



Bonny Doon School

Superintendent/Principal's Newsletter

March 2019

Life Skill for March: Courtesy

"The small courtesies sweeten life; the greater ennoble it" Christian Nestell Bovee.

STARTS Mission: Word Work

Dear Families,

As we finish February, our students participated in the STARS rally to celebrate their work on the monthly mission: math facts. Our monthly rallies are an opportunity to recognize student work towards their mission goals and life skills development. At the rally, we enjoyed two "math" guest speakers—Mike Kubo and Will Hippen—who shared how strong foundational skills in math connects to their fun and successful careers. At school, our students are continuing to develop their math skills, and practicing at home really helps them.

I'd like to take the opportunity to share some of our curricular focal areas as we are approaching the end of the second trimester. The teachers and I have been working hard to implement new and aligned approaches across all grade-levels:

- English/Language Arts—we are continuing to implement the Lucy Calkins Units of Study (Reader and Writers Workshop). This is a standards-aligned program that supports student learning through individual student conferences on their writing and reading and targeted "mini-lessons" on specific skills. Our staff will be welcoming a consultant who has been supporting our implementation to the school later this month. During the consultant's visit, our teachers will have the opportunity to practice using the program with feedback from "an expert".
- Mathematics—our students and teachers have been working with a math consultant to support a problem-based math approach. This approach allows teachers to develop math skills through larger problems that require both individual and collaborative thinking. This approach also aligns with our adopted curriculum and other math professional learning that our staff has engaged with as part of the Silicon Valley Math Initiative (SVMI). If you're interested in learning more about this approach and why our teachers are working so hard at it, please [see this brief video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e3s6hGTsgQA) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e3s6hGTsgQA>)
- Science—our teachers are working to implement the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) through a county-wide effort supported by the Santa Cruz County Office of Education. This first year of the effort centers around building leadership and expertise with the new standards as well as purchasing aligned materials. All of the districts in our county have chosen to move forward with FOSS Science Kits, which will allow for a seamless matriculation through the schools. Kate Sommer and Sarah Speers are our teacher leaders for the new science program implementation.

All of these curricular efforts will strengthen our already solid academic program. We have a great team of teachers who continuously strive to meet our students' needs through continued professional learning and collaboration.

Appreciations

- Thanks to all of the parents/guardians and community members who attended our community input sessions. We appreciated all of the ideas and conversation. In the coming weeks, we will be conducting on our annual parent and student survey to gather further input.
- Thanks to parents Kendra Turk and Natalia Flechsig (also a school board member) for their time and help to update our web page. We are excited to make our web page as useful as possible for our community to stay engaged and informed. We are presently working to shed outdated content, and you should see the changes in the near future.

STARS February Mission: Work Work

Study habits * Time management * Accountability * Resourcefulness * Success

Words, and a student's mastery of words, have a direct connection to a student's skills in reading and writing. For example, "sight words build speed and fluency when reading. Accuracy, speed and fluency in reading increase reading comprehension (*sightwords.com*)." Therefore, we feel that time spent on working on words is invaluable. Your student's teacher has plenty of ideas to support home practice that is appropriate for their grade-level; don't hesitate to ask for suggestions.

A Note About School Closures Once School Opens

Last month, I shared information about ways that we communicate school closures that occur prior to the opening of school in the morning; It's pasted just below this paragraph for your reference. If a closure occurs **after school has started for the day**, the automated phone calling system will be activated, and an email will be sent home to all families. We will also post the closure on our school Facebook page. Students will remain with their teacher in their classrooms until they can be released to a parent/guardian, a pre-designated Emergency Person or a safe adult. Parents/guardians must officially sign students out from the classroom. **Parents/guardians will not be allowed to take other students from the classroom unless they are the students' pre-designated Emergency Person listed on the student's enrollment form or in possession of a note from the student's parent/guardian.** *Please restrict your phone calls to the office. There are limited operating telephones during a power outage. The office will be busy making calls and assisting students and teachers.*

In the event of a school closure **prior to opening for the day**, we always notify KSBW news ((TV), KZSC (90.3 FM Radio) and KCSO (1080 AM radio) to alert the community as soon as we make the determination that school cannot open in the morning. In addition, we utilize the "all call" system that sends an email, text message, and phone message to our families. We will also post notice on the school's Facebook feed, and on Bonny Doon "Slice of Heaven" stream. We will also make every attempt to have a staff member in the upper parking lot to alert parents who are unable to receive the school closure message through the other means.

From Our Parent Club

March 5th at 6:30 pm is our next meeting. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

- March 20th is our next Dining Out Night at **Woodstock's Pizza** in Santa Cruz 5-9pm (Flyer coming home this month)
- Keep collecting the box tops and bring them to your child's classroom.

Like us on Facebook. Email Casey at bduespc@gmail.com

Planning for Next Year is Underway

If you have a child turning TK or kindergarten age, it's time to register. If your student(s) will not be returning to Bonny Doon School next year (K-5, as we know our 6th graders will be moving on), please let us know. Please contact the office if either of these scenarios applies to your family as the sooner we know, the more we can plan classes for next year.

March Calendar

Fri. March 1 st	BDS Night with the SC Warriors	Kaiser Arena
Sat. March 2 nd	5:00-7:00 Science & Engineering Fair Public Viewing	Plantronics, Santa Cruz
Mon. March 4 th	1:00 Earthquake/Lockdown Drill	
Tues. March 5th- Thurs. March 7th Conferences (12:30 Dismissal)		
Tues. March 5 th	6:30 Parents' Club	Library
Mon. March 11 th	6 th Grade Visit to Mission Hill Middle School	
Tues. March 12 th	6:00 Foundation Mtg.	Staff Room
Wed. March 13 th	8:30 Library Mural Cmte. Mtg.	Library
Thurs. March 14 th	3 rd Grade- to the Santa Cruz Symphony	
Mon. March 18 th	5:30 Board Mtg.	Library
Wed. March 20 th	5:00-9:00 Dining for Dollars Fundraiser at Woodstock's Pizza	Santa Cruz
Thurs. March 21 st	5:00 Science Night	Multi
Fri. March 22 nd	8:30 Staff Development (No Student Attendance)	
Wed. March 27 th	STARS Rally	
Thurs. March 28 th	11:00 6 th Grade Class Play	Multi
	3:30 Site Council	Conf. Room
	6:00 6 th Grade Class Play	Multi

Looking Ahead, Some Important Dates:

April 1-5	Spring Break
April 18 th	Variety Show
May 3 rd	Spring Concert/Spaghetti Dinner/Book Fair
May 6 th -24 th	Standardized Testing Window (3 rd -6 th Grade)
May 16 th	Open House/Art Show