

Bethke Elementary



Honoring All Learners

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Bethke Elementary

March 2016

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Bethke's Bobcat Facts
Address: 5100 School House Dr.
Timnath, CO 80547
Phone: 970-488-4300
Fax: 970-488-4302
Attendance: 970-488-4301
Principal: Ann Alfonso
aalfonso@psdschools.org
www.BethkeElementary.com

Wow, February has flown by as our kids have been busy learning and doing amazing work! Our trimester ends before spring break so report cards will be sent home the Friday after break. As our kids have been busy learning and preparing projects to share at our Spring Showcase, we continue to encourage our healthy lifestyles with our wellness activities. Our 4K will be March 21 so get your running shoes ready! Kids who have run in all four events will earn a special prize from Mrs. Keyworth. Remember to turn in your push up counts and Schools on the Move logs. Kids who have completed 2016 pushups have their names on the wall by the gym. Way to go!

On our collaboration day February 15, our staff spent time aligning our work in writing by working across grade levels sharing student work and developing common agreements and language for writing instruction. We believe this aligned, consistent approach benefits students who progress through our school year after year.

In March, our accountability committee will be analyzing our enrollment projections and draft budget from the district in order to create a plan for our staffing and budget in 2016-2017. With our growth, there are many factors to consider to ensure our building maintains the high quality education we currently provide. I would welcome your feedback on next steps as I begin to plan for the growth that continues here at Bethke.

Thank you for your feedback on the parent surveys. We really appreciate your thoughts as we reflect on our year together. I do want to note each specials teacher provides updates on what's been happening in class in this monthly newsletter in order to communicate to you what they are doing in class. If you would like to know more specific feedback on how your child is doing in class, please feel free to reach out to them. They would be happy to share progress. Our current report card is not conducive to reporting out more than a grade but our specials teachers would love to share how kids are doing in class!

Good luck this month to our teams competing in the Odyssey of the Mind competition. I know all of our teams have worked hard to prepare. A special thank you to the parents and volunteers for all of their work with each team! Go bobcats!

This month our very own Landon Ball will also be competing in the Colorado State Spelling Bee representing Bethke. Good luck Landon! We are so proud of you!!

Thanks to our volunteers and families at home who support us each day. We value your partnership as we honor all learners.

Ann Alfonso
Principal

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PTO News

March is here and that means spring is just around the corner. With just a couple of months left in the school year we are busy finishing up PTO business and preparing for next year. It's never too late to get involved. There are still opportunities to volunteer in the classroom or at the book fair. To those who have already been so gracious with their time, we thank you!

Thanks to your donations the pledge has hit \$20,750! We could not have achieved our goal of \$20,000 without the generosity of so many Bethke families. Over the next several months the pledge will help fund upcoming field trips like 5th grade Eco Week and events like the spring social. Please keep an eye out for tax letters which you should be receiving in the coming weeks.

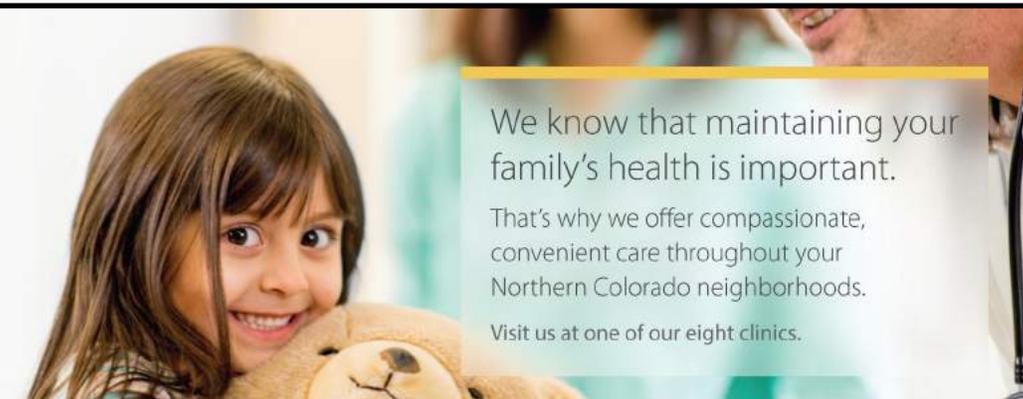
Are you organized? A good writer? Are you able to coordinate people? We are currently accepting nominees for the PTO Board for next school year. Open positions include President, Vice President, and Secretary. Nomination forms and job descriptions can be found on the PTO website (www.bethkepto.weebly.com). Elections will take place at the April 27th PTO meeting. Please take a moment and consider stepping up for one of these positions. If you have any questions, please check out the PTO website or contact any current board member.

