

Bethke Elementary



Honoring All Learners

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Bethke Elementary

December 2015

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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

We at Bethke are truly thankful for you and the partnerships we share to help all our children learn and grow. Our book fair was a huge success. Hundreds of books will go onto the shelves of teachers' classrooms and our library because of your generosity. Respite Care will also receive \$2,100 in donated books. Thank you to the many volunteers it took to put on such a successful book fair!

After a fantastic fourth grade program last month, this month we look forward to our second graders and chorus performing. It's so fun to watch our bobcats out of the classroom and showcasing their talents! Congratulations to our Lego teams that are moving on to the state competition.

This month we welcome more new families to Bethke. As our enrollment continues to grow, we as a staff along with our School Accountability Committee made up of parents and staff, continue conversations about refining our routines here at Bethke. Our SAC will begin discussing priorities for staffing our building next fall as we review our budget and enrollment status. Thanks to those who reach out to welcome our new bobcats and help them adjust to Bethke.

Our school will receive the CMAS results in December from testing last spring. I will share the results with parents at our SAC meeting on 12/11. All are welcome to attend. It took a while since the test was being normed in its first year. Due to it being a new test with a new format, results will look different and may appear lower than previous years. When looking at the school results, keep in mind this is a new test and cannot be compared to other years of TCAP. Comparing to the district and state average or schools of like demographics is more realistic. Student reports will be sent home with fourth and fifth graders prior to winter break.

Thank you to Walmart for the grant of \$1000! Our staff will continue our subscription to Brain Pop for another year. This interactive software brings content we teach to life on Smartboards and laptops. We appreciate our partnership with Walmart.

Your pledge dollars funded numerous teacher grants totaling over \$4000+ in November. Be on the lookout on Facebook this month for pictures of items purchased such as ipads, hands on literacy station games, Roman and Colonial festival costumes, stop watches and science equipment, and interactive software. Thank you for supporting our staff with these resources to bring learning to life!

I hope to see you at some of the fun events going on in December.

Honoring all Learners
Ann Alfonso
Principal

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PTO News

December is here and the new year is just around the bend. Thank you to all of the families who have committed their time, purchased items for parties and classrooms, and donated to the pledge. You've helped make 2015 a great year!

Thank you to everyone who came out to visit our Monster Scholastic Book Fair. We had another successful year thanks to our fantastic book fair committee! The money that Bethke earns from the book fair is used to purchase books for the library and items for classrooms. In addition, our Bethke Bobcats donated over \$2,100 for this year's All for Books recipient, Respite Care. Respite Care is a non-profit in Larimer County that provides short term, quality care for children with development disabilities. Great job Bobcats! Congratulations to Mrs. Bledsoe's class for bringing in the most money.

We are so lucky to have a wonderful Bethke Family! With your generosity and support, our pledge drive has received \$18,775 in donations. This is just \$1,225 shy of our goal of \$20,000. If you haven't contributed yet, remember to get your pledge in this month to take advantage of 2015 tax deductions.

Thanks to your pledge donations 2nd grade took a tour of Fort Collins including visits to the Avery House and Old Firehouse Books. On November 30th M.C. Myers, author of Count The Clouds, spoke to kindergarten through 2nd grades. Adam Glendon Sidwell, author of the Evertaster series, will be speaking to our 3rd through 5th graders on December 4th. Additionally, the PTO approved several grant requests at our PTO meeting on November 17th. Items approved included iPad Mini 4's, Osmo Genius Kits, and literacy and math resources to name a few.

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PTO News continued..

The PTO would like to give a special thank you to Mr. Mac who spoke at our November PTO meeting about internet safety. Please visit the PTO website at www.bethkepto.weebly.com/pto-minutes to read more about Mr. Mac's presentation as well as the minutes from the meeting.

Do you need a King Soopers card? Before heading to the store with your holiday treat list or a list of all of the ingredients for your next family meal, stop by the Bethke office to pick up your FREE reloadable King Soopers card. Every time you make a purchase using your card, Bethke earns 5% back. You can conveniently reload the card using cash, check or credit card with any cashier before completing your purchase. You can use your card for gas purchases as well.

