



THE BELLE RINGER

Belle River Elementary 1601 Chartier, Marine City, MI 48039 (810) 676-1150 Attendance Line (810)676-1166

Dear Parents,

Recently there has been a lot of focus on bullying in the media. While it is brought to the attention of the media periodically, bullying has never been tolerated at Belle River since we understand that students cannot learn as well if they are not feeling comfortable emotionally. Belle River staff is devoted to monitoring and managing this issue. We believe it is our job to make certain that students feel safe when they come to school- both physically and emotionally.

Learning social skills is important:

That being said, students (and adults alike) make mistakes and learn from them. As educators we understand that students learn both academics and social skills while attending school. Learning to work with one another is not always an easy task but a critical piece to living in the "real world". Some students need additional work on academics, while others need additional work on how to work well with others.

All poor behavior is not bullying:

We also understand that not every "situation" that occurs with poor student behavior is bullying. In fact, most are not. Students often have to be taught how to treat one another and understand how others feel. That is what "growing up" is all about- learning how to interact with one another.

What is bullying?

In the book *Bullying at School: What We Know and What We Can Do* the definition of bullying is as follows:

"A person is bullied when he or she is exposed, repeatedly and over time to negative actions on the part of one or more other persons, and he or she has difficulty defending him or herself."

This definition has three important components:

1. Bullying is aggressive behavior that involves unwanted, negative actions.
2. Bullying involves a pattern of behavior repeated over time.
3. Bullying involves an imbalance of power or strength.

Many of the situations involving poor choices or negative actions between students at Belle River are not bullying by definition, but we address them immediately so students learn how to treat one another.

A learning process:

When we meet with students and discuss the situation, students often leave with an understanding that they were a part of the problem and even more importantly- strategies for how to deal with the situation more effectively the next time. We try to move away from the blaming and move towards understanding why it happened and what do we can do next time so students learn from the process. Rest assured, when students are unkind to one another we take it serious and address it. Although students receive consequences the real power is in the discussion and the learning process. After we have a discussion with all students and adults, we take each case individually to ensure fairness and an opportunity for learning that meets the needs of the individual child.

The ultimate goal:

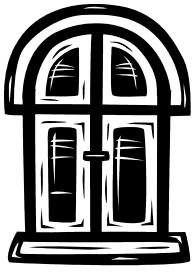
When looking down the road, our final goal/ outcome is that students can solve their own problems so we are trying to provide them with strategies to do just that. Therefore, when students are having problems with students we often will allow them the opportunity to solve their own problem with specific strategies (Such as, use an I statement and tell them how you feel). Often as students mature we see them try new strategies and it then becomes a life skill and powerful tool. We also inform students that they need to let an adult know if their strategies do not work.

Working together:

Our entire staff at Belle River is involved and dedicated to ensure that all students feel safe- in order to provide a positive learning experience. We have found that we are more effective with students when we work together with parents. So, please contact your child's teacher when you have concerns or questions. We are working as a team to ensure that Belle River students are RESPONSIBLE, RESPECTFUL, SAFE, AND A GOOD FRIEND!

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs. Andrea



Morning Entrance and Afternoon Departure Issues

Belle River strives to have a happy, learning environment, which is also safe for our students. We love to see parents at school and encourage parents to be active participants of Belle River. That being said, our goal is to also keep students safe. We work hard to balance keeping students safe while also keeping the climate of the building open and friendly. A district requirement is that visitors sign in and put on a visitor sticker, in order to ensure we know who is in the building at all times. Please help us keep Belle River a safe, learning environment by **signing in and wearing your visitor pass** if you are leaving the lobby and entering into the classroom corridors. **Please give hugs and kisses and say your "good byes" in the lobby and send your scholar off for the day.** That actually builds responsibility and sends the message that you know they can do it. Thank you for helping us keep these our students safe!



It's that time of the year that we unfortunately see more illnesses - including colds, flu, strep throat, ear infections, etc. I have a couple suggestions to help reduce illness and lost school days. First and most importantly, good hand-washing, overall hygiene (bathing, brushing teeth) good nutrition and adequate sleep will boost everyone's immunity. Dressing appropriately to play outside and wait at bus stops is also a must. Lastly, if your child is ill **please keep them home until they are fever free** and comfortable. We try to track outbreaks of strep and other illnesses so if your physician confirms a particular illness, please let the school know. Hopefully, these suggestions will keep your family healthy this winter season.

