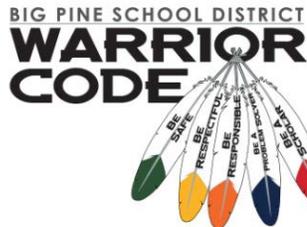


The Big Pine Beacon

News from Big Pine Unified School District

March 29, 2016
Volume 7 Number 4



Upcoming Events

- Mar. 28/Apr. 1 - Spring Break - NO SCHOOL
- Apr. 3/6-College Tour Trip, Flagstaff & Colo.
- Apr. 4 & 5 - 9th & 10th Grade To Museum in LA
- Apr. 6 - 2nd Grade Eureka Dunes Trip
- Apr. 7 - MS to Crystal Geysers Plant
- Apr. 7 - HS Government Class to Independence
- Apr. 8 - 5th Grade College & Career Day
- Apr. 12 - 7th Grade Watershed Fieldwork
- Apr. 12 - Board Meeting
- Apr. 14 - Smokey the Bear Visit to Kindergarten
- Apr. 26 - Kindergarten Round-Up
- Apr. 26 - 6th Grade Watershed Fieldwork
- Apr. 27 - Community Meetings
- Apr. 29 - Sadie Hawkins Day Activities
- May 2/6 - State Testing
- May 2 - Board Meeting
- May 9/13 - Book Fair
- May 12/15 - Senior Trip
- May 19-Celebration of Learning Open House-MINIMUM DAY



We Are Crew!

Positive Results from Big Pine's Annual Climate Survey

By Superintendent Pamela Jones

"What is it that you like best about the Big Pine Unified School District?" was an important question we asked parents and students. And a common response was: "the people."

In our annual survey of parents and students, the great staff, small class sizes and friendly atmosphere of our school community topped the list of things that are valued. One trend that stands out is that the majority of our families believe we are headed in the right direction. As a respondent commented, our district is a "small flexible learning community that is adopting an exciting learning model, and we have supportive staff and administration."

We had 114 respondents overall, and once again we find that the majority of you are happy with our instructional innovations and the great work being done at Big Pine School District. When asked if parents felt their student is

Students Participate in Inyo County's Birthday

By Ed Dardenne-Ankringa, Principal

On March 22nd I had the privilege of attending the Inyo County sesquicentennial celebration of the County's founding with our middle school and high school ASB. Ten students, Jennifer Weston, the middle school ASB Adviser, and I were invited to participate in a special meeting of the Board of Supervisors conducted on the steps of the County courthouse in Independence. Students had the opportunity to hear dignitaries from Inyo County and outside the area speak, including our elected officials at the county & state level. Moreover, students heard from individuals about their personal experiences and of their families in settling and living in Inyo County, and why Inyo remained a special and unique place to be in and be from. As some students learned and others were reminded, being a community member from the "dwelling place of the great spirit" carries not only a rich history, but a responsibility to our environment and each other.

Superintendent, Pamela Jones
Principal, Ed Dardenne-Ankringa

supported to be academically and personally successful at Big Pine Schools, almost 70% answered extremely well supported and overall we rated a 4.6 out of 5 among all respondents on this crucial measure.

What do our respondents like least? The lack of choice in elective offerings. However, they often comment that they understand that this is one of the side effects of our small size, and they value the individual attention to students far more than having multiple class offerings.

The survey is given to parents right after Student Led Conferences (SLCs), and we continue to see huge value for families in the SLC process. Parents tell us that they "...love the Student Led Conference," and they like seeing the great examples of student work. As one parent stated, "Impressive presentation!"

Student participation in events and learning opportunities such as this 150 year celebration are important components of our schools and expeditionary learning. As we say - we are crew not passengers. Students didn't just attend a celebration, they participated as community members and they had an opportunity to hear and see for themselves, differing perspectives on the settlement of the Owens Valley and differing historical interpretations of the events over the last century and a half. What better way for students to learn than to participate? And how compelling that students have the opportunity to think critically for themselves about the history of their county, their place within it, and the role they may play in the future. So as our students embark on fieldwork, local and extended travel, research for case studies and exciting expeditions, please engage them in what they learned, connections they made, experiences that invigorated them, and what they still wonder.

