



# Bulldog Bulletin

## Washington School Parent Newsletter

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### Beaver Dam Unified School District

*Learning for a Lifetime*

October 6, 2011

Dear Parents of Grade 3, 4, and 5 students,

Throughout the academic year, your child will be involved with many forms of assessment. The W.K.C.E. exam is one of the assessments that students in grades 3, 4 and 5 participate in.

Our students will be taking the W.K.C.E. exam from October 24 through November 25. I have included a brief overview of the exam for your information. This description was written by the Department of Public Instruction.

“The Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examination (WKCE) is customized to measure the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards (WMAS) and is developed and designed by the Department of Public Instruction and Wisconsin educators in conjunction with CTB/McGraw-Hill. This standardized test is composed of items specifically designed for Wisconsin and a few commercially developed questions used in schools across the country. Students in grades 3, 5, 6, and 7 take tests in Reading and Mathematics. Students in grades 4, 8, and 10 take tests in Reading, Mathematics, Science, Language Arts, Writing, and Social Studies. WKCE is administered to all the students enrolled in Wisconsin public schools during the fall of each school year.

The purpose of the WKCE is to provide information about student attainment of subject-area proficiency to students, parents, and teachers, information to support curriculum and instructional planning; and a measure of accountability for schools and districts. The results of the WKCE are used by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) as an accountability measure for school improvement to meet its statutory requirement of identifying low-performing schools as stipulated by Wisconsin s. 115.38(4), meet the federal Title I (NCLB) requirement to determine how well children are learning, and determine the extent to which schools and districts across the state are meeting the Wisconsin proficiency standards.”

If you have specific questions about the WKCE assessment feel free to call your child’s teacher directly or me at 920-885-7376. In addition I have included a list of ideas and strategies that will help your child perform well on the assessments they take during the year.

Sincerely,

*Martha Hyke*

Martha Hyke  
Principal

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

## **Preparing for Assessments**

To help children prepare adequately for tests (whether teacher made or standardized), you can do several things to provide support and create a positive test taking experience for your child.

1. The best way to do well is to keep up on daily lessons and assignments.
2. If your child is nervous at test time, ask the school for tips on helping your child relax.
3. Make sure your child is in school during the testing sessions. If possible do not plan doctor or dental appointments on test days.
4. If there are major differences between standardized test scores and school grades, find out why.
5. Encourage your child to study over time.
6. Encourage your child to listen carefully to all test-taking directions given by the teacher and to ask questions about any directions that are unclear.
7. See that your child gets his/her regular amount of sleep before the tests and is well-rested.
8. Make sure that your child eats his/her usual breakfast on the day of the test. Hunger can detract from a good test performance.
9. Encourage your child to do his/her best.

## **Character Education for October is: RESPONSIBILITY**

### **Responsibility**

- Do your best.
- Accept your role as a student.
- Use self-control.
- Think about consequences before you act.
- Accept consequences of what you do.

### **Reminder**

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.

### **Second Address**

Parents who wish to have Progress Reports and Newsletter sent to a second address, should contact our office at 885-7376. We update our list each school year.

### **Playground Supervision**

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

### **After School**

If you come to pick your child up after school, please make arrangements where to meet outside.

## **From The PTO**

The book fair will be held during Parent Teacher Conferences on Oct. 20th and Oct. 25th from 3 pm until 8 pm in the gym.



A Halloween Dance will be on Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> from 6 pm until 7 pm in the gym. Watch for further details.

Please be aware there is a Classroom Wish List in the 5th grade hall. Listed are items your child's teachers could use throughout the school year. Please feel free to donate any of these items at anytime. Keep in mind this is a "wish list" and not a required supply list. If you would like to donate simply pick a slip of paper with the item/s to purchase and send it with your child to their classroom.

Our next meeting is Tuesday Oct. 18th at 6:00 pm in the multi-purpose room. Babysitting will be provided.

Sandy Dray  
PTO President



## **Fund Raiser Pick-up**

The PTO Fundraiser pick up will be Tuesday, November 8 from 2:30 - 5:00 p.m. in the gym.



