

# Bethke Elementary



## Honoring All Learners

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Bethke Elementary

April 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  
bet.pdschools.org

Spring has sprung at Bethke as our bobcats are busy learning each day! This month we look forward to field trips, raising tadpoles, dissecting hearts, state OM competition, a book fair, a third grade music program, our student showcase, and so much more! It's a busy month so check out all the details inside!

After many weeks of conversations with our accountability committee and staff about budgeting for 2016-2017, we are planning on moving forward with adding a fifth section of fifth grade in the fall. This will maintain our class sizes and account for growth in the coming year. That job will be posted in April. We will continue to have intervention supports, GT services, para professionals, full time specials and counseling. Mr. Gallagher will continue as our full time AP and GT coordinator. The cottages out back will hold two second grade classes as well as two third grade classes.

With the new year will come some changes in our staffing. I'm excited to support our staff in taking on new professional challenges. It's what keeps them current and passionate about their work. This year we will say good bye to Mrs. Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Gerken, Ms. Meckelberg, Ms. Bell, and Mrs. Hays. Mrs. Fitz will be moving to Malaysia to teach abroad. We plan to stay connected with her classroom via Skype. Mrs. Gerken has chosen to stay home with her new baby. Ms. Meckelberg and Ms. Bell will be taking on new careers and after opening the building eight years ago, Mrs. Hays will be retiring. We wish them all well. Here is an overview of our grade levels for the fall at this time:

- K: Mrs. Kalvels, Mrs. Ricks, Mrs. Eddy, and Mrs. Busselman
- 1: Mrs. Hause, Mrs. Haselby, Ms. Simpson, and Mrs. Harras
- 2: Mrs. Berg, Mrs. Beaven, Ms. Schupp, and a teacher yet to be hired
- 3: Ms. Bledsoe, Ms. Nierode, Mrs. Eucker, Mrs. Pegg, and Ms. Wedemeyer
- 4: Ms. Mocke, Mrs. Drage, Mrs. Mozer, Mrs. Wilson, and Mr. Hitchcock
- 5: Mrs. Rossi, Mrs. Bruhn, Mrs. Gunstream, Mrs. Rayls and a teacher yet to be hired

This month our teachers will begin thinking about class lists for the fall. They welcome your input on a learning environment for your child but will not take specific teacher requests. Mr. Gallagher and I will review lists this summer, add new students who enroll over the summer, and post final lists in August.

Our staff is excited for our student showcase April 29. This will be an opportunity for you to come listen to entertainment and see projects and displays of our Bobcats' work this year! It's such a fun time for kids to show off what they have learned. It's also the final day of our Spring Book Fair! Come have some dinner from 5-7 p.m. where a portion of your purchases from local food trucks will go toward buying furniture for our classrooms next year and enjoy a fun night with your Bethke friends and neighbors!

What a great month it will be!

Honoring all learners,  
Ann Alfonso / Principal

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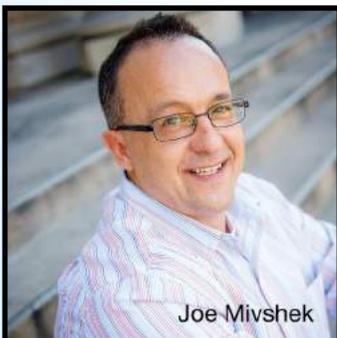
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## PTO News

Hello, April! Grab your calendar because there are lots of activities going on this month. Read on for more details.

Nominations for PTO officers are being accepted for the 2016/2017 school year. The open positions include president, vice president, and secretary. Nomination forms and job descriptions can be found on the PTO website ([www.bethkepto.weebly.com](http://www.bethkepto.weebly.com)). Elections will take place at the April 27th PTO meeting. The PTO works with Principal Alfonso, committees, and volunteers to budget pledge dollars, plan activities like holiday celebrations, provide resources to staff through programs like the grant, and to organize events like the book fair and socials. Please 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.

Thank you to everyone who turned in Box Tops, Morning Fresh Dairy milk caps and Labels for Education. Please continue to collect these items for one more contest at the end of the school year. This will be the last opportunity to turn in Labels for Education (Campbell's soup and Goldfish crackers). They are winding down the program. If you have Labels for Education please turn them in!

It's time to get your groove on at the Spring Scholastic Book Fair! Visit the Feelin' Groovy Book Fair the week of April 25th- April 29th. It's a great opportunity to stock up on books for summer reading. The fair will be open Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. The book fair will also be open during the Spring Social on Friday, April 29th. Watch for additional information!

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 A smiling family of five (mother, father, and three children) against a blue sky background.
 