Trout in the Classroom

By Michele Dossey, Teacher

The Big Pine Elementary First Grade class has been home to 75 Rainbow trout through Trout in the Classroom (TIC) since February 12th. The goal of this program is to help young people become good stewards of all our aquatic resources, including trout. Students raise the trout to learn about their habitat requirements and how to keep habitats healthy, so the wild fish may thrive once again.

Our classroom tank had been set up by our expert, Jarett Coons, ready to go for about a week in preparation of the eggs' arrival. Friends of the Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery donated all of the equipment necessary for TIC classes in Inyo County. We received our Rainbow trout eggs on February 12th. After the arrival of the eggs, we immediately set forth on our adventure of learning all about the life stages of the Rainbow trout - egg, alevin, fry, adult! We learned what was needed to take care of the trout as they moved through these life stages. After several weeks, the eggs hatched into alevin. They looked like little eggs sacs hanging on a very tiny fish!



Fish Dissection: Michele Dossey, teacher, with Chase Whitman and Cameron Gibson

Second Grade Fieldwork in Alabama Hills

By Heather Burror, Teacher

The second grade class recently traveled to the Alabama Hills near Lone Pine for fieldwork and study for their John Muir Learning Expedition. As students hiked the Mobius Arch Trail, they stopped to learn about the local habitat, and how erosion shapes the landscape. Students' work included close reading about erosion, and journal writing and sketching about the natural rock formations, plants, and animals they saw.

Students were excited to see the Mobius Arch, as well as several other arches and interesting rock formations. Colorful desert flowers bloomed near the trail. Students spotted several varieties of cactus, as well as lizards, jackrabbits, red-tailed hawks, and other desert animals.

Students will be continuing their studies with fieldwork at the Eureka Dunes in Death Valley National Park when we return from Spring Break.



2nd Grade Class in Alabama Hills

We continued our study by looking at the external and internal anatomy of the Rainbow trout. Fish Springs Fish Hatchery was kind enough to give us 15 good-sized trout to dissect. Of course the dissection took place in the beautifully renovated science Lab in the high school. Ms. Edge and a few students, including Martin Woollard, Bodie Steinwand, C.J. LaFrombois and Hillary Duckey were there to help the students don their lab aprons and goggles and guide them through the dissection. The first graders truly became scientists by taking on this assignment without hesitation. Everyone was focused and full of wonder! The discoveries made about trout were memorable to say the least. Looking externally and seeing the gills, scales and lateral line of the trout up close added so much to the understanding of the fish. Then students cut open the trout to look internally. Discovering the float bladder and looking at the brain were definite highlights of the dissection.

After another few weeks the alevin became fry, losing their egg sac and began swimming around the tank. Only then were we able to uncover the tank. Students observed the fry as they swam and hit the surface to devour the sprinkled on fish food! But knowing that trout do not eat 'fish food' in the wild, we began our study of what they do eat. We learned about the aquatic insects available to the trout in our local streams and creeks. We



(lft to rt)Front Row: Chase Witman, Cameron Gibson, Jesse Marquez, Lucian Rico-Moose, Tanner Howard, Owen Bacock and Wanbli InTheWoods. 2nd Row: Isabel Sualez, Legacy Maris, Sadie Maris, LilyJo Bradley, Cambrie Lanphear, Jayden Chaparro and Noah Ericson. Back Row: Chaperons Adrienne Maris, Avery Almedia, Mykala Howard, Yolanda Cortez, Alan Bacock and Jarett Coons.

took a walking expedition to Big Pine Creek where our expert, Jarett Coons, helped students gather aquatic insects to examine and Alan Bacock was there to help us look at the health of the creek. We also had several parents along to help guide the students in their learning. The morning was a very successful hands-on learning experience for the young scientists. We brought some of the insects back to take a closer look at them that afternoon. They just couldn't get enough!

