

## Important Dates

### BC PTO Meeting

Tues, December 13<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 p.m.

### 1 hour Early Dismissal Dates

Wed, Dec 7<sup>th</sup> @ 2:35 p.m.

Wed, Dec 14<sup>th</sup> @ 2:35 p.m.

Wed, Dec 21<sup>st</sup> @ 2:35 p.m.

### Think PINK Cancer Awareness

Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>

### Winter celebrations

December 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 2:30 p.m.

### No School (Holiday Break)

Friday, 12/23/15 – Monday, 1/2/16

### No KTC Days (Holiday Break)

Fri, Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>

Mon, Dec 26<sup>th</sup>

Fri, Dec 30<sup>th</sup>

### School Resumes

Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>



## BC Phone Numbers

BC Office 278-6228

BC Fax 278-1049

BC KTC 278-6668

BC Nurse 278-6016

Transportation 278-8149

Nutrition 278-0278

## Iowa Assessments

**The 2016 Iowa Assessments will be administered to students in second through fifth grades from Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup> through Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

The Iowa Assessments are a standardized achievement test. These tests will be administered to students as a general measure of academic achievement. Portions of the test will be given each school day at Beaver Creek throughout the testing period.

The Iowa Assessments were initially designed to give schools trend data. Here in Johnston, it allows us to evaluate the academic achievement and growth of our students to determine how they are performing on the state curriculum as described in the Iowa Core. As a school district, the results are used to evaluate the effectiveness of our curriculum and instructional practices and to assist us in finding ways to improve the educational experience for our students. Individual student reports are available from The Iowa Assessments and will be shared with families when the results are received. Results generally arrive a month to six weeks following testing. As with any assessment, The Iowa Assessments provides educators and parents information about students' academic performance.

Please make every effort to have your child in attendance and to school on time during testing days. As much as possible, we will test first thing in the mornings. We are required to have students make up tests missed. Make up tests will be given February 6<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>. Students will miss instructional time to complete makeup tests. During the testing period, families can be of additional help by making sure students get proper rest and nutrition.

## In this issue

# It's getting COLD outside!

## Professional Development Experiences at Beaver Creek

Our Wednesday early dismissals are devoted to professional learning for teachers. This year, our focus has been on improving instructional practices, related to our school improvement plan. Beaver Creek's improvement plan has three focus areas.

The first focus area is continuing to enhance reading instruction, specifically our core reading instruction in all grade levels. The second focus area is to learn more about cultural proficiency and working with students from diverse backgrounds. We have partnered with Heartland AEA on our cultural proficiency learning. The third focus area is to find meaningful ways to integrate our additional iPads in all classrooms.

Feel free to contact the Beaver Creek office at 278-6228 if you have questions about our professional learning focus for the year.

## What is this paper in my child's backpack?

Beaver Creek Elementary uses Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS), which is a set of strategies and systems that increase the capacity of schools to reduce school disruptions and educate all students, including those with problem behaviors. **Our PBIS expectations are called "The BC3": We are respectful. We are responsible. We are safe.**

This year, we will continue using PBIS for monitoring problem behavior, acknowledging expected behavior and communicating with parents.

### Minor/Majors:

Minor behaviors are generally managed by classroom teachers, while major behaviors require office involvement. Beaver Creek staff uses a behavior matrix developed collaboratively that outlines what may constitute a minor behavior infraction and what may constitute a major behavior infraction. Staff and students complete the forms, which are then sent home for parent signature. Our hope is that by quickly communicating minor/major infractions with parents, we will partner with parents to reteach and reinforce our expectations so kids can use expected behavior to avoid more serious consequences in the future. It should be noted that minor incidents are not part of a student's permanent record, while major referrals are tracked in our Infinite Campus system. Some examples of behaviors that may be reported on a minor form are crawling on the classroom floor, pushing in line, not keeping hands to self, disrespectful words, multiple reminders to follow classroom directions. Some major referral behaviors could include theft, aggressive behavior, intentionally injuring a classmate, classroom disruption and threats.

### Positive Acknowledgments:

In order to implement a PBIS program with integrity, it is imperative that we use a school-wide positive acknowledgment system to teach and reinforce expected behaviors. Our two formal acknowledgement systems this year will be "Beaver Tracks" and "BC3 Awards". Beaver Tracks are small, purple slips given with positive verbal reinforcement to your child. You might see them if they come home in a backpack or in a pocket!



## Attendance

Your student's attendance at school is critical to their success. Please be sure to have students in class by 8:40 a.m. each morning. If your student is not attending for any reason, please be sure to notify the Beaver Creek office at 278-6228. Illness related absences can also be called to the Beaver Creek nurse at 278-6016. When leaving a message reporting an absence, please include: the student's name, your name, teacher's name, date of absence and the reason for absence or tardiness.

