

NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL—Dr. Bill Tithof

Dear Parents,
 Bay City Public Schools believe students can achieve more with a highly trained staff. During the next two months, our staff will have additional training in educating your students. Our commitment to you is to have the best trained staff offering the best educational opportunities for your child.
 Please note that we have three half days of school scheduled: February 15, March 10, and our last day of school—June 14. Please mark your calendars. More info will be coming home later about these half days in future newsletters.

NOTE FROM NURSE STACEY

Are Q-Tips safe for the inner ear canal?

You see a large chunk of wax in your child’s ear, or your child is complaining that their ear hurts and you notice wax buildup. What harm could it be using a q-tip or other “tool” to get it out? Well actually a lot, here are a few: The eardrum can be torn or damaged, which has happened many times before by well meaning parents. Some of the wax usually ends up being pushed down further into the ear canal which can cause problems. Permanent hearing loss can occur.
 Earwax serves a purpose. It helps protect the eardrum and canal by providing a waterproof lining for the canal, helping to keep it dry and preventing germs from causing infection. It also traps dirt, dust, and other particles, keeping them from injuring/irritating the eardrum. Generally the ear only makes as much wax as it needs so there is typically no need to remove wax. In a small number of cases with excess wax production it may need to be removed at the doctor’s office under medical advice.



Important Dates to Remember

- Feb. 2**—V & O Assembly at 1:30 PM
- Feb. 7**—Hearing Screening for grades K, 2 and 4.
- Feb. 8**—Count Day
- Feb. 14**—Mugs of Love delivery.
- Feb. 15**—Half day of school. Dismissal at 12:02 pm
- Feb. 16**—Parent Connect @ 8:30 am.
- Feb. 20**—NO SCHOOL
- Feb. 23**—Handy visits our 5th graders
- Feb. 28**—Kindergarten Registration Night @ 5:30 to 7 PM
- March 10**—End of MP 2 school: Dismiss at 12:07 PM

PARENT CONFERENCES

Please mark your calendar: Our last parent conferences will be held on Tuesday, March 14 from 3:30—6:30 P.M. and Thursday, March 16 from 3:30 - 6:30 P.M. Please watch for notes from your child’s teacher for appointment times.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

It’s hard to believe it, but registration for Kindergarten is just around the corner. There will be a Kindergarten Registration Parent Night on Tuesday, February 28 from 5:30 PM until 7 PM at Washington. Please bring birth certificate, shot record and proof of residency.

NO SCHOOL

On **Monday, February 20**, there is no school. This day will be a mid-winter break. Students return on Tuesday, February 21.

IDEAS FOR PARENTS

Top 5 Ways Parents Can Help Their Children Succeed in School

1. Make sure your child is at school every day possible. "Missed work is generally more of a loss than made-up work is a gain," Parks says. "There is no substitute for attendance."
2. Designate a time and place for your child to do homework. If there is no homework, have him use this time to read. "Routine is the essence of a child's life," he says.
3. Keep in touch with teachers, but don't overdo it. "Most teachers appreciate parents caring enough to keep in touch a few times a term but do not appreciate parents expecting contact on a regular basis."
4. Teach your child character—it "will improve social and academic skills more than anything else," Parks says.
5. Make time every day to talk with your child about the day's activities. "Let them know you care, and really listen to what they have to say."

NOTE FROM MS. BRANDI—BEING A FRIEND IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Friends are supposed to be those individuals that support you throughout your life. Why is it hard to make friends in elementary school? The people your child spends time with influence all aspects of their life and can affect their decision-making. Here are some helpful tips to help our students make friends at school and outside of school.

- Teach friendship skills.
Example: Making a birthday card for a loved one.
- Open your home up to your child's friends.
Example: Putting your child in an after school activity, or setting them up for a play date with a close friend. You can see how your child interacts one and one with other kids. Keep these dates short and in a small group.
- Be alert.
Example: Being alert means that you let the child interact with other kids without being around all the time.
- Be involved.
Example: Attend school meetings and activities can help you be more informed about what is happening in the building with your child/student.
- Teach the true value of friendship.
Example: Explaining the rights and wrongs of friendship.
- Be encouraging.
Example: Show positive regard for talking with new classmates.