Then, on March 22nd, we set out to Baker Creek to release the well cared for Rainbow trout fry. Jim Erdman, from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, was there to guide the release, along with Jarett Coons. Students became scientists once again as they rotated through three work stations including releasing the fry, aquatic insects, and new habitat of our fry. After a picnic lunch, the first graders did more journaling, writing what they thought the fry were doing now! We were very optimistic that most would grow up to be adults, and maybe be caught by one of them someday! The First Grade Crew then walked back to school, stopping at Carroll's Market to enjoy a tasty treat to end the day.

A huge 'Thank You' to all who were involved in our Trout in the Classroom experience! Even though the fry are gone, we will be continuing our study to learn even more about how to be stewards of our aquatic resources. See you in the wild!

Bodie Steinwand

By Clarissa Benbrook, Student

This month's student profile is on Bodie Steinwand, an up-and-coming middle school scholar. Bodie has stepped up this year to represent our school in a number of "brainy" competitions such as the Science Fair, Speech Contest, and Spelling Bee. Bodie is a very goal oriented middle schooler. I asked multiple questions about setting goals and achieving them and his response was simply, "I definitely set goals, if you don't set goals, I believe it's harder to achieve whatever you want to do."

Bodie's favorite subject in school is mathematics. He says, "It's honestly very satisfying when you take a long equation and complete it successfully." Since he would like to be an Air Force pilot one day, he is aware that you will need math in the future. Many kids going to school dislike it, yet Bodie loves learning. He's the kind of kid who enjoys learning about and discovering a variety of topics, especially science.

His strong academic standing and proven scholarship in class prompted him to represent Big Pine in several recent competitions. "[Winning was] certainly interesting, I didn't have a huge goal to win, but winning definitely felt good," he said elaborating on the Speech Contest. As for the Spelling Bee, he wasn't fazed by not winning. He didn't really strive to win, so he didn't study which goes to show that setting real goals does help. The Science Fair was by far his favorite competition. "I really enjoyed it, I tried really hard, took extensive care, I even stayed multiple hours after school to work on it," he recalled. Then he adds happily, "And in the end I won."

Bodie is not just a scholar. He enjoys social activities such as working the ASB/Snack Shack, as well as recently helping the first graders learn how to dissect a trout and learn about their organs and the functions. He's already prepping the next generation of scientists here at Big Pine!

As a high schooler myself, I believe that Bodie will glide through High School and will become very successful in the future. He knows what he wants and he's not afraid to leave his comfort zone. That's a good recipe for success!

Refining Public Speaking Skills

By Melinda Dardenne-Ankring, Teacher

As the primary voting season for the presidential election gets underway, middle school students at Big Pine Unified School District began researching and writing speeches about: "In your opinion, what questions should our presidential candidates address?" Speeches would be evaluated on content and delivery. After presenting their speeches in class competitions, Bodie Steinwand, 8th grade, and Joey Huston, 6th grade, were selected to compete at the county level. Bodie and Joey accepted the challenge to deliver their original speeches in front of a panel of judges and large audience. Joey Huston's speech was titled, "Free College Tuition - A Presidential Debate." Bodie Steinwand's speech was titled, "It Seems Simple to Me." Both students showed poise and confidence as they delivered their speeches. After the judges tallied scores, Bodie Steinwand was announced as the third place winner for the 2016 Inyo County Speech Contest. It is experiences like these, that help students prepare for college and career public speaking opportunities.



Bodie Steinwand with his blue ribbon from the Science Fair.