Save the date! The spring book fair is April 25th through April 29th. Our spring social, the Bethke Spring Showcase, will be April 29th. This is a wonderful opportunity to see all of our student's hard work. More details on both of these events will follow in the next several weeks.

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PTO News continued..

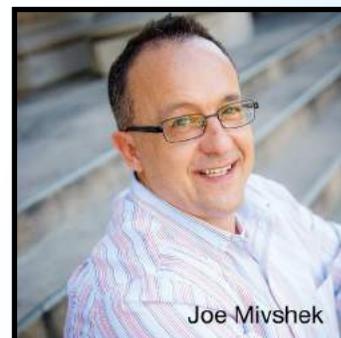
The staff appreciation committee has been busy. In February, 2nd grade families provided pasta, garlic bread and salad luncheon for teachers and staff to enjoy. This month 1st grade families will host a potato bar in celebration of St. Patrick's Day. Thanks to Jenn Meier, her committee, and our Bethke families who provide food and help during these luncheons.

Keep using those King Soopers cards! Don't have one? It's not too late to pick one up from the front office. You can do all your shopping while supporting your Bethke Bobcats. Five percent of all your purchases come back to Bethke. It's good on fuel purchases, too.

Thank you to all of those who showed up to our PTO meeting on February 18th. In addition to budget and committee updates, Principal Alfonso talked to us about planning for the 2016-2017 school year and CMAS testing. The meeting minutes can be found on the PTO website.

Our next PTO meeting is scheduled for April 27th at 6:30 pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

Dawn Lang
PTO Secretary



Joe Mivshek

kw
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Counselor's Corner

In my classroom lessons in January and February, we worked on the 3 R's of Bully-Prevention: RECOGNIZE, REPORT, REFUSE

Recognize: Bullying is when someone keeps being mean to someone else on purpose and that person hasn't been able to get it to stop. Bullying is unfair and one-sided. Bullying is different from conflict. Conflict is a disagreement in which both people have equal power to solve the problem.

Report: Whenever bullying is happening to you or someone else, you need to report it to a caring adult. If you report bullying to someone and it doesn't help, you need to find someone who listens and does help stop the bullying. Reporting bullying is not tattling. Tattling is trying to get someone in trouble. Reporting means telling an adult in order to keep people safe.

Refuse: In addition to reporting, you can help stop bullying by assertively saying words that mean no. Face the person you're talking to, keep your head up and your shoulders back, and say in a strong, respectful voice: "Stop it. That's bullying." You can also refuse to bully. You can make the choice not to be hurtful or mean to someone else. Before you do something you think might be mean, stop and think about how it might make others feel.

Don't hesitate to call or email if your child could benefit from counseling support: cmcphail@psdschools.org, 488-4319

Christie McPhail
Bethke Counselor



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Some vehicles prototypes. All models shown with options.



Arty Facts

In the Art Room

Students are working hard and creating amazing things in art class this month! Kindergarten students are learning about rhythm and repetition in art by making circle stamp paintings. First graders are learning about and creating landscapes. Second grade students are making art inspired by Japanese art. In third grade we are using our fine motor skills to weave. Fourth grade students are practicing mixing tints and shades in a monochromatic painting. And in fifth grade we are learning about art from the Renaissance and creating DaVinci-inspired self-portraits. As always, students are using their problem-solving skills and creativity to create beautiful and original works!

Upcoming Art Shows

The annual Designs and Images district art show will take place in the beginning of April. This show will display works from students from throughout Poudre School District in the Foothills Mall. More details will be coming soon!

This year's Bethke Spring Showcase will be on April 29th from 5:00-7:00pm. We will have artwork on display from every student at Bethke. Plan to come and celebrate your young artist!

Original Works

Thank you again for purchasing Original Works products. Your purchase not only honors your young artist but also goes a long way to support all students here at Bethke! With the money we received from Original Works, the art department purchased display boards which will be used to display your young artist's work for the Spring Showcase! Thank you for making this possible.

Thank you for supporting the arts at Bethke!

