

The Big Pine Beacon

News from Big Pine Unified School District

May 12, 2017
Volume 8 Number 4

BIG PINE SCHOOL DISTRICT
**WARRIOR
CODE**



Upcoming Events

- ☼ May 8-12 - CAASPP Testing Week
- ☼ May 15-19 - Book Fair
- ☼ May 18 - Celebration of Learning - Minimum Day
- ☼ May 19-College & Career Day - 5th Grade
- ☼ May 29 - Memorial Day Holiday - No School
- ☼ May 31-Middle School ASB & Honor Roll to Bishop Country Club
- ☼ June 1 & 2-Grades 9-11 Overnight trip to Death Valley
- ☼ June 2 - 8th Grade Dance
- ☼ June 5 - Board Meeting-LCAP & Budget Hearing
- ☼ June 6 & 7 - Minimum Days
- ☼ June 7-Middle School Field Day
- ☼ June 8 - Last Day of School
- ☼ June 8 - Graduation
- ☼ JUNE 9 - FIRST DAY OF SUMMER VACATION
- ☼ June 12 - Board Meeting



We Are Crew!

WASC Visitors Celebrate Our Strengths

By Pamela Jones, Superintendent

In April, we had three educators from large school districts in Riverside and San Bernardino visiting our classrooms at the High School for four full days, validating the results of the year long Self Study Report submitted by Melinda Dardenne-Ankringa to the Western Association for Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation team. While staff, students and community went through focus group sessions and discussions to arrive at the conclusions in the report, the WASC team also spent hours observing and analyzing data on site in order to determine if we are actually doing what we say we are doing. We were pleased to see that their report highlighted many areas of strength.

Here are some comments in support of what is happening at Big Pine High School:

"There is strong evidence of involvement, trust and respect between staff, families and leadership. Students value the personalized learning approach and

Superintendent, Pamela Jones
Principal, Ed Dardenne-Ankringa

strong support for learning. The EL Education learning program receives high marks for its comprehensive approach to learning, fostering independence and love for independent learning, accountability and character."

It is also gratifying that the visitors agreed with us on every point of the areas of action that we have already identified in our Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). We know where we are going, and what we need to do to get there and this team of observers could readily see that. The WASC Committee Chair also praised the Principal, Ed Dardenne-Ankringa, for his active and engaged leadership, and the WASC Coordinator, Melinda Dardenne-Ankringa for her excellent work in collecting the information and providing a clearly written report. Congratulations go out to all of the fine educators at the Big Pine Schools for a job well done, and for their ongoing work that is providing students with high quality educational opportunities.

Celebration of Learning-Why This Evening Matters

By Ed Dardenne-Ankringa, Principal

Thursday, May 18, 2017

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

"Celebrations of learning are more than a display of student work and more than a party at the end of the year. The event compels students to reflect on and articulate what they have learned, how they learned, questions they answered, research they conducted, and areas of strength and struggles. They are powerful opportunities to make learning public." Excerpt from Leaders of Their Own Learning

Please join us on May 18th to participate in Big Pine students' presentations of high-quality products and performances that highlight the content and skills students have

learned this year. This is a rewarding educational experience for your child and it is very important for your child to be present. Parents will have an opportunity in grades Kindergarten through twelve, not just with their own child, to be a genuine audience and an active community member taking interest in student work. In grades K-6, parents will have a "celebration passport" to interact with students and their presentations. In grades 7-12, students will be asking parents and community members to sign their "celebration signature cards." Please be a part of this exciting celebration and come to support your child and all Big Pine students!

Soup Kitchen Reflection

By Lauren Simpson, 11th Grade

Poverty is a huge thing in Bishop and Big Pine, in fact all over Inyo County. A lot of people depend on the soup kitchen for a meal. Some will go without because they have nothing. Some are put in this situation because of mental illnesses and laziness. I'm not sure if I should feel bad for the way people are, but if they did it that's on them. Volunteering at the Soup Kitchen makes a lot of people happy. It makes others feel that they are cared for when some of their families leave them because they don't have enough money to support them and themselves.

Mental illness for some is through the roof, they don't know how to handle themselves, they rob houses, harass other people, but nothing gets done because where are they supposed to go? None of their family wants to deal with them, no one wants to employ them because they have an illness and they are homeless, what could be worse than an unemployed homeless person that suffers from a mental illness? Imagine how you would feel. How scared would you be?

The effort that some people put into getting better is nothing, it seems as if they don't want to get better, they struggle and struggle and wonder why their life is so hard but they put themselves in that position. They think everything is so bad in their life, when all they have to do is look for a job, or save up some money so that they can buy nice clothes and look presentable.

We should go to the Soup Kitchen more often because they need more help with everything.



