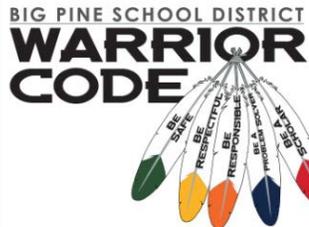


The Big Pine Beacon

News from Big Pine Unified School District

February 10, 2016
Volume 7 Number 3



Upcoming Events

- Feb. 10 - 4th -12th Gr. Science Fair
- Feb. 11 - District Advisory Committee Meeting
- Feb. 15/19- Presidents' Holidays - NO SCHOOL
- Feb. 27 - Missoula Performance
- Feb. 29 - Professional Development Day-NO SCHOOL
- Mar. 2 - Community Meetings
- Mar. 7 - Board Meeting
- Mar. 7/11 - Student Led Conference Week-Early Release
- Mar. 10 - 6th-8th Gr. Speech Contest
- Mar. 24 - 9th-12th Gr. Geography Contest
- Mar. 28/Apr. 1 - Spring Break - NO SCHOOL
- Apr. 8 - 5th Gr. College Day
- Apr. 12 - Board Meeting
- Apr. 27 - Community Meetings
- May 2/6 - State Testing



We Are Crew!

Superintendent's Message

By Superintendent Pamela Jones

Once January is over it seems that our schools kick into overdrive heading into spring. There are some great activities and opportunities for our students in the months to come. In two weeks, on February 22nd, Missoula Theater will be in town auditioning for this year's play at 3:00 on Monday, and we will kick off the week of practices leading to the performance of Peter and Wendy. This is always such a great week for kids to sing, dance and perform for the community. You are all invited to come and see the results of the fun and hard work! Performance time is 1:30 in the gym on Saturday the 27th.

On February 29th students get the day off, but teachers will be working together to learn the latest about brain research and how we can apply this cutting edge scientific knowledge in the classroom. In the following days of that week we will have several days of support from our School Designer, who comes to us from the EL Education network. This

The Big Pine EL Education Journey

By Ed Dardenne-Ankringa, Principal

In late January I had the opportunity to spend several days with other EL Education school leaders from our western region. We are not alone! Many of the schools represented are similar to ours- rural, geographically isolated, serving diverse student bodies of under 200 students, in communities with proud traditions and high expectations, five years or less in the EL Education network, and in a unique environment or place with countless opportunities for students and teachers to apply skills and knowledge to real world problems and make positive change within their communities. As I

Superintendent, Pamela Jones
Principal, Ed Dardenne-Ankringa

kind of in house support for staff development is what research has shown to be the most effective, and we always feel energized and motivated to make our classrooms the most engaging for kids in the weeks following the visits from our School Designer.

Our spring Student Led Conferences will be held the week of March 7th. Students and teachers have already begun preparing for these, and we are looking forward to having all of our families into the school to hear their students talk about their progress. We will be doing our mid-year survey and asking for the valuable feedback from families that will help us make continuing improvement in our school programs.

We continue to thrive at the Big Pine School District, with our community meetings, our Warrior Code and Habits of Scholarship, high quality student work and small class sizes. Big Pine Schools are a great place to learn and grow.

discussed with others how to support a school environment that promotes deep engagement in learning and supports students to achieve at high levels, our practices here in Big Pine immediately came to mind. What is learning like in Big Pine Schools? Learning is active, challenging, meaningful, public, and collaborative. I hope you saw this at your child's last student led conference and experience it again March 7th through March 11th at their next student led conference. We look forward to joining you then in celebration of both your student's academic growth and character development.

Protocols Make Learning Fun

By: Tim Steele

It should come as no surprise to parents and teachers that when a student is engaged in learning they will be more successful, than when they are not. Student engagement is more than just a fad or a buzz word; it's a vital ingredient in ensuring the success of all learners.

One way to help students engage in deeper learning is through the use of protocols. Protocols are simply structured learning activities. In fact, there are a great range and variety of good protocols for a teacher to choose from depending on what a learning situation might require. Let's face it, kids naturally like to interact, socialize, and move around. Fortunately, most protocols capitalize on this by encouraging interaction with peers and movement around or even outside of the classroom.