## **September Safety Patrols of the Month:**

**Alyssa Van Loo**

**Tristan MacDonald**

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**Marisa Boehler  
Bethany Roth  
Taylor Faulk  
Amelia Beyer  
Sydney Hocker  
Nora Bushey**

**Paige Schumann  
Emily Brooks  
Hailee Jahnke  
Luke Tschumperlin  
Abby Kiesow  
Kailey Brault**

**Maddie Born  
Alyssa Heim  
Kieana Bednarek  
Cassandra Brault  
Braeden Bowman  
Grace Madeiros**



## School Counselor News Mrs. Vessey

We are pleased to begin the third year of our school counseling model at the elementary level. Last year we celebrated the success of completing individual planning conferences with fifth grade students and their parents. Comments from parents and students indicated that the conferences were valuable as a tool for career exploration and self-awareness. Additionally, fourth graders registered at WISCareers and explored their strengths and challenges related to career exploration.

This year we begin to include third graders in the career awareness process. We will be completing classroom lessons about their learning styles and multiple intelligences.

We look forward to working with students in grades three, four, and five this school year!

### “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.



Red Ribbon Week serves as a vehicle for communities and individuals to take a stand for the hopes and dreams of our children through a commitment to drug prevention, education, and a personal commitment to live drug free lives.

### **Mark your calendars!**

#### ***Elementary Activities:***

**Friday, 10/14** - Take home poster contest entries due. Details will be provided to the students in art class. Winning posters will be distributed throughout the community.

**Monday, 10/24** – “Sock it to drugs” – wear mismatched or crazy socks.

**Tuesday, 10/25** – “Better things to do than drugs” – wear your favorite sport/activity.

**Wednesday, 10/26** – “I believe in ME to be drug free” – wear red.

## Message from Music Department

### How Do I Practice?

This is a question that many times is left unanswered. Band directors and parents are constantly telling students to practice, but how, when and where are questions that are often left unanswered. The single most important part of your child's success in band (or any activity, for that matter) is their practice. All kids will have differing levels of ability, but those that have a regular practice routine usually find themselves passing up those who do not. A popular sports slogan applies here: "Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard."

After the initial excitement of their first lessons wears off, the drive to practice often wears off as well. Children at this age sometimes don't want to practice—you may need to remind and encourage them. I recommend 15-20 minutes of focused practice 5 days per week. If they stick to this schedule, they will be amazed at their progress.

#### Where and when to practice?

It is best to practice in a quiet room without distractions (TV, radio, siblings). Students should have a straight-backed chair and a wire music stand. Wire music stands are inexpensive and available at all music stores. Setting up a regular time for practice is best, although with today's hectic schedules, that is not always possible. I tell them that it is best to do it as soon as possible after school. It is also important to break their practice up into small (15-20 minute) blocks of time. I have had students come in for a lesson and say "I forgot to practice all week, so I practiced for three hours last night!" An impressive amount of practice time yes, but students often lose focus after 20-30 minutes.

#### How Do I Practice?

Younger students are often unsure of how to practice. Parents want to know if their child is practicing correctly. Students need to divide their practice time between familiar pieces that they like and know (fun) and the pieces that they haven't learned yet (work). The difficult part is learning to practice the new, more challenging music correctly.

I ask students to use three basic guidelines when they are trying to learn a new piece of music.

**Small Chunks--** Work on new music in smaller sections—one or two measures at a time. I use the old joke—"How do you eat a whale? One bite at a time." Breaking it up into smaller parts helps musicians focus. Practice the first two measures. Then the next two. Then play all four together.

**Say it and finger it--** Before students play each section, they should be able to slowly say the notes as they press the keys on their instrument. For example—Mary Had a Little Lamb would be E, D, C, D, EEE, DDD, EGG. By doing this, they are learning to connect the written note to its name and its fingering.

**Repetition**—Of the three, this is probably the most important. Repetition is essential regardless of the activity. Baseball players repeat their swing over and over to perfect it. Dancers repeat certain steps to ensure that they do it right during a performance. Actors repeat lines in their heads to help with memorization. Band students should find the spots in each piece that are difficult and repeat them until they become easier. Begin slowly at a tempo (speed) that they can play it and gradually speed up.

