

## *September Newsletter*

Principal – Kristi Bachtell  
Assistant Principal – Eric Meredith

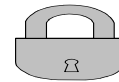


It is with much excitement that the teachers and staff at Bester Elementary School welcome everyone back to school. We look forward to a safe, successful, and bright 2009 – 2010 school year. As we transition into a new school year we welcome those who are new and returning to the Bester Community. We encourage all parents / guardians to take an active roll in year child's education at Bester Elementary. Please be sure to check your child's book bag and homework planner each day for communications from classroom teachers and general announcements. We encourage all parents / guardians to communicate any questions or concerns with your child's teacher in order for a collaborative effort to take place between home and school.



The instructional day begins at 8:55 am and doors open for students to enter the school each day at 8:30 am. Students who arrive after 8:55 am are considered tardy and are required to check in at the front office with an adult. Parents who are dropping off and picking up students by car should do so by following the inner and outer loop traffic pattern. The school day ends at 3:25 pm. Walkers in grades Pre-K - 1<sup>st</sup> grade will be dismissed from designated outside classroom doors. Students in 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be dismissed from the north side of the building which faces South Potomac Street. When crossing South Potomac Street, please do so where the crossing guards are located.

The Crossing Guards begin their duty each day at 8:20 am and 3:25 pm. Changes to a child's dismissal procedure will not be taken by phone. If your child's dismissal procedure is to be changed, a written note must be received by your child's teacher.



Due to added safety and security measures, all adults entering the building during the school day will need to ring the buzzer located beside the front door. After the door is open, check in with one of the secretaries, sign-in, and receive either a visitor or volunteer pass which must be visible while inside the building. If your child attends the YMCA Before / After School Program, you will need to access the building by the outside cafeteria door.



The Board of Education prohibits bullying, harassment, or intimidation of any student on school property or at school-sponsored functions or by the use of electronic technology at a public school.

A student or parent / guardian who wishes to report an incident of bullying, harassment, or intimidation should report the incident to the school Principal / Assistant Principal, or teacher within the school. If the problem is brought to the attention of a teacher, they will assist the student or parent / guardian with bringing the problem to the attention of the Principal or Assistant Principal.

The Principal / Assistant Principal will be responsible for investigating all allegations and complaints of alleged harassment of any kind. In order for an investigation to begin, parents will be required to fill out a written form providing details of the alleged incident.



Attendance continues to be an important initiative at Bester Elementary. In order for your child to receive the maximum amount of instruction required for their success, it is imperative that they arrive on time and are present everyday. There are weekly awards that individual classes can receive for being the best in attendance for the week. Not to mention, our monthly incentive of a catered lunch sponsored by Buffalo Wild Wings Restaurant.

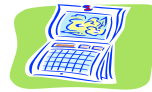


Throughout every classroom, rigorous instruction is delivered to each student on a daily basis. For example, students are engaged in independent practice, cooperative group work, teacher directed, and student centered instruction at all grade levels each day. The support provided at home is an extremely important part of your child's success and well being and we encourage you to engage in daily conversations at home with your child about their school day. Reading aloud with your child can be a great time for talking, relaxing, and just being together. Here are a few ideas to get a read-aloud discussion going:

- Help your child check for understanding by asking questions such as, "Does that make sense to you?" or commenting, "This part sounds important. I'm going to read it aloud again."

- Encourage your child to think about what they read with questions like, "Do you think that could really happen?" or "What do you think the author wants us to learn?"
- Connect the story to other ideas. For example, say, "Does that character's reaction remind you of anything?" or discuss similarities between the story and a person or event in your child's life.

### ***Mark Your Calendar!***



- Schools are closed Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup> for the Labor Day Holiday.
- Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup> – Vision Screening Grades K, 1, 3, 5.
- Friday September 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> – Cubs Class Play Group 8:45 – 10:00 am.
- Thursday Sept 24<sup>th</sup> & Friday September 25<sup>th</sup> – PBIS Ice Cream Party.
- Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Bester Cross Country Run 3:45 pm.
- Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> – 2½ hour early dismissal. Students will be dismissed at 12:55 pm.



***Bester Elementary ~  
Educating ALL for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century***

***Bester Elementary is a caring, achieving, respectful,  
and productive school.***