A few examples of these "best teaching practices" being used K-12 at Big Pine:

Concentric Circles

Says Mrs. Burror (2nd grade): "We used this protocol twice this week to practice our skills for learning. Students had an opportunity to share their answer to a question during the first round, and were asked to focus, listen, and remember what their partner shared. During the next round, students were asked to share their partner's response to the question." This is another protocol aimed at helping students recall, discuss, and process information, but while allowing movement and purposeful interaction with classmates.



Concentric Circles (It to rt) Deegan Benbrook, Miley Spratt, Adam Miller, Isael Rico, Darrick Cortez and Caleb Fitt.

Inyo County Spelling Bee

By: Melinda Dardenne-Ankringa

On Thursday, January 21st, five students represented Big Pine Unified School District at the 40th Annual Spelling Bee in Bishop. Bodie Steinwand 8th grade, Tyler Mahlum-Hambleton 8th grade, Rainah Dewey 7th grade, Rocko Moore 6th grade, and Ashley Fitt 4th grade were among twenty-five local elementary and middle school students who participated in the 2015-16 countywide competition at Jill Kinmount Boothe School. After the initial written competition, Tyler, Rainah, and Ashley moved on to the final rounds. Competitors showed off their orthographic skills through multiple rounds in front of a large audience. Tyler was awarded "The Last Person Standing" from Big Pine and received an award from Round Valley PTO. The bee is sponsored by Altrusa. Congratulations are in order for all participants!

Give One, Get One, Move On

This protocol matches students up to exchange information. Usually students are asked to write something down on a card (or perhaps several). It could be a fact, an idea, or simply a response to a question about something they are learning about. Students begin by pairing up. Then they explain the contents of their card and ultimately trade it with their partner. Then they repeat the process with a new partner while using the card they just received. Several rounds can take place. This allows students to both interact AND gain new information from their peers. It's a wonderful and fun way to process and reinforce information.



Give One, Get One, Move On (It to rt) Carla Spratt and Adam Miller

Fish Bowl - This is a Socratic discussion method in which one group of students sits in an inner circle and discusses a topic while the remainder of the class surrounds them in an outer



Fish Bowl (It to rt) Clarissa Benbrook, Anthony Gutierrez, Adrian Marquez, Eric Fairley, Jarrid Cortez and Aurora Toledo. Picture courtesy of Cammbrianna Marquez.

circle. The students in the inner circle are given prompts to discuss while the outer group is responsible for giving feedback to the students in the center based on pre-determined criteria. It could be that students in the outer circle might critique the accuracy of individual responses or even simply how courteous or helpful the student was in sustaining the discussion in a scholarly manner. The fishbowl adds the element of pressure to perform in front of one's peers. When you're in the center of the fishbowl everyone can notice you and hear what you said. But kids rise to this sort of challenge. It's no different from the pressure of a making a free-throw shot in front of the crowd. When a fishbowl is over, students often feel pride about performing well, or they realize where they need to improve the next time. This sort of protocol not only helps kids learn subject matter more deeply, it also develops their confidence to speak in front of peers.

As you can see, protocols can add variety and spice to learning. Learning doesn't have to be monotonous. After all, nobody wants to sit in their chairs for hours only staring at a text book or doing a worksheet!



Big Pine Spelling Bee participants (It to rt) Rocko Moore, Tyler Mahlum-Hambleton, Bodie Steinwand, Rainah Dewey & Ashley Fitt

After-School Reflex Math Club

By: Melinda Dardenne-Ankringa

Since last fall, around 40 elementary students have signed up and attended the after-school Reflex Math club. On average, 14 students from grades 2 through 5 attend each session. The club meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:25 to 3:20 pm.

Reflex Math is designed to help students learn and practice basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts in a fun way. The games are engaging and motivational. By using Reflex Math regularly, students develop automaticity with facts which translates into confidence when applying knowledge to new higher-level, math concepts.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, students can be heard asking, "Is there Reflex Math Club today?" Their interest and dedication has paid off. From October to the end of December, students who participated in the club improved their fact fluency by approximately 10% more than students who didn't participate. Overall, students have solved hundreds of thousands of math facts in their quest to achieve 100% fluency.

Culinary Class Excursion

By Cheryl Obayashi

The Culinary class took a field trip to Von's on Wednesday, Feb. 3rd! The Von's staff welcomed us into their store where they conducted a brief orientation that involved a display of unusual fruits and vegetables. The students were then provided with notes that required them to navigate around the store to price and locate various grocery items. They collected some items in their baskets and then compared what they had found. All in all it turned out to be a fun day for all! Enjoy another recipe from the Big Pine Culinary team!