Healthy Kids Club

UCHealth

## PTO News continued..

We are so excited to announce that we have a group of parents heading up the Golf Tournament for Bethke! The outing will take place next September and will kick off the 2016/2017 school year. If you are interested in a possible business sponsorship and/or helping the committee, please contact Jason at [jasonmantas@hotmail.com](mailto:jasonmantas@hotmail.com) or Nick at [vasahurr@gmail.com](mailto:vasahurr@gmail.com). Thank you, Nick and Jason!

Join us Friday, April 29th from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. for our Bethke Spring Showcase to celebrate the talent and hard work of our students! You will enjoy artwork, musical performances, technology and athletic displays, and student work. There will also be food trucks on hand for your dining enjoyment including Poudre High School's food truck, The Taco Stop, The Slawpy Barn, Schmickel's Hot Dogs, America's Variety Food Cart, Mile High Lobster Shack, and Kona Ice.

A very special thank you to everyone who donated to the pledge. We cannot say thank you enough. It is because of your generosity that we are able to fund field trips, grants for staff, and events like the spring social. Thank you again for your support!

Summer Bridge books are back! When you purchase Summer Bridge books your teacher receives \$2.00 for every book ordered back in store credit. Teachers can use the store credit to purchase educational materials for their classroom. Order forms will be sent home in your child's Friday Folder on April 1st. All orders are due by April 22nd.

Our next PTO meeting will be Wednesday, April 27th at 6:30 p.m. in the Bethke cafeteria. We will hold our PTO board elections and preview our budget for the 2016/2017 school year. See you there!

Dawn Lang  
PTO Secretary

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it all better.



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## Counselor's Corner

It's standardized testing season and for some students that means test anxiety. Here is an excerpt from an article that may be helpful...

Rethinking Test Anxiety: From Anxious to Excited by Renee Jain, MAPP

Take this quick test: You're about to give the biggest speech of your life. One thousand pairs of eyes are staring at you—you're nervous. In fact, your heart is racing, your palms are clammy, your breath is shallow, and your tummy is in knots. To perform at your potential, you should: (a) Try to calm down, (b) Try to feel excited. Most people will choose (a), but research says that (b) is the better strategy!

Harvard Business School professor Alison Wood Brooks studies pre-performance anxiety in a variety of areas including singing karaoke, speaking in public, and math performance. Her research shows time and time again that when you feel anxious prior to a performance (including test taking), instead of adopting the conventional wisdom of "calming down," it's better to embrace stress.

In one study, Brooks divided participants into groups. One group was instructed to say aloud, "I am calm." The other group was directed to embrace their stress by saying, "I am excited." Neither statement made the anxiety disappear, but the "I am excited" participants were more confident in their ability to give a good speech. What's more is that this group was rated more persuasive, confident, and competent by those watching the speeches than the group who tried to calm down. The way we think about stress is a mindset and this mindset can affect the way stress reacts in our body.

Next time your child is facing anxiety due to a speech or upcoming test let them know that their anxiety can be their ally. Have them say some of these statements out loud:

"I feel my body preparing me for this challenge."

"I have butterflies in my stomach, my body is determined to do well on this test."

"My palms are sweating—I'm starting to get energy to do well on this test."

"I'm getting excited to rise to the challenge."

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

Christie McPhail  
Bethke Counselor

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## Arty Facts

### Introducing Mr. Pipinich

I am excited to introduce you to Mr. Pipinich, who will be my substitute while I am on maternity leave for the last few weeks of school. Mr. Pipinich is a recent graduate of CSU and has his degree in Art Education and Textiles. He student taught at Rocky Mountain High School and Beattie Elementary. He is excited to work with all our amazing Bobcats here at Bethke!

### In the Art Room

Students are working hard and creating amazing things in art class this month! Kindergarten students are learning about author/illustrator Eric Carle and creating beautiful springtime collages inspired by his work. First grade students are creating artwork with beautiful patterns and gold paint inspired by artist Gustav Klimt. In second grade we are making textured bug drawings using glue and chalk. Third grade students are creating jungle pictures inspired by Henri Rousseau. Fourth grade students are making Illuminated Letters inspired by the illuminated manuscripts from the Middle Ages. And in fifth grade we are learning about art from the Renaissance and creating DaVinci-inspired, expressive self-portraits.

### Art Show

Bethke Spring Showcase – Mark your calendars for April 29, 5-7p.m. You won't want to miss this amazing event! Every student will have one piece of art, selected by the student artist, on display in the hallways for the showcase.

Thank you for supporting the arts at Bethke!