Dawn Lang
PTO Secretary



Each participant receives a Jr. Nuggets reversible jersey and two game tickets. Games on Saturday at NACC.

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Counselor's Corner

Over the course of the first 11 weeks of school, I was able to visit each classroom five times for social-emotional lessons.

Here's what we worked on:

Grades K-2

- How to be a good listener
- Appreciating our differences
- How to be a good friend
- How to handle angry feelings
- Big deals and little deals

Grade 3

- Dealing with stress and worries
- How to make a complete apology
- Integrity and trustworthiness
- How to handle teasing
- Big deals and little deals

Grades 4-5

- Dealing with stress and worries
- How to navigate competition and comparisons
- Integrity and trustworthiness
- How to handle teasing
- Mistakes and perfectionism

I will be back in classrooms after winter break for a series of four lessons on bully-prevention.

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

Christie McPhail
Bethke Counselor

the
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Arty Facts

In the Art Room

Happy Holidays! As we near the end of the semester students will be working on a variety of awesome artworks! In grades K-3, students are learning all about sculpture. Kindergarteners are making clay pinch pots and first graders are making clay owls. In second grade students are designing their very own model furniture. Third grade students are creating Macchia sculptures inspired by glass artist Dale Chihuly. Fourth grade students are learning how to make their drawings look 3-D using perspective techniques. In fifth grade, we are weaving beautiful designs inspired by Navajo rugs. As always, we are busy and hard at work!

Portfolios

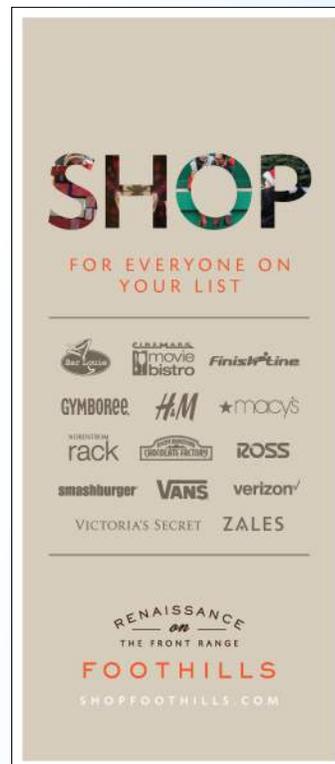
As the semester comes to an end, students will be bringing home their artwork in their portfolios. Please remove all the artwork to enjoy at home. Return empty portfolios back to art class so we can again fill them with beautiful artwork next semester. Students will take home portfolios again at the end of the school year.

As students share their artwork with you, keep an open mind as you listen to their stories and encourage their creativity. Art can be a great tool for students to express their feelings, tell their stories, and communicate big ideas. Remember that your interest and encouragement play an important role in the artistic development of your child!

Original Works

Thank you for placing your orders with Original Works! We had a great response from families in support of the program. Your orders are currently being processed and you should receive your products around the first or second week of December. A special "thank you" goes to our amazing Original Works volunteer coordinator, Dena Redmond, as well as parent volunteers Karole Schutte, Missy Yowell, Janette Childs, Wendy Rice, and Julie Crane. Without their hard work Original Works would not be possible! Thank you for supporting the arts at Bethke!

Lydia Richardson / Bethke Art Teacher



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Music Notes

Timnath Tree Lighting...Come Hear Us Sing!

Once again, the Bethke Choir will be singing at the annual Timnath Christmas Tree Lighting celebration. This event will take place in downtown Timnath and starts at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, December 4th. The Bethke Choir will be singing right around 6:00 p.m. Dress warm and be ready to get in the holiday spirit as you hear us sing, enjoy some hot cocoa and even visit with Santa Claus! Hope to see you there!

2nd Graders Perform in December!

The second graders will be performing their musical, "Jingle Bell Jukebox", on Tuesday, December 8th at 5:30 p.m. in the Bethke gym. An encore performance will take place on Wednesday, December 9th at 9:00 a.m. in the gym. We know you'll enjoy this holiday treat! Parents and families are welcome to attend both performances. Both performances will also be streamed live online. Just go to the Bethke homepage (www.bethkeelementary.com) and scroll down until you see the "Live Stream" button on the right. This is a great way for out-of-town family members to be able to watch the show. It's also great for parents who may be out of town as well. Thanks to Mr. McInerney for making this possible!