Once students begin to see the results of their practice, you will often find that they become motivated to keep practicing. Your interest and support can also help to motivate them. Ask them to play songs for you regularly. Have them teach you how to play a few notes. Listen to musical performances together. If you have internet access, YouTube is a great resource for band students. Just type their instrument into the search box and you will find many performances. If you are excited about their progress, they will become excited as well.

If you have any questions regarding practicing or any other band-related subject, please do not hesitate to contact me. My goal is to help all students learn to play and enjoy music.

# 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 would like to invite you to the following information nights this school year. Mark you calendar now and plan to attend the following events.

## **2011 – 2012 Calendar of Parent Information Events**

Location: Educational Service Center  
Large conference room  
7-8 PM

**October 11, 2011** Middle School Principal: Tonya Broyles-Brouillard

### **Standards Based Grading**

High School Principal: Mark DiStefano

### **Update on Courses offered and Accelerated Math Progression**

**January 10, 2012** Director of Student Services: Brian Rabe

### **Serving High Ability Students in an RtI Model (Response to Intervention):**

Director of Teaching and Learning: Sandra Garbowicz

### **Update on Teaching and Learning in the BD Schools**

**March 13, 2012** Counselors:  
Elementary: Ellen Garner  
Middle School: Jenny Addison  
High School: Nate Wilke

### **Transitions**

**May 8, 2012** Michael Cornale – M. S. Ed., NCSP Family Achievement clinic  
**High Potential – At Risk**

For more information contact:

Kathi Wiedenhoef  
GATE Intervention Specialist  
Beaver Dam Unified School District  
[wiedenhoefk@bdusd.org](mailto:wiedenhoefk@bdusd.org)  
(920)885-7300 x1156

## Human Growth and Development Library Resources

The State of Wisconsin encourages all school districts to provide students in grades kindergarten to 12 with human growth and development (HG&D) instruction. The purpose is “to promote accurate and comprehensive knowledge in this area and responsible decision making and to support and enhance the efforts on parents to provide moral guidance to their children.” (Wisconsin Statute 118.019)

In the Beaver Dam Unified School District, Human Growth and Development curriculum is emphasized at the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade levels. Each year parents of students in grade 4 receive a copy of the district’s Human Growth and Development Mission Statement and Guidelines. Prior to the beginning of the unit, parents of students in grade 4 and 5 receive notice of the HG&D curriculum used in their child’s grades. Parents are invited to pre-view all instructional materials before classroom presentations.

The Beaver Dam Unified School District has additional and supplemental resources for both students and parents in each of the school libraries. The book *What’s the Big Secret? Talking about Sex with Girls and Boys* by Laurie Krasny Brown, illustrated by Marc Brown is available to all students.

The following books are available to fourth and fifth grade students and may be checked out by younger students with parental permission. These include: *Changes in You and Me, a Book About Puberty, Mostly for Boys* by Paulette Bourgeois and Martin Wolfish, MD; *Changes in You and Me, a Book About Puberty, Mostly for Girls* by Paulette Bourgeois and Martin Wolfish, MD; and *Love and Sex and Growing Up* by Eric W. Johnson.

Other highly reviewed resources include: *The What’s Happening to My Body? Book for Boys* by Lynda Madaras with Dane Saaverda; *The What’s Happening To My Body? Book for Girls* by Lynda Madaras with Area Madaras; and *It’s Not the Stork! A Book About Girls, Boys, Babies, Bodies, Families, and Friends* by Robie H. Harris. These are available for student checkout with parental permission.

Parents are encouraged to utilize any of the district’s resources. Parents may check out materials for their own information or to be utilized and shared with their children at home. If parents have questions regarding the Human Growth and Development curriculum please contact your child’s teacher, school nurse and/or Louise Wilson, elementary health coordinator.

WASHINGTON SCHOOL  
CALENDAR OF EVENTS



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 Babysitting provided
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 24 - 26	Red Ribbon Week
October 24 through Nov. 23	W.K.C.E. Testing Window Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam
Wednesday, October 26	Classroom Fall Fest - 2:45 p.m.
October 27 and 28	Fall Break - No School
Tuesday, November 8	Fundraiser pick up 2:30 - 5:00 p.m. in gym