Lydia Richardson  
Bethke Art Teacher



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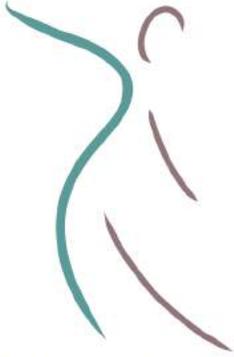
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## Music Notes

### 3rd Grade Program...April 21st

The Bethke Third Graders will perform their musical, "Jazz", on Thursday, April 21st at 6:30 p.m. in the Bethke gym. They will perform again on Friday, April 22nd at 9:00 a.m. We know you'll enjoy this performance celebrating the birth of jazz music.

### Chorus Spring Performance...May 3rd

The Bethke Chorus will perform their spring show, "Awesome 80s", on Tuesday, May 3rd at 6:30 p.m. An encore performance will take place on Wednesday, May 4th at 9:00 a.m. We know you will love this throw back to 80s pop and rock music. It's totally awesome!

### Spring Showcase

The Bethke Spring Showcase will take place on Friday, April 29th. This will be a fun evening celebrating the many talents of our Bethke Bobcats. There will be several musical performances that evening. The Kindergarten kiddos will perform springtime songs at 5:15 p.m. The Chorus will perform a preview of their "Awesome 80s" show at 5:35 p.m. Little Kids Rock groups will perform at 6:00 (groups yet to be determined).

The Kindergarten and Chorus groups will perform outside in front of the main entrance, weather permitting. If poor weather is an issue, these groups will perform in the cafeteria. The Little Kids Rock groups will be performing in the cafeteria.

### Upcoming Performances This Year

3rd Grade Musical....April 21st at 6:30 (April 22nd at 9:00 a.m.)

Spring Showcase Musical Groups....April 29th starting at 5:15 (see above)

Chorus Spring Show....May 3rd at 6:30 (May 4th at 9:00 a.m.)

Kindergarten Celebration....May 26th in the morning (10:00a.m.)

Allison Adams  
Bethke Music Teacher



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## Kids Care Club

Thank you so much for coming in February to make hygiene kits. We made over 50 different kits that will definitely be put to use by people in Larimer County. For our next meeting, we will be helping out our fellow Bobcats by cleaning Bethke's school grounds. Following the cleanup we will be celebrating all your hard work and kind efforts this year in Kids Care Club. Our meeting will be on Wednesday, April 20. This will be our last meeting for the 2015-2016 school year. We look forward to seeing you next year!

Where: Mrs. Hasleby's room

When: April 20th at 3:15-4:15

Why: Cleaning up the school grounds of Bethke and celebrating a great year together.

## Health Room News

We would like to welcome our new Health Tech, Joanne Coolman. She will be in the health office every day from 10am to 2pm. You can reach her in the health office at 488-4308 or at jcoolman@psdschools.org. She comes to us with a great deal of experience in the lab at PVH as a med tech and has also worked as a coordinator for the bone marrow registry. She is excited to be working with the students at Bethke and we are excited to have her as a part of our team!

Erin Camper  
Bethke School Nurse



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## Fitness News

Pacer, push-ups, trunk lift, shoulder stretch, and curl-ups are all part of PSD's fitness assessment. Third through fifth grade bobcats participate in each of these assessments during P.E. and it is fulfilling and exciting to see their improvement over the years. We have completed two rounds of the P.A.C.E.R (Progressive Aerobic Cardiovascular Endurance Run), pre-test for push-ups, and the shoulder stretch. Below are the National healthy range standards for the P.A.C.E.R. and Push-ups. Ask your bobcat how they fared!

Boys Pacer  
 Healthy Range

Age	Low End	High End
10	23	61
11	23	72
12	32	72
13	41	83
14	41	83
15	51	94

Boys Push-up  
 Healthy Range

Age	Low End	High End
10	7	20
11	8	20
12	10	20
13	12	25
14	14	30
15	16	35

Girls Pacer  
 Healthy Range

Age	Low End	High End
10	15	41
11	15	41
12	23	41
13	23	51
14	23	51
15	23	51

Girls Push-up  
 Healthy Range

Age	Low End	High End
10	7	15
11	7	15
12	7	15
13	7	15
14	7	15
15	7	15




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## Fitness News continued...

Are you ready to get outside and jog, run, or scooter? Jog/scooter club is coming and we are looking for bobcats that are ready to move and have fun. Every participant can earn foot charms based on the number of laps they complete. All Bethke students are welcome to participate in this club. Simply show up on the days you can and be ready to run or bring your scooter and helmet (required). Parents, if you are coming to watch please feel free to grab one of my clipboards and help count laps! We have a lot of fun and improve our fitness while we enjoy ourselves.