Mrs. Sue Setter, School Nurse



BREAKFAST

It is very important that students have a well-balanced and nutritious diet. Food is the fuel that provides energy for the task of learning. Evidence is increasing to support the view that kids who eat breakfast perform better at school. Did you know the National School Breakfast Program is:

- Designed to offer children a nutritious morning meal that provides one-fourth of a student's daily needs for key nutrients including calcium.
- A great help to parents who don't have time to prepare a morning meal every day.
- Great for kids who aren't hungry first thing in the morning.

RAISING Life-long Learners

You are invited to attend a wonderful evening with James Jones (MBA), a renowned presenter whose goal is guiding children to be successful learners. Jim "Basketball" Jones has motivated and entertained audiences from corporate world to schools and basketball camps across the country. Now we are pleased to offer the exciting opportunity to hear his message to parents of students in Kdg. - 6th grade. Childcare for preschool age children is available.

WHEN: JANUARY 12, 2012

TIME: 7:00-8:00PM

**WHERE: Pine River Elementary
3575 King Road, China, MI**

Forms are available in the school office. If you would like to attend and are in need of childcare, please complete the form and return to your child's school office by: **MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2012.**

STUDENT COUNCIL BEGINS AT BELLE RIVER

We would like to congratulate our student council members. The 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students have begun identifying activities to improve Belle River's educational environment. The second meeting was held on Jan. 5th and the students discuss and vote on what activities will be held during the rest of the school year. Listed below are the members of Student Council for the school year of 2010-2011.

- Mr. Leishman
- Vincent Gaytan Dylan Parker Karl Kozfkay
- Mrs. Bowers
- Cody Bieth Jami Badger Dante Weaver
- Mr. Domagalski
- Erica Wiencek Molly Thomas Elisabeth Westrick
- Mrs. Penzien
- Michael Pardo Kennedy Felax Jasmine Koss
- Mrs. Westerhof
- Jacob Kornago Riley Drinkwine Broklyn Collins Jacob Weaver
- Mrs. Lehr
- Nick Slankster Katelynn MacEwan Lynn Schwartz Morigan Vermilya
- Mrs. Charron
- Victor Sitz Harmony Baker Charles Tigert
- Mrs. Drumb
- Joey Street Connor Heaslip Ian Blackstock
- Mrs. Weatherly
- Shane Wagner Kassie Gaytan Seth Burton





November Students of the Month!!

- Mrs. Mauck: Avery Krantz, Ryan Sicken, Mackenzie Uppleger
- Mrs. Talaski: Faith Ward, Cyrus Pelland, Natalie Boulier, Jenelle Gallaher
- Mrs. White: Olivia Champion, Ryan Genaw, Nathan Grabowski, Chloe McKenzie
- Mrs. Greib: Logan Heaslip, Katie Simons, Preston Kodet, Alyssa Trafford
- Mrs. Moses: Jared Warner, Domonic Thompson, Miranda Bieth, Madel Humbert
- Ms. Zajdel: Rachel Mckenzie, Grant Hodgins
- Mrs. Charron: Harmony Baker, Ryan Hubbert, Rosemary Basney
- Mrs. Drumb: Nate Daniel, Joey Street
- Mrs. Weatherly: Abrielle Ames, Jade Jarskey, Morgan Burns, Dayton LaChance
- Mrs. Lehr: Morigan Vermilya, Kenna Robbel, Jared Bryson, Nick Borunda
- Mrs. Penzien: Trevor Knox, Kennedy Felax, Charlie Daniel, Rachel Genaw
- Mrs. Westerhof: Wesley Uppleger, Ciera Brown, Alyssa Pollauf, Jacob Weaver
- Mrs. Bowers: Shane Collins, Cassidy Mandel, Nick Williams, Mireya Woznak
- Mr. Domagalski: Luke Pettinger, Haylee Smith, Zach Pettinger, Elisabeth Westrick
- Mr. Leishman: Lauren Morris, Madison Fullington, Dylan Parker, Karl Kozfkay
- Mrs. McKellar/ART: Madison Bieth, Karly Merrill, Derek Landis, Emma Forest
- Mr. Westerhof/PE: Jaden Heaslip, Reagan Adamczyk, Kennedy Felax, Samantha Bieth



The theme for this year's carnival is "Think Spring". Please check out your child's backpack for volunteer and basket raffle information. It takes many volunteers to make the carnival a success!!



EXTRA RECESS TIME

Parents are invited to attend our PTO meetings held every first Thursday of the month. The classroom with the most parent participation will receive extra recess time!!!