## F.A.Q:

**If my student doesn't have boots or snow pants can they still go out for recess and can they play in the snow?**

We will go outside for recess if it is 5 degrees wind chill or above. Students must have snow boots and snow pants to play in the field, and snow boots to be in the wood chip area. If a student has no snow boots or snow pants, they will still go outside, but have to stay on the black top.

**P.S.** Please make sure all cold weather gear is labeled with your child's name.

## Get Your Beaver Creek 2016/17 Yearbook!

It's not too late to get your Beaver Creek 2016/2017 yearbook!

Order forms were sent to all students in the Back-to-School letters sent in early August. If you need another one, please contact the BC office, or print off the one attached to this email.

Payment can be made via cash, check payable to Beaver Creek PTO, or online at [ybpay.lifetouch.com](http://ybpay.lifetouch.com). Use Yearbook ID Code: 9839817

## Brrrrr...Winter Weather Update

### When does the district start watching forecasts and making decisions about the school day?

At the possibility of any bad weather, we watch the weather forecasts throughout the night and early morning. The Superintendent is in contact with our Director of Buildings and Grounds who is also in contact with the transportation department, local law enforcement, and city officials as needed. Other metro-area superintendents and JCSD are in constant communications to share information and, in many cases, reach a joint decision.

### What weather-related factors impact a no-school day?

Temperatures, wind chills, amounts of snow, and visibility are all considered when determining whether or not to have school. There are often two different weather-related decisions to make: One involves heavy snowfall, while the other, wind and frigid temperatures.

In response to snow-related issues, the determining factor is the ability for city and county workers to plow and clear roads. Because roads are plowed throughout the night and early morning hours, this decision will most commonly be made in the early hours based on conditions at the time and the forecast for the hours when students and staff will be getting to school. For cold and frigid temperatures, we try our best to make a decision the evening before. Typically, if the National Weather Service forecast for 6 a.m. calls for air temperatures of 25 degrees below zero or colder, or if the forecast wind chill is minus 40 or worse, classes and activities will be considered for cancellation. If this threshold is not met, we will continue to monitor conditions and make any needed decisions into the next morning.

### How are families informed about a school closing?

Once a decision is made to close or alter the school day, all of our students' families will receive an automated phone message and email. A notification will also be sent via the mobile application. School closing or delay information will be available on WHO, KCCI, WOI, and available on local radio stations. Information will also be posted on our district website, mobile app, district Facebook page, and Twitter account @JohnstonCSD. Ultimately it is parents that have the best information regarding the road conditions at their home, and the final choice to send a child to school during inclement weather. With this in mind, **our parents always have the choice during inclement weather to keep their child(ren) at home.** There will be no school penalty and/or consequences for this choice. We only ask that parents make sure to communicate their decision with their child(ren)'s school.

## Yikes! I've lost my .....

**Lost and Found** is located in the large hallway between the Gopher and Fox communities. Many of you commented about the amount of items already accumulating in our Lost and Found area when you were in for conferences, and the cold weather is just beginning to hit.

If your student has a missing item, please check the lost and found area when you are in the building. With colder weather already present, please make sure to mark your students' items with their name. This includes sweatshirts, outerwear, gym shoes, boots and cold weather accessories.

Next we will hear .... **Look what I found!**

## Dismissal Changes

We understand that changes need to be made to student dismissal plans from time to time. When doing so, please email both the classroom teacher and the front office to notify us of these changes. This allows us to have your student ready in the office at the time you have designated. It also ensures, in the case of a teacher being absent, that the substitute teacher will be notified of the change.

**Respectful,  
Responsible and  
Safe – that's the  
BC3 way!**



## Calling ALL Kindergarteners!

An exciting time for your family is approaching – the JCSD kindergarten and developmental kindergarten registration will be available online January 3!

We are registering our incoming kindergartners online. The kindergarten registration link will be available online January 3 at the link below:

<http://www.johnstoncsd.org/district/school-registration/>

Online re-enrollment for existing JCSD students will take place in the spring; watch the district website and your email for details.

For families who are unable to access the website from home, each Johnston elementary school will host a help session where parents will have the opportunity to register online. These help sessions are for parents only. Parents are welcome to attend any of the help sessions listed below:

- Beaver Creek Elem–January 5: 5:00–7:00 p.m.
- Horizon Elem – January 9: 5:00–7:00 p.m.
- Lawson Elem – January 10: 5:00–7:00 p.m.
- Timber Ridge Elem–January 12: 5:00–7:00p.m.
- Wallace Elem – January 12: 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

If you have questions regarding kindergarten or developmental kindergarten registration, please contact Liz Sullivan, our district enrollment specialist, at (515) 278-0470 or by emailing [enrollment@johnston.k12.ia.us](mailto:enrollment@johnston.k12.ia.us). Additional details will follow via separate email.