Big Pine Elementary Science Fair

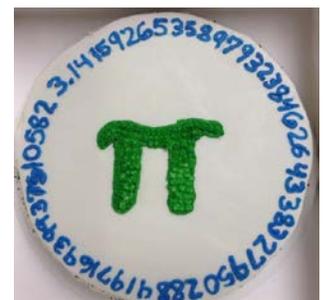
By Jan Hart, Middle School Teacher

On February 5th, Big Pine Middle School students participated in the biennial Science Fair. Thirty-two science students from grades 6-8 displayed their projects, the fruits of weeks of study and experimentation in the physical, chemical and biological sciences. Judging this year was provided by Kerry Lozito, Science Coordinator for Inyo County Schools, and our own former Big Pine Teacher, Sandy Burns. The top three projects were separated by only a couple of points. Bodie Steinwand was declared the overall winner, with Rainah Dewey and Paige Vance rounding out the top three. Sixth grade student Brooke Spratt was close behind and received an Honorable Mention. Bodie, Rainah and Paige then participated in the county-wide Science Fair held in Bishop on February 10th. Both Rainah and Paige were awarded runners-up certificates for their projects, while Bodie's project, Examining the Effect of Disinfectants on Bacterial Growth, received a blue ribbon and was eligible for the regional RIMS Science Fair during April in Riverside. We want to applaud all the hard work that our students put into their projects. We saw tremendous growth in science learning over those weeks spent focusing on the scientific method and look forward to the next fair and all the amazing questions that our students will ask and want to explore. Our hats off to our judges Kerry and Sandy! Our students benefited greatly from your thoughtful critique and encouragement.

Pi Day 2016

By Cindy Edge, Teacher

March is a special month in the world of math because March 14 represents Pi which begins with 3.14 and never ends. This year we decided to implement activities that would include grades K-12. The Algebra 2 class designed appropriate activities for grades K-6 and on



Pie from Pi Day

March 14 they went to each classroom and taught their lessons. At the end of the day the entire Big Pine School District met in Helen Lund Square and celebrated the day by getting into their community circle and enjoying a piece of PIE.

Overall the day was enjoyable for all and we hope that it is the beginning of a tradition here at the Big Pine School District.



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Shop for school items at:
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**Congratulation to these Students
 who earned 1st Quarter High Marks
 Honor Roll (3.5 GPA or above)**

High School: Eric Fairley, Gena Lewis and Cesar Rico

Middle School: Martin Woollard

Honorable Mention (3.2-3.49 GPA)

High School: Clarissa Benbrook, Brian Hambleton, Cammbrianna Marquez, Cassandra Meza, Gabriela Meza, Juan Meza, Jamie Robinson and Dominick Santiago

Middle School: Rainah Dewey, Noelani InTheWoods, Bodie Steinwand, Giovanni Talamantes and William Vance

Essay Contest

By Rosemarie Todd, Auxiliary President

Big Pine American Legion Auxiliary is proud to announce the 2016 Americanism Essay Contest winners for Big Pine School. The auxiliary's Americanism program includes all activities that perpetuate American ideals and to uphold the principles of American democracy. The American Legion Auxiliary believes that the more knowledge our young people gain, the better citizens they will become. That is why the auxiliary is so committed to education. Investing in the education of our young people is investing in the future of our country.

Auxiliary President, Rosemarie Todd, presented cash awards to the winners on March 22 at Big Pine School District and would like to thank the teachers and students who participated in the 2016 Americanism Essay Contest. All first place winners' essays have advanced to the district level.

(Winners by Groups) **Group IV** (10th, 11th & 12th gr.) "What Freedom Means To Me" - 1st Brian Hambleton, 2nd Eric Fairley, 3rd Gena Lewis; **Group III** (9th & 10th gr.) "What Is Patriotism?" - 1st Tyler Mahlum-Hambleton, 2nd Bodie Steinwand, 3rd Marcelo Chavez; **Group II** (6th & 7th gr.) "What Can I Do For My Country?" - 1st Lauren Loy, 2nd Rainah Dewey, 3rd William Vance; **Group I** (4th & 5th gr.) "Why Should We Stand as Our Flag Passes?" - 1st Ashley Fitt, 2nd Chayton Patterson, 3rd C.J. Carrington



Front row: (lft to rt) William Vance, Rainah Dewey, Lauren Loy, C.J. Carrington, Chayton Patterson, and Ashley Fitt.

Back row: (lft to rt) Brian Hambleton, Gena Lewis, Eric Fairley, Marcelo Chavez, Bodie Steinwand, and Tyler Mahlum-Hambleton

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