January Spirit Day Winners

- Mrs. Rymar M/W - Grant Westrick
- Mrs. Rymar T/Th - Brooke Dornoff
- Mrs. Trout-Davidson - Jack MacEwan
- Mrs. Mauck - Sophia Harm
- Mrs. Talaski - Natalie Boulier
- Mrs. White - Sophie Vogler
- Mrs. Greib - Ryan Wiley
- Mrs. Moses - Miranda Bieth
- Ms. Zajdel - Brett Coppens
- Mrs. Drumb - Rory Taylor
- Mrs. Charron - Rian Wood
- Mrs. Weatherly - Shane Wagner
- Mrs. Lehr - Angelo Patsalis
- Mrs. Penzien - Jasmine Koss
- Mrs. Westerhof - Riley Drinkwine
- Mrs. Bowers - Dante Weaver
- Mr. Leishman - Hunter Daniels
- Mr. Domagalski - Erica Wiencek
- Pizza Winner - Mrs. Drumb



CONGA!!!!

Belle River 3rd, 4th & 5th grade students dance through the halls after they learn their multiplication facts! Please encourage your scholars to practice at home so they can be part of the Belle River Dancing! Following are the dates in which students, who master their multiplication facts, participate with the Conga Dance from 3:10-3:20:

- Thursday, January 12th
- Friday, February 10th
- Tuesday, March 13th
- Wednesday, April 11th
- Monday, May 14th
- Wednesday, June 6th



First grade students from Mrs. Mauck's, Mrs. Talaski's and Mrs. White's classes performed in December for parents and students. It was a touching holiday pageant.



Belle River's Parent Resource Library

We welcome and encourage parents to check out our parent materials in the Media Center

Books:

Successful Parenting - Taming the Homework Monster
The 10 Greatest Gifts I Give My Children - Steven W. Vannoy
Homework Talk! The Art of Effective Communication About Your Child's Homework - Cheli Cerra, M.Ed. & Ruth Jacoby, Ed.D.
Siblings Without Rivalry: How to Help Your Children Live Together So You Can Live Too - Adele Faber & Elaine Mazlish
The Mindful Child - Susan Kaiser Greenland
Parenting Without Power Struggles - Susan Stiffelman, MFT
Respectful Parents Respectful Kids - Sura Hart
Have You Filled a Bucket Today? - Carol McCloud
Helping Your Anxious Child - Ronald Rapee, Ph.D.,
A Mind At A Time - Mel Levine, MD
No More Meltdowns - Jed Baker, Ph.D.
The 10 Greatest Gifts I Give My Children - Steven W. Vannoy
The New Strong-Willed Child - Dr. James Dobson
The Highly Sensitive Child - Elaine N. Aron, Ph.D.
Freeing Your Child From Anxiety - Tamar E. Chansky, Ph.D.
My Book Full of Feelings - Amy V. Jaffe, M.S.W., and Luci Gardner
I'm Not Bad, I'm Just Mad - Lawrence E. Shapiro, Ph.D., Zach Pelta-Heller, Anna Greenwald
Sharing Books Together: Promoting Emergent Literacy Through Reading Aloud and Home-School Partnerships - Kathleen A. Martin & L.Kay Emfinger
A Mind At a Time - Mel Levine, MD
The Myth of Laziness - Mel Levine, MD
Ready or Not, Here Life Comes - Mel Levine, MD
The Read-Aloud Handbook - Jim Trelease
Between Parent and Child - Dr. Haim G. Ginott
How to Talk so Kids Will Listen & Listen So Kids Will Talk - Adele Faber & Elaine Mazlish
Parenting from Your Heart - Inbal Kashtan
Scream Free Parenting: Raising Your Kids by Keeping Your Cool - Hal Edward Runkel,
Up and Down the Worry Hill - Aureen Pinto Wagner, Ph.D.
What To Do When You Worry Too Much - Dawn Huebner, Ph.D.
Playing It Right! - Rachael Bareket
The Social Skills Picture Book - Teaching Play, Emotion and Communication to Children With Autism - Jed Baker, Ph.D.

DVD'S:

Common Sense Parenting: Helping Kids Succeed in School
Common Sense Parenting: Correcting Misbehavior
Common Sense Parenting: Building Relationships
Common Sense Parenting: Teaching Children Self-Control
Raising Children without losing your voice or your mind
Successful Parenting
Parents on Board