Lydia Richardson
Bethke Art Teacher

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Music Notes

Check out this Ted Video....

I shared this video last year, but I think it's worth a second look. Use the link below to watch a great short video that illustrates the impact that playing an instrument has on the human brain. It's pretty powerful!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R0JKCYZ8hng>

"Playing music is the brain's equivalent of a full-body workout... Playing an instrument engages practically every area of the brain at once — especially the visual, auditory, and motor cortices. And, as in any other workout, disciplined, structured practice in playing music strengthens those brain functions, allowing us to apply that strength to other activities... Playing music has been found to increase the volume and activity in the brain's corpus callosum — the bridge between the two hemispheres — allowing messages to get across the brain faster and through more diverse routes. This may allow musicians to solve problems more effectively and creatively, in both academic and social settings."
<http://www.brainpickings.org/2015/01/29/music-brain-ted-ed/>

How do I help my child get involved with music?

While I believe that the joy one gets from playing music is reward enough, it's pretty cool to realize that playing an instrument is also beneficial to the development of the brain. I've included a link to a website that you may find interesting. At this site, you can find information on everything from creating a musical home environment and helping your child choose an instrument to unlocking your child's talent and motivating your child to practice.

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/education/music-arts/the-benefits-of-music-education/>

Upcoming Music Performances This Year

- 3rd Grade Musical.....April 21st at 6:30 (April 22nd at 9:00 a.m.)
- Chorus Spring Show.....May 3rd at 6:30 (May 4th at 9:00 a.m.)
- Kindergarten Celebration.....May 26th in the morning (time TBA).



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Music Notes Cont.

Spring Showcase...Friday, April 29th

Come out to enjoy the musical talents of several student groups. The chorus will perform a short sneak-peak into their upcoming "Rockin' 80's" show. The kindergarten students will sing songs about spring-time. There will also be some instrumental groups (yet to be determined). Look for specific groups, times and performance locations as we get closer to the event. It's a great evening to see and hear the talents of our Bethke Bobcats.

Musical Show-and-Tell

I welcome any student to share their musical talents during their weekly music classes. This is a great way for kids to have low-stress performance opportunities. Please email me so that I can schedule time if your child would like to play for us. I have a piano available in the room. If your child plays a different instrument, he or she will need to bring it from home. Parents are welcome to attend, and I'm happy to work with your schedule. I always have the kids play during the very beginning of the class. We have had a lot of students perform for classmates this year. It's a great way for kids to share their talents with others.

You can contact me at aadams@psdschools.org.

Allison Adams
Bethke Music Teacher



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Fitness News

Earn your 5210 T-shirt by turning in your completed Schools on the Move calendar no later than Wednesday March 2nd. Please make sure you have completed the front page survey, totaled up your checks, and have a parent's signature. Bethke Bobcats have been doing a great job pursuing their goals and learning a healthy life style along the way.

Track and field events will be taking place in PE for 4th -5th graders in about a week. Parents if you would like to watch these athletes display their abilities please sign up to volunteer. Volunteers will brave the elements to time, measure, and encourage greatness and in return you will get to experience these great young athletes as I do on a daily basis. Please sign up using the below google doc.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/14qj2YWuu9fm7V9FNtWaT3qUqs5F-1tq6QHxui9g3BS4/edit>

After a long break the race series is back with the final race of the year – The Bethke 4K. Put a big star on your calendar and clear all appointments for March 21st which is the Monday after Spring break. All racers (young and old) will meet on the outside basketball courts and the 4K race will begin after the buses have left the bus circle. Remember, if you have completed all races in this year's series you will earn a Bethke Backpack. I am always in need of volunteers to direct our races as they maneuver the course. Please email me at tmawhinn@psdschools.org to volunteer to work your favorite corner.

Congratulations to the determined few who have completed 2016 push-ups: Trek Keyworth, Fletcher Steinkraus, Jaren Kimura, Jayden Busselman, and Emma Stalder. If you are still working towards 2016 push-ups keep pushing and you will feel the pride and strength comes from your efforts.

Jog/scooter club will be in April this year as we hope for a little warmer weather than last year when we started in March. Check out the April newsletter for dates and times.

