



Hill Beacon

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December News

On Friday, December 12, we will honor our grandparents and senior citizens with the presentation of a holiday musical program. This year third graders will sing a few songs for our guests. Then fourth graders will present two short musicals, *The Littlest Reindeer* and *The Littlest Christmas Tree*. The program will also feature fifth Grade Band soloists performing some of their music. Following the musical program, our guests are invited to enjoy cookies and punch.

Due to space limitations we are reserving the morning performance for grandparents and senior citizens. Our students would also like to share their talents with parents. They will perform the program again at 2:00 in the afternoon for parents who wish to attend.

Students are working hard to prepare for this program. It is always an enjoyable and well-attended event, and we look forward to another successful performance.

Third Grade Reading Achievement

On October 6, our students took the Third Grade Ohio Achievement Test in Reading for the first time. I am very pleased to announce that 73% of our students scored proficient or higher on this test. Third graders, parents and teachers all deserve a pat on the back for the outstanding scores. This is quite an accomplishment, and much credit goes to the staff at Bick for their excellent reading instruction. Third grade teachers are continuing with excellent instruction, and we look forward to even higher scores in May.

Attendance

As the winter months are here and the cold and flu season is upon us, it is a good idea to review the district attendance policy. Remember, you need to call and notify school personnel if your child is going to be absent. You may call and leave a message any time since the attendance voice mail is operative 24 hours a day. Our attendance officer monitors the messages throughout the day.

When your child returns to school, he or she needs to have a note explaining the absence. Both of these steps must be completed for the absence to be excused. A complete explanation of the district attendance policy is available in your child's agenda.

December Superintendent Update

By Jim Smith

Unfortunately with the failure of the November levy comes spending cuts. We simply have to get our spending in line with our revenue. In October prior to the election the board of education agreed to a list of cuts as a first read in case the levy failed. Those included layoffs of personnel, changes in our student transportation system to include no high school busing, no extracurricular activities for grades K-8 and daily early closing of buildings. The board is meeting throughout December to consider how to proceed with each and to take input from the public. Three special board meetings are scheduled. The first was December 1st, the second is December 9th and the final special is set for December 30. All meetings will take place in the high school library at 7:00. Administration has been charged with the task of preparing recommendations in each of the aforementioned areas. We will have in place by January 31st an overall plan for spending cut implementation which will then be released to the public.

While the ramifications of the levy failure are a topic of great concern, school does go on. Each day, our staff is doing their very best to provide an excellent educational experience for the children of this community. The results in several areas continue to be extraordinary. First, 3rd grade Ohio Achievement Test October testing reading results were very strong with nearly 75% of students proficient. A large percent of proficient students were rated accelerated or advanced proficient. Students receive another opportunity this spring. We have also recently learned that our middle school has been rated in the top twenty of schools nationwide by the Southern Regional Educational Board in reading and science test scores. Your children are accomplishing some amazing things.

As always, December is a very active time of year with the beginning of winter sports, band and choir concerts, and plays. I encourage you to visit our web site for a complete schedule of December events. Thank you for your support of Bethel-Tate schools. I wish you and your family the very best of holidays.

Calendar

Dec. 3	Report Cards Sent Home
Dec. 5	A. R. Goal Assembly
Dec. 9	4 th Grade Awards – 9:30 a.m. 5 th Grade Awards – 2:30 p.m.
Dec. 10	3 rd Grade Awards – 9:30 a.m.
Dec. 12	Grandparent Holiday Program – 10:00 a.m.
Dec. 19	Interims Sent Home