Dates: Wednesdays - 3:14-3:40pm  
April 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th & May 4th

Friday - 7:55-8:15am  
April 15th, 29th & May 6th

The Bethke Run Series wrapped up on a gorgeous spring day with 118 students running the 4K and a handful of parents joining in the fun. We had a total of 60 Bobcats complete all four of the Bethke runs to earn their run series backpack. Running through the neighborhood and around the school you could witness long smooth 5th grade legs, short fast Kindergarten legs and every grade in between. A Huge thanks to Erin Neville, Mike and Amy Olin, Brenda Wittenburg, John Gramling, Alisha and Jay McMillin, Kim Voelker, Jenn Meier, Dana Gaines, the Bethke Wellness team, and the other parents who jumped in and helped along the way. Without the staff and parent support we could not put on such fun events. Bobcat Nation ROCKS!

Terri Keyworth  
Bethke P.E. Teacher



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## Integrity Recognition

Bethke held its Integrity character trait recognition ceremony on March 11. One student from each class was chosen by their classmates and teacher as the person most exemplifying this trait. The final recognition ceremony of the year will be held on 5/25 recognizing students who display kindness.

### Kindergarten:

Collin Kinyon  
Mia Mantas  
Leah Meyer  
Owen Moorcroft

### 1st Grade:

Ramona Dixon  
Lily Eldredge  
Finley Janasek  
Avery Mullin

### 2nd Grade:

Lila Crown  
Sarah Folb  
Carey Groendyk  
Erin Lock  
Luke Yowell

### 3rd Grade:

Victoria Knoll  
Owen Morgan  
Kaleb Schutte  
Evan Vasa  
Ella Wilbern

### 4th Grade:

Elyssa Baurele  
Reagan Hancock  
Gabriella Soto  
Lexie Smith  
Weston Stefanski

### 5th Grade:

Riese Lopes  
Christian Groendyk  
Kenny Klopp  
Sage Wittenburg



## 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! If you have a nanny picking up, please inform them of this policy as well. 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.

# April 2016

MON	TUE	WED	TH	FRI
				1 3rd Grade Field Trip to the Denver Museum 9am-2pm
4 Chorus 7:45am CMAS Testing 4th -5th	5 CMAS Testing 3rd-5th	6 Chess Club 7:40am CMAS Testing 3rd-5th Scooter/Jog Club 3:14- 3:40pm	7 Chorus 7:45am Young Authors Club 7:45am CMAS Testing 3rd-5th Science Matters 3:15pm	8 School Closed Spring Conference Day
11 Chorus 7:45am CMAS Testing 5th	12 CMAS Testing 3rd & 5th	13 Chess Club 7:40am CMAS Testing 3rd Scooter/Jog Club 3:14- 3:40pm	14 Chorus 7:45am CMAS Testing 3rd Science Matters 3:15pm	15 Scooter/Jog Club 7:55- 8:15am Midterm Grades 4-5 Picture Day CMAS Testing 3rd
18 Chorus 7:45am	19	20 Chess Club 7:40am Scooter/Jog Club 3:14- 3:40pm Kids Care Club 3:15pm	21 Chorus 7:45am Young Authors Club 7:45am Science Matters 3:15pm 3rd Grade Music Perfor- mance 6:30pm Gym	22 No Scooter/Jog Club 3rd Grade Music Perfor- mance 9am Gym
25 Book Fair 8am-4pm Chorus 7:45am	26 Book Fair 8am-4pm	27 Book Fair 8am-4pm PTO Meeting 6:30pm Cafeteria Scooter/Jog Club 3:14- 3:40pm	28 Book Fair 8am-4pm Chorus 7:45am 4th Grade to Rendez- vous 9am-1:45pm	29 Scooter/Jog Club 7:55- 8:15am Book Fair 8am-7pm Spring Showcase 5-7pm

## Important Upcoming Dates

5/3 - Kindergarten to Adams Playhouse 9am-2pm  
 5/3 - Chorus Performance 6:30pm Gym  
 5/4 - Chorus Performance 9am Gym  
 5/4 - 1st grade to Museum of Discovery - 9am-12:30pm  
 5/6 - 5th Grade to Middle Schools - 9am-12pm  
 5/9 - 2nd Grade to Butterfly Pavilion - 9:15am-2pm  
 5/10 - Haselby & Mocke to CSU ELC - 9am-12:30pm  
 5/11 - 4th Grade to History Colo. - 9am-2pm  
 5/11 - Harras & Simpson to CSU ELC - 9am-12:30pm

5/13 - Field Day  
 5/18-20 - Eco Week Fifth Grade  
 5/20 - 3rd Grade - Seed Survivor on-site Field Trip  
 5/24 - Move Up Day  
 5/25 - Kindness Recognition Assembly - 8:45am - Gym  
 5/26 - Kindergarten Celebration - 10am - Gym  
 5/27 - Fifth Grade Graduation/Reception - 9am - Gym  
 and Cafeteria  
 5/27 - Early Release 11:43am