Bethke Choir Holiday Concert

The Bethke Choir will perform their holiday concert on Tuesday, December 8th at 7:00 p.m. in the Bethke gym. An encore performance will take place on Wednesday, December 9th at 9:30 a.m. Parents are welcome to attend both performances. Both performances will also be streamed live online. Check out the information above about this great new use of technology at Bethke.

*Please note that the 2nd graders and Bethke Choir perform on the same dates. 2nd graders will perform first followed by the choir. At the evening concert, there will be time in between performances for 2nd grade families to leave and choir families to find a place to sit. 2nd graders do not have to stay for both performances. We hope that this will also help alleviate issues with parking.




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Music Notes Cont.

Bethke Talent Showcase

Auditions for the Bethke Talent Showcase will take place on Tuesday, December 15th during morning specials time. The 3rd graders audition at 9:30, followed by 4th graders at 10:15 and 5th graders at 11:00. Students will be auditioning in front of the students in their grade level. All applications were due before Thanksgiving Break. Please be sure that your child comes to school ready to audition that morning. We will announce those chosen for the show prior to winter break. All students will be notified via a letter we will send home with them.

The talent show will take place on Thursday, January 28th at 6:30 p.m. in the Bethke gym. This will be followed by an encore performance on Friday, January 29th at 9:00 a.m. in the gym. We are looking forward to some amazing acts from our 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

The Bethke 3K was another great example of the Bethke community coming together for fun and fitness. There were 111 students and many parents who hit the pavement for the fun run. A big Bethke Thank You to all of the volunteers who made the race possible. The run series has been inspiring to me and so fun for the participants. The 4K will take place on Monday, March 21st so stay in shape and we will see you there. We are at risk of losing the 5K due to lack of parent volunteers. If you are interested in helping with this great event please email Mrs. Volker at Voelkerkim@yahoo.com.

Lettuce Be Healthy was a great success that is continuing to change the eating habits of our children. Thanks so much to the parent volunteers who helped make this possible. Bethke ordered 40% more vegetables than normal and the students gobbled them all up. History has shown that we will continue to maintain a 30% higher consumption rate of vegetables after Lettuce Be Healthy. Thanks for your support and please continue to encourage the healthy habit of eating a variety of vegetables.

If you are interested in being a member of FIRST during second semester please download an application from Mrs. Keyworth's web site. Applications must be completed and turned in on or before December 18th. If you are currently in FIRST you do not need to re-apply, however if you will not be continuing please have your parents email Mrs. Keyworth so she knows you will no longer be involved.

With the possibility of snow in the winter months please remember to send your students with tennis shoes so we can keep our gym floor nice and our toes free from injury.

Terri Keyworth
Bethke P.E. Teacher




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Principal's Pick

Principal, Ann Alfonso, selects examples of noteworthy student writing to be featured in the newsletter. Below is the selection for December written by a Bethke 4th grade student from Mr. Hitchcock's room.

THE CRASH

Jacob swiftly paced over the cracked soil. He was waiting impatiently to go to school. He heard his dad call for him to get in the car. He ran back to the garage to get his backpack but his dad already was holding the leathery school bag. "Yeehaw! You ready to go my child?" "Did he drink too much coffee this morning?" Jacob thought.

"Dad, you're being awkward!" "Oh, don't mind me! Now who's ready to make some friends," Jacob's dad said enthusiastically. Jacob's dad handed him his backpack.

Then Jacob and his dad got into the small minivan. It sped down the rough dirt road. Jacob bounced with every bump. The bumpy road had a rhythm when it hit a pothole or bump. Pat-tat-tat. Pat-tat-tat. Pat-tat-tat-tat tat. And it went over and over again. Then, suddenly, Jacob heard a noise. A very awful noise. So awful that you wouldn't even imagine it. And then it hit Jacob. The semi's lights beamed on and blinded Jacob. His eye's screamed in pain as the flood light hit directly in his cold, hard face. He didn't have time to tell his dad that the menacing semi was about to obliterate their car. "What the..." His dad stammered. But it was too late. SMASH!!! BANG!! CRASH!!! The semi instantly devoured the small car.