Culinary Class at Von's (It to rt) Rainah Dewey, Von's clerk Becky, Arthur Richards William Vance, Tanya Bigpond, Ryan Kelley and Sierra Keller



After-School Reflex Math Club (It to rt) Brooklynn Gardner, Alyssa Truelsen, Antonello DonderoTague, Westin Dondero, Thomas McDarment and Aldreas Gardner

Basketball for Big Pine

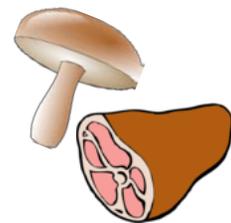
By Bob Church, Athletic Director

With less than two weeks remaining in the current basketball season, the Lady Warrior's Basketball Team is leading the Hi-Lo League with a 6-0 league mark and 10-4 overall record. Upcoming games against Trona and Immanuel Christian, teams that the Lady Warriors have defeated already, will prove to have an impact on CIF-SS Basketball Playoff seedings. With nine young ladies on the team this year, and Kaylee Simpson as the lone senior, the Lady Warriors are primed to take their first championship in several years. Depending on their remaining two games, the Lady Warriors should be hosting a playoff game in mid-February.

The Big Pine Boy's Varsity Basketball, despite having a very young team, has shown much growth this year. Their record in Hi-Lo League is presently 2-4, but the team has been in every game to date. Playoffs may not happen this year, but the Big Pine boys have had much to be proud of. Jacob Bacoch and Ben Savage-Truelsen are the only senior boys this year, and much like Kaylee Simpson, they will be sorely missed during basketball season next year.

Ham and Mushroom Pasta

- 2 tbs olive oil
- 1¼ C chopped mushrooms
- 1 tsp dried parsley or 3-4 springs fresh
- 1 tsp oregano
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 C chopped ham
- 1 C heavy cream
- 2½ - 3 C cooked pasta



1. In a large frying pan, add olive oil, mushrooms, parsley, oregano and salt. Cook on medium heat, stirring occasionally until mushrooms are cooked and liquid has almost evaporated (about 10-15 minutes).
2. Add ham and mix together. Add cream and cook on medium high heat, stirring constantly until sauce thickens.
3. Meanwhile, prepare pasta "al dente".
4. Add cooked pasta to mushroom mixture, toss gently and serve immediately with freshly grated parmesan cheese, if desired.

Serves 3



THANK YOU!

Thanks to the efforts of Hi-County Mobil at 101 N. Main St., Big Pine, Big Pine High School has been awarded a \$500.00 ExxonMobil Educational Alliance Grant to support our school's Math/Science programs. Hi-County Mobil is proud to participate in the ExxonMobil Educational Alliance program that invests in the future of communities through educational grants to neighborhood schools.

The ExxonMobil Corporation is also proud to support education through Upromise, which helps ExxonMobil customers earn college funds. To learn more about the Upromise program, please visit the www.exxonmobil.com/upromise website.

Big Pine Unified School District
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Phone: 760/938-2005

Check us out on the web:
www.bp.k12.ca.us

Shop for school items at:
b1selfshops.com/injobpsd

Career Center Important Dates & Activities

ATTN: JUNIORS - If you plan on applying to a college and/or university, you should take the SAT/ACT tests. Please see Mrs. Weston for details and possible fee waivers.

- ★ SAT Test Date - May 7; Register by April 8
- ★ ACT Test Date - April 9; Register by March 4

ATTN: SENIORS AND PARENTS - If you would like help filling out the FAFSA, please call Mrs. Weston at 760/938-2222 ext. 259 to schedule an individual appointment.

Congratulation to these Students who earned 1st Quarter High Marks

Honor Roll (3.5 GPA or above)

High School: Jacob Bacocho, Eric Fairley, Brian Hambleton, Gena Lewis, Cammbrianna Marquez, Cassandra Meza, Gabriela Meza, Juan Meza and Cesar Rico

Middle School: Rainah Dewey, Rocko Moore and Martin Woollard

Honorable Mention (3.2-3.49 GPA)

High School: Clarrisa Benbrook, Sequoia Fairley, Jamie Robinson, Dominick Santiago and Lauren Simpson

Middle School: Joseph Huston, Noelani InTheWoods and Bodie Steinwand

Big Pine Unified School District
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