WINTER WEATHER

As you know, we are now into very cold weather. During lunch, we always want to have the students go outside to play. Since we only stay inside when the chill factor is 10 degrees or less, please make sure your child has proper clothing that is warm.



EARLY PICKUP OF STUDENTS

As part of our security and safety plan, please review the early release of students and the changing of arrangements of students getting home procedures. Please remember: **1.** If there is a change in the regular way students get home, a note, signed by the parent, or a fax about the change needs to be in the office by 2:00 PM. Phone calls **will not** be accepted due to security and liability issues. **2.** If there is an appointment of some kind for the student, a note signed by the parent is needed 48 hours ahead of time and turned in to the office. We realize emergencies arise, and we will try to accommodate. However, these will be at a minimum in order to comply with our safety plan. **3.** Dismissal time is 3:17 PM. Early dismissals will be limited to documented appointments only. Children getting called out of a classroom early is a disruption to the learning and causes a safety concern. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

PARENTS OF STUDENTS WHO GET PICKED UP—Please Read

The student pick-up area is our parking lot area. Please do not park on 7th St. and pick up your student by the busses. Teachers take great care making sure your child is safely placed in the proper way to get home. When you take them out of line, our procedures for safety get compromised. We want to make sure all students get home safely and in the proper manner. I know our parking lot is small (smaller now with all the snow), but it will only take a few extra minutes that ensures all Washington pick-up students get home safely. Thanks you for your help with this matter.

MUGS OF LOVE

We are in our final stages of our “**Mugs of Love**” project. If you have any mugs you could donate to school, we could really use them. We are in need of wrapped candy donations to fill the mugs, too. These “Mugs of Love” will be given to residents of Pine Towers, Wirt Library, and Bay Care Facility on February 14. Thank your for your help!

PHYSICAL FITNESS

Having trouble getting enough exercise during the long, dark, cold Michigan winter? Rather than fight it, get out and enjoy it! There are plenty of choices, such as: sledding, cross country skiing, ice skating, snow shoeing, just to name a few. Even if it means just getting outside to make a snowman or just playing in the snow, anything beats sitting around watching TV or playing video games.

If you're not the outdoor type, there's always the "Y", Delta College, or SVSU which give you a lot of fitness and recreational options. So whatever you prefer, indoors or outdoors, get off the couch and just do it!



**CHANGE OF ADDRESS/
PHONE/EMERGENCY FORMS**

It is very important that parents notify the school office of any changes in address, home, and work phone numbers, etc. When we have emergencies, it is important that we have the correct information to reach a parent as soon as possible.



If you have had any changes on your emergency/profile sheet, please let us know. Please call the office at 894-2744 with any changes.



**ATTENDANCE
POLICY**

Our goal is to have all of our students in class, learning every day for the entire learning day, 8:19 am-3:12 pm. When it is necessary for a child to miss school for any reason, it is the parent's responsibility to call the school office at 894-2744 within 24 hours to excuse your child. If possible, it is best for your child's education to schedule doctor and dentist appointments after school or during scheduled vacations.

The Learning Day

8:09—Universal Breakfast

8:19— Student's must be in classrooms ready to learn.

3:12—The end of the learning day.

Remember, NO SCHOOL on Friday, February 20, and a halfday on Wednesday, February 15, 2017.

**HOMEWORK
POLICY**

If your child is absent for a very short term, they can contact their teachers upon returning to school. For absences more than one day, parents may call the school and request assignments that may be worked on prior to the student returning. Please request your student's homework at least 24 hours in advance only if they will be out for more than one day and at the end of the school day.



Please complete the bottom portion and have your child return it to their teacher.

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 _____ Yes, I received and have read the February Newsletter.

Student _____ Parent (optional) _____

Parent Signature _____ Phone #: _____

Any comments, concerns, suggestions, or congratulations are appreciated!

Thank you for your thoughts!