Jacob staggered out of the car after a couple of minutes trying to understand what had just happened. Jacob ran over to see if his dad was OK but what he found was not pretty. His dad was covered in blood and was lying on the ground! He instantly reacted by grabbing his dad's phone and calling 911. "Hello!? Is anyone there? My dad and I got in an accident! I think he needs to be taken to an hospital or something." "How injured is he? Is he still breathing?" "No, I don't think so. Maybe, but he is covered in blood head-to-toe!" "OK, We'll send a Medical Helicopter right now."

Minutes later a helicopter came with flashing lights and a man hanging off the side with a stretcher and landed right-smack on the road. Quickly, two paramedics came and picked up Jacob's father and put him in the stretcher.

The heli's engine roared to life as it carried his crunched father away to the Hospital. Jacob closed his eyes and sighed in relief and found himself in the warm arms of his mother. Then he thought about when his dad would be alright. And then he started to cry like the swift rain in the evening. He cried a salty cry for hours and hours and finally stopped when his mother told him they were going to go to visit his father. THE END?...

Kids Care Club

Thank you all for donating to the families from the giving tree. If you have not yet gotten an ornament from the giving tree it is not too late! All of the items on the giving tree will be going to families in need here in Larimer County. It is such an incredible feeling to be able to give to people in need, especially right here in our community! All donations can be returned to the boxes at the front of the school, next to the giving tree. Please wrap the donation and attach the ornament to the outside so we know which family the gift belongs to. Donations need to be returned by December 17th so we can distribute all of the gifts.

There will be no Kids Care Club meeting in December. Our next meeting will be in January. Keep an eye out for information on our next meeting!

Jenna Simpson
Michelle Haselby
Kids Care Club Sponsors

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 for your cooperation.

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.

December 2015

MON	TUE	WED	TH	FRI
	1 3-5 Spanish 7:45am	2 Chess Club 7:40am 3-5 Spanish 7:45am	3 Chorus 7:45am K-2 Spanish 7:45am Young Authors Club 7:45am	4 Art Club 7:45am 3-5 Guest Author Visit (Adam Sidwell) 9am Cafeteria Chorus Sings at Timnath Tree Light- ing 5:30pm
7 Chorus 7:45am K-2 Spanish 7:45am	8 3-5 Spanish 7:45am 2nd Grade Music Pro- gram 5:30pm Gym Chorus Music Program 7pm Gym	9 Chess Club 7:40am 3-5 Spanish 7:45am 2nd Grade & Chorus Music Programs 9am & 9:30am Gym	10 K-2 Spanish 7:45am	11 SAC Meeting 7:30am Media Center Art Club 7:45am 4-5 CSU Chemistry Show 1pm Cafeteria
14 K-2 Spanish 7:45am 2nd Grade Coffee Talk 8:35am Cafeteria	15 3-5 Spanish 7:45am Talent Show Auditions during morning specials	16 3-5 Spanish 7:45am	17 K-2 Spanish 7:45am Young Authors Club 7:45am 3rd Grade to CSU Physics Lab 9:30am-12pm	18 Art Club 7:45am
21 SCHOOL CLOSED WINTER BREAK	22 SCHOOL CLOSED WINTER BREAK	23 SCHOOL CLOSED WINTER BREAK	24 SCHOOL CLOSED WINTER BREAK	25 SCHOOL CLOSED WINTER BREAK
28 SCHOOL CLOSED WINTER BREAK	29 SCHOOL CLOSED WINTER BREAK	30 SCHOOL CLOSED WINTER BREAK	31 SCHOOL CLOSED WINTER BREAK	

Important Upcoming Dates

1/1 - School Closed Winter Break
 1/4 - Return from Winter Break
 1/11 - Chorus Rehearsals Resume
 1/15 - Midterm
 1/18 - School Closed MLK Day
 1/22 - Bethke Spelling Bee - 2pm

1/26 - Kindergarten Informational Meeting - 6:30pm
 1/28 - Bethke Talent Show - 6:30pm
 1/29 - Bethke Talent Show - 9am