Terri Keyworth / Bethke P.E. Teacher




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StuCo News

Thanks to everyone who purchased Valentine Grams this month! We raised over \$200.00! Student council members will be meeting to brainstorm ideas for ways to put that money to use to help make Bethke a better place. In the coming weeks, we will also discuss areas of need within our building where Student Council members can contribute as we form new committees

Candice Mozer
StuCo Sponsor

Kids Care Club

We had a great turn out for our February meeting. The kids enjoyed hearing the guest speaker from the Salvation Army. They were really helpful filling and decorating hygiene bags with toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo and soap. These bags are very appreciated by many people in Larimer county.

There will be no Kids Care Club meeting in March because of Spring Break. We are looking forward to seeing you again in April!

Jenna Simpson / Michelle Haselby
Kids Care Club Sponsors

Spanish Wraps Up

March brings us the last days of Spanish classes held before school on Mondays through Thursdays. March 9th will be the last day for students in the 3rd-5th groups. March 10th will be the last session for Kinders - 2nd grade. Many thanks to Laura Quaid and Greysi Nina Puello for their hard work teaching our students a second language. If you are interested in signing your children up for Spanish next fall, please watch for the flyer that will come home in Friday folders, or pick one up during the open house in August.



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Reporting Absences

We want to make sure that your child is safe and sound. That's why it's important for you to notify us as soon as possible if your child will be absent from school for any reason. This includes absences due to illness, appointments, family travel, and unforeseen family issues. Unreported absences will be investigated to assure that each student is safe and accounted for. **To report an absence, call our attendance line at 488-4301.** You may leave a message anytime, night or day. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated!

Safe Pick-Up

NO DISTRACTED DRIVING

Remember when driving through the drop off/pick up lane to stay off of your cell phone! We want to keep everyone safe! We appreciate your help in making the pick-up zone cellphone free. Thank you.

Safe Busing Practices

For the safety of our students, we are asking for all parents to stay out of the busing area when students are being picked up at the end of the day. If you have a need to get a message to your child or retrieve them from the bus, please deliver the message through our front office. We have a system in place. Should you show up in the loading area, our staff will kindly direct you back to the front office. Beyond Bethke, our drivers have routes they need to attend to in a timely manner. Thank you for your cooperation.



March 2016

| MON | TUE | WED | TH | FRI |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| | 1 3-5 Spanish 7:45am | 2 Chess Club 7:40am 3-5 Spanish 7:45am GT to Channel 10 9am-2pm | 3 Chorus - 7:45am K-2 Spanish 7:45am Science Matters 3:15pm | 4 SAC Meeting 7:30am Art Club 7:45am GT to Channel 10 9am-2pm Report Cards Go Home |
| 7 Chorus 7:45am K-2 Spanish 7:45am | 8 3-5 Spanish 7:45am | 9 Chess Club 7:40am 3-5 Spanish 7:45am - Last Day | 10 Chorus 7:45am K-2 Spanish 7:45am - Last Day Young Authors Club 7:45am Science Matters 3:15pm | 11 Art Club 7:45am Integrity Assembly 8:45am Gym |
| 14 SCHOOL CLOSED SPRING BREAK | 15 SCHOOL CLOSED SPRING BREAK | 16 SCHOOL CLOSED SPRING BREAK | 17 SCHOOL CLOSED SPRING BREAK | 18 SCHOOL CLOSED SPRING BREAK |
| 21 Chorus 7:45am 4K Fun Run 3:15pm. | 22 5th Grade Parent Meeting 6pm Cafeteria | 23 Chess Club 7:40am | 24 Chorus 7:45am Young Authors Club 7:45am 4th Grade Wax Museum 1-3pm Classrooms Science Matters 3:15pm | 25 Art Club 7:45am 3rd Grade Roman Festival |
| 28 Chorus 7:45am | 29 CMAS Testing - 4th | 30 Chess Club 7:40am CMAS Testing - 4th | 31 Chorus 7:45am CMAS Testing - 4th Science Matters 3:15pm | |

Important Upcoming Dates

4/1-4/15 - CMAS Testing
 4/1 - 3rd Grade to Denver Museum 9am-2pm
 4/8 - School Closed / Conferences
 4/15 - Spring Picture Day
 4/21 - 3rd Grade Music Program 6:30pm Gym
 4/22 - 3rd Grade Music Program 9am Gym

4/25-29 - Book Fair
 4/27 - PTO Meeting 6:30pm Media Center
 4/29 - Spring Showcase 5-7pm