himself with power and threats to get his own way.
- Intimidates his siblings or kids in the neighborhood.
- Brags about his actual or imagined superiority over other kids.
- Is hot-tempered, easily angered, impulsive, and has low frustration tolerance. Has difficulty conforming to rules and tolerating adversities and delays. If he has the impulsive/hyperactive type of AD/HD, that could explain some of these behaviors; if so, it's important to work with his doctor and teachers to address and manage such behaviors.
- Cheating.
- Oppositional, defiant, and aggressive behavior toward adults, including teachers and parents.
- Antisocial or criminal behavior (such as stealing or vandalism), often at a relatively early age. He may hang out with the "wrong crowd."

*Adapted from *Bullying at School*

What can parents of the victim do?

If you know or suspect your child is being bullied, but his school hasn't communicated with you about the situation, you should contact your child's teacher(s) right away. Keep in mind that your primary goal should be to get the school's cooperation to get the bullying to stop.

Knowing your own child is being victimized can evoke strong feelings, but you'll get much more cooperation from school personnel if you can stick to the facts without becoming overly emotional. While you may want assurance that everyone involved is punished severely, try to focus on putting an end to the bullying!"

If you feel your child is a bully or has been the victim of a bully, you need to call your child's teacher or myself so we can work together to remedy the situation.

Sincerely,

Martha Hyke

Martha Hyke
Principal



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



CONGRATULATIONS

Safety Patrols for the Month of October:

Sam Westfall

Kieana Bednarek

November Character Education Pillar is RESPECT

November Conflict Resolution Lesson

Students are learning how to express their feelings if they feel angry by using an I-Message. The I-message gives students an assertive way to let others know that their behavior is a problem without blaming or hurting someone. Here are two examples: “I feel upset when you make noises, because then I can’t think” and “It makes me feel sad when you don’t let me play with you.” Conflict resolution and character education lessons are taught in all grades each month.

Emergency Contact Information

It is extremely important for us to have local emergency contact phone numbers in the event a parent cannot be reached when a child is ill or injured. An emergency number will be critical during those types of situations when we are unable to reach parents. If you need to change your contact information, please call the office at 885-7376

Cold Returns

As our weather turns colder, we want to remind parents to please send children with jackets, hats and mittens. Boots are also needed to play on the snow-covered field. In addition, snow pants must be worn when children want to play in the snow. Students go outdoors for recess each day for fresh air and play unless the temperature is below zero or the wind chill is negative 10 degrees.



Lost and Found Items

There are many clothing items on our “Lost and Found” table waiting for their owners to claim them.

Emergency Weather Information

The best way for families to keep informed about weather related school closings, late starts, or early dismissals is to listen to one of the local radio stations, WBEV (1430 AM) or WXRO (95.3 FM). The first announcements start by 6:00 a.m. You may hear that school will begin at the normal time, be cancelled or start two hours late.

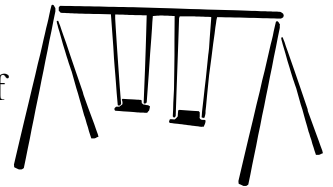
On delayed-start weather days, Washington School will begin at 10:30 a.m. The delayed start for all schools will be two hours later than usual, so start times vary by building. Bad weather may also result in an early dismissal and will be announced on the radio. **Please discuss childcare arrangements in advance** for these bad weather days, so that your child has a safe plan and our phone lines remain free for emergency calls.

NOTE: Breakfast will not be served on late start days.



Reminders

Playground supervision begins each morning at 8:15. For the safety of our students, please do not have them arrive before 8:15.



Please remember that dogs are not allowed on the school grounds, unless they are a R.E.A.D. dog. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Lunch Menus

School lunch menus are posted on our district website for your viewing convenience.



Parent - Teacher Conferences

The staff of Washington School extends a huge THANK YOU to the parents who demonstrated their belief in education and commitment to their child's education by attending Parent-Teacher Conferences in October. We had a very large percentage of parents attend conferences.

Parents are always encouraged to ask questions and keep communication open with the classroom teacher. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher if you have something you wish to discuss.

Thank You P.T.O.

The staff at Washington School would like to thank the PTO for the delicious food and snacks provided on Parent Teacher Conference nights.



From the PTO

Some parents have asked what does the PTO do? The PTO organizes a fall and spring fundraiser, the book fair, the collection of box tops for education, labels for education, Beaver Dam Piggly Wiggly receipts, and Our Family labels.

With the profits from these fundraisers the PTO does many things for Washington School. One of the favorites of the children has been the bounce houses. With the proceed from the book fair we provide books for the student's birthdays as well as Bull Dog Pride Awards. In the near future we will be adding tether balls to the playground, just to list a few. If you would like to receive emails keeping you up to date on the activities of the PTO please email me at drayd1987@my.uwstout.edu or better yet, come to one of our upcoming meetings. We will be meeting on Nov. 8th and Dec. 13th in the multi-purpose room at 6:00 PM. Babysitting is provided.

Sandy Dray
PTO President





Congratulations

Congratulations to the Beaver Dam Unified School District elementary students that placed 1st- 3rd in our "It's up to ME to be drug free" take home poster contest in honor of Red Ribbon Week, October 23 – 31, 2011. The winning entries can be viewed on the district website (Home/ Recent News or

<http://www.beaverdam.k12.wi.us/district/drugfreemessages.cfm>).

Red Ribbon Week is the largest, most visible prevention awareness campaign observed annually in the United States. Millions of people come together to take a stand for the hopes and dreams of our children through a commitment to drug prevention and education.

The student's drug free messages were distributed throughout the community with the support of Piggly Wiggly, Recheks Food Pride, and Walgreens.

Together, we can make a difference!



"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.



School Counselor News Mrs. Vessey

In October third graders completed a multiple intelligences assessment and learned about the many ways that they are smart. Fourth graders completed a personality assessment. Through completion of this activity, fourth graders learned more about themselves as well as about others who share similar personality traits.

In November third graders will be discovering their learning styles through a short assessment, and fourth graders will do some work on WISCareers identifying their favorite subjects, people, and careers.

WASHINGTON SCHOOL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 1 thru November 23	WKCE Testing Dates Grades 3 - 5
Thursday, November 3	Picture retake day
Tuesday, November 8	Fundraiser pick up - 2:30 - 5:00 in gym
Tuesday, November 8	P.T.O. Meeting - 6:00 p.m. Multipurpose room - Babysitting provided
Tuesday, November 22	Elementary Band and Orchestra Concert 6:30 p.m. High School Auditorium
Thursday & Friday November 24 & 25	Thanksgiving Break - NO SCHOOL
Tuesday, December 6	LATE START for Staff Development School starts at 10:30 A.M. NO Breakfast served
Wednesday, December 7	Coffee Break Session 7:30 - 8:30 a.m. Ms. Hyke's office
Tuesday, December 13	P.T.O. Meeting - 6:00 p.m. Multipurpose room - Babysitting provided
Friday, December 16	Kindergarten & Grade 1 Concert Multipurpose Room 2:00
December. 23 - January 1	Winter Break - No School
Monday, January 2	School resumes

