

BEMIDJI AREA SCHOOLS ISD31

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

WELCOME

Welcome to the 2020 - 2021 school year! I am thrilled to welcome you to the Paul Bunyan Center and/or the Jack & Jill Preschool on the BSU campus. We are back in our buildings again and doing what we do best—teaching your little ones!

This spring and summer have brought many challenging and difficult times but we are all healthy, happy and ready to get back to school. I am privileged to work with an outstanding staff to make this a smooth transition for our students during this uncertain time. We promise to work closely with you to ensure the success and well-being of all of our students.

A safe re-opening plan has been developed to implement the best practices to mitigate the risks associated with COVID-19. Our classrooms have been modified in size to increase social distancing, signage has been installed throughout the building to guide staff and students, the building has been thoroughly cleaned and we are spending a lot of time teaching the basics of hand washing.

Children 5 years and under are not required to wear a face covering in our preschool classrooms. However, if you would like your child to wear a face covering in school, we will strongly encourage them to do so. This means they can wear it without frequently touching or removing it. All students who ride a bus are required to wear a face covering unless it is stated in their IEP.

We have purchased a new Second Step Social Emotional Curriculum for all preschool classrooms. Your child's teacher will be focusing on listening skills, managing behaviors and how to get along with others. When these self-regulation and social-emotional skills are mastered, your child will be set for success in Kindergarten.

Consider following our district website (www.bemidji.k12.mn.us) and our Facebook page (ECFE/SR Bemidji) for important updates and information regarding our plans during in-person, hybrid or distance learning models. Families looking for a preschool distance learning option can reach out to us for a list of reputable sites and online resources.

I value our partnership with families as we navigate through these challenging times. Please reach out to me with questions or concerns. Stay safe!

Sincerely,

Rachel Amdahl
Community Education Director

REMINDERS



Masks are recommended but not required for all students over the age of 2 in our building. You will see staff wearing masks, shields or a combo of the two. Anyone entering our building will be required to wear a mask if they are over the age of 5. In addition, all students who ride the bus are required to wear a mask unless it is stated in their IEP. Please wash your child's mask frequently if they do decide to wear a mask to school.



There has been a temporary extension to the Summer Meal Program. There will be FREE breakfast and lunch to all students, starting September 14, 2020 and ending December 31, 2020, or earlier if funding runs out.



Drop off time is at 7:45 am for all students. We ask that all parents and caregivers please respect this time for teachers/paras to prepare for the day.



If your child needs after school care, please register them by calling Secretary Sue at (218)333-3119. We can provide care until 5:30pm on scheduled school days. The daily rate is \$7.25. Your child must be pre-registered in advance.



Join our Facebook page for ECFE and School Readiness happenings.

You will find us under: ECFE/SR Bemidji
Also, bookmark the district website for an abundance of school info for all grade levels.
www.bemidji.k12.mn.us



BE KIND....BOOKS TO READ:

Some great books to read to your child about empathy and kindness:

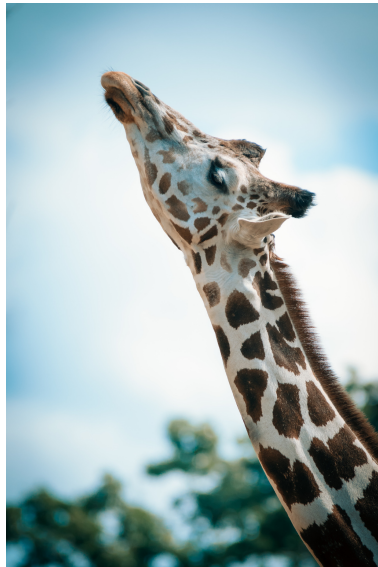
Those Shoes by Maribeth Boelts

Jeremy really wants the shoes that all the kids are wearing. The problem is that his family can't afford them. Jeremy will do most anything to own a pair—including squeeze into a pair on sale that is a size too small. Jeremy soon discovers the “uncomfortable” consequences of this solution and begins to appreciate what he already has.



Enemy Pie by Derek Munson

With his father's help, a little boy learns an effective recipe for turning an enemy into a friend.



A Sick Day for Amos McGee by Philip C. Stead

Amos McGee works at the zoo. Amos always finds time each day to spend in special ways with five of his animal friends. One day Amos is sick. His friends then get a chance to do something special for Amos.

Have You Filled a Bucket Today? by Carol McCloud,

This book helps set a positive tone by giving children a visual way to think about kindness toward others.



Hey, Little Ant by Phillip Hoose and Hannah Hoose

An ant pleads with a boy not to squash him.

