

WILDCAT PRIDE

Winter NEWSLETTER



If you are like me and many others, you are suffering from some Covid fatigue. Many of the limitations and changes to normal life are taking their toll and if nothing else, talking about it and it always just being present is enough to wear one out. It looks like we are hopefully getting closer to an end with vaccines becoming available and people starting to get them.

Even though we have been and are continuing to see minimal cases in school and numbers are decreasing locally and in the state, we at school will still continue to maintain all safety and health protocols as good as we can that were established at the beginning of the year. With things overall going fairly well here, we still are experiencing new cases weekly and do not want to let our guard down and potentially open ourselves up to a negative impact on staff, students and families if infections and outbreaks were to increase based on our lack of effort to protect one another. Some of our very own staff members and student families have been greatly impacted by Covid and some family members have greatly suffered due to the illness. If we can do our part to help minimize any risk while this is still an ongoing issue, we will.

The main items we will continue to adhere to is student cohorting (keeping groups of students in a singular group at all times) during the day, wearing face coverings, increased sanitation efforts, handwashing and eating in the classrooms, or greatly spaced out in the cafeteria for kindergarten and first grade. We know none of these measures are 100 percent effective, but if we can do our best at implementing them for 8 hours a day in some capacity we know we are helping.

We are seeing a few students on a daily basis who are coming to school without masks. Please, no matter where your family stands on the issue, send your student with a mask/face covering. We have a number of staff members with concerning health conditions, are pregnant, or have spouses with significant risk factors. There are students too with health concerns related to Covid and for everyone's peace of mind and out respect for their health, please send your child with a face covering. We always give them one anyway and require them to be worn as much as possible. Thanks for your understanding.

We thankfully overall are having a successful and pretty normal school year in spite of the Covid impact. There has been much to celebrate and progress has been made in multiple areas, however there have been issues to contend with. The teachers are working hard to juggle in person teaching and remote, or quarantined students. We thankfully have not had to close whole rooms down and overall kids are progressing. We have had roughly 90 or so students need to quarantine for extended days and the overall days students have missed in total is a very large number. This will no doubt impact our student outcomes as time goes on. We however will be a head a lot of places around the U.S. I heard on the news this morning that there are places in the country where kids have been out of in person school for about a year now. We thankfully have not had that here and remain in person.

We will still be taking MAPS and AIMS tests to monitor student growth and giving our district common assessments in math, as well as developing them in reading. Remember, these tests are taken and student performance is tracked and documented and helps guide is in our decision making, planning and evaluation of our programs and curriculums. Students in grades 3-5 will again be required to take the state NSCAS tests this year. Last year, schools closed before these tests were given and we were exempt from taking them. This year we will be required to take them and we will be starting in late March and early April. Grades 3 and 4 take Math and English Language Arts and

5th does too along with Science. The good news is that all tests are going through some changes and this year will be some pilot testing of test items and overall scores for students and schools will not be reported by the state. Parents will not get scores for their children and neither will we. This is welcomed and should help schools out statewide with the inequity that has gone on for kids' education over the last year.

One of our biggest accomplishments in school lately, aside from academic progress, has been our school pride and our behavior program called WILDCAT PRIDE. Over the last couple years, the letters PRIDE stand for Positivity, Respect, Integrity, Determination and Empathy. Teachers use these characteristics as a behavioral focus in their classrooms and if a student is ever sent to me in the office, we discuss their behavior in relation to WILDCAT PRIDE and what it means to be a Wildcat at this school and how to make better choices in the future. I always tell students that how you act and behave is every bit as important as your grades and your school work. At this point, it seems nearly all kids can tell you what each of these characteristics mean and nearly all kids are behaving as we would like to see (Most of the time). Students get rewards each week and month revolving around them showing these characteristics. Our hope is that they make them a part of their daily habits and carry them on into the dreaded middle school and preteen years. Feel free to make PRIDE a part of your home life expectations too and you can refer to the characteristics when dealing with any behavior issues you might have at home.

Conferences are coming up again and are a very important and a great time to hear about how your child is performing academically and behaviorally. **In the spring of 2018 we had 96% attendance, in spring 2019 94% and this fall in 2020 was just 92% of parents attending.** I know there were new circumstances this year, but we would love to keep our percent attending near 100. **Conferences will take place on March 17 and 18** next month. Please be on the lookout for a short letter with your designated day and time we hope to have sent out by this Friday.

Please make every effort to come at your designated day and time. With the time frame available over those two nights and with the way sibling groups are split across grade levels, there is really not much room at all for any changes to occur. We will have your day and time sent home soon so you can plan accordingly with your other schedules and meet with your child's teacher in person.

Until next month, take care and GO WILDCATS! Mr. Hansen

Other Information

- *ALL LOST AND FOUND items from the beginning of the year were donated after winter break and will be again after conferences. If you are missing something, have your child check.
- *For transportation issues contact Myk Kuhns.
- *For Kids First After School Program and Youth Sports, Contact Jeff Beckman
- *For classroom related behaviors and academics contact your child's teacher.
- *If you need additional support in one of these areas contact Mr. Hansen.
- *Parent Teacher Conferences will be held March 17-18. Please look on Friday in backpacks for your scheduled time, or check with Miss Bymers in the office. Please plan on attending in person. We will require face coverings as we do for all who enter the building. If there are special health related issues and you would prefer a zoom call, you can arrange that with your child's teacher, but it will still need to take place during your designated time. We will not be asking teachers to do various electronic conferences at all different times for all kinds of people. Thanks for your understanding.**

January **PRIDE** Award Winners Were:

Kindergarten: Neleigh Anthony, Carsyn Jacob **First Grade:** Elaina Wesch, Autumn Pelo **Second Grade:** Lacie Siems, Mya Hamilton **Third Grade:** Aubree Hilker, Attikus Litle **Fourth Grade:** Jackson Peoples **Fifth Grade:** Loki Dishman, Kloe Frye

These students were nominated by a teacher in the building for exhibiting **EMPATHY** throughout the month of October. Congratulations to these students for being leaders in our building and exemplifying what it means to be a Cedar Bluffs WILDCAT.



GO WILDCATS!