Ready to serve at the Soup Kitchen: (lft to rt) Lauren Simpson, Jamie Robinson, Adrian Marquez, Eric Fairley, Aurora Toledo, Anthony Gutierrez, Cammbrianna Marquez and Cesar Rico. Not pictured: Clarissa Benbrook

Book Fair 2017

By Joanie Dixon

Every year 75,000 schools across the country participate in the Scholastic Book Fairs Program. Getting children to read is one of the primary goals of our school and the Book Fair is one way to bring books to the students. The Big Pine 5th Grade and the Middle School ASB are excited to announce that the Spring Book Fair will be here May 15 - 19th.

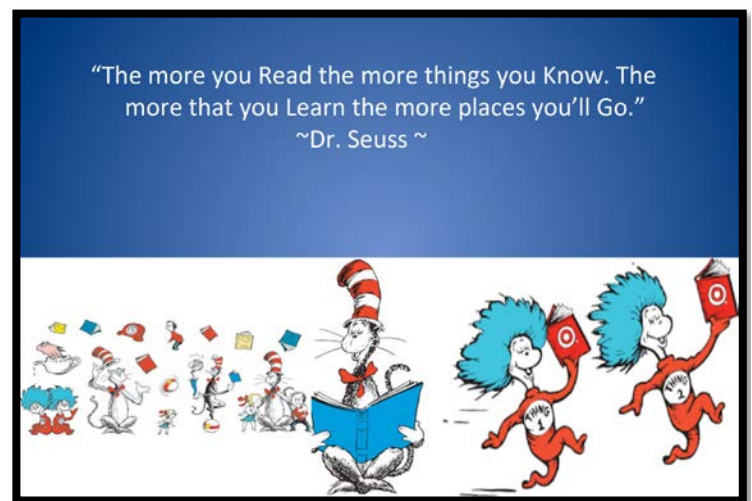
We are glad to bring books to all of our students from pre-K to middle school. Ms. Jennings and Ms. Weston will be assisting the students in making your visit to the book fair a positive experience. This is a great opportunity for "our" kids to learn about helping and working with a customer. All of the kids look forward to working the Book Fair. The monies raised at the book fair are used by the students in the classroom and it also helps purchase new books for the library. We hope to see all of you there!

Hours

Monday through Friday 11:15-12:15
 After School Monday 1:30-2:30
 After School Tues., Wed. & Friday 2:30-3:30
 Family Night, Thursday 3:30-5:00
 And 6:30-7:30 after Celebration of Learning

Student Art Show

Big Pine High School Art students will have their work shown in a County-wide Student Art Show at Inyo Mono Council of the Arts (137 S. Main Street near La Casita). The opening is May 3rd from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. Art work will be displayed through the end of May. Please stop by and see some fabulous clay pieces, digital graphics, and watercolor illustrations!



Dominick Santiago's digital design entry

Bird Migration Data at Klondike Lake

By Jan Hart, 7th Science Teacher

With the support of Inyo County's Outdoor Education staff, Big Pine 7th grade science students travelled to Klondike Lake on April 11 to practice bird identification skills during the spring migration. Students and instructors divided into two groups and for two hours we walked the shoreline of the lake with binoculars and field guides, independently recording the name and number of each bird species seen. Highlights from our observations included enormous flocks of American White Pelicans, estimated at 300 birds, interesting ducks like Cinnamon Teal, Northern Shoveler and American Widgeon, and wading birds like American Avocet, Greater Yellowlegs and Least Sandpiper. Of course the really big waders like Great Blue Heron and Great Egret were present as well. We also saw and heard some colorful songbirds, like Common Yellowthroat, Western Meadowlark and Savannah Sparrow. In all, we recorded 25 species at Klondike, including an Osprey that entertained us by diving repeatedly to catch fish while we ate lunch! Back in the classroom we entered our data into the online database at *ebird.org*, so that our data from this spring migration are accessible to birders everywhere. We'd like to thank Hillary Behr, Inyo County Outdoor Education Coordinator, and her wonderful assistants Carla and Tyler, for making this experience possible.

Testing

Our annual Smarter Balanced testing was held during the week of May 8th. Grades 3-8 and 11 were tested in English Language Arts and Mathematics and grades 5, 8 and 10 took the California Science Test. Scores will be sent home to families. Parents can find more information about the Smarter Balanced Tests at:

<http://caaspp.cde.ca.gov/>

<http://www.testscoreguide.org/ca>

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/caasppscience.asp>

Sadie Hawkins 2017

Big Pine High School Student Council is excited to announce our 2017 Sadie Hawkins Day, set for a portion of the day on Friday, May 19! Activities will include a barbecue, races, an over-the-line tournament, a balloon-popping contest, and beach volleyball. All academically eligible students (we hope all students will be eligible!) are welcome to participate.

2016 - 2017 Yearbook

The 2016-2017 Big Pine Schools Yearbook is off to the publishers! Our editor, Genevieve Lewis, and our co-editors, AnahKee Mason and Dominick Santiago, have done an amazing job to bring you a 100-page, hardcover, full-color yearbook that will arrive by June 5. It is absolutely beautiful. Cost is \$35.00, via cash or a check payable to Big Pine Schools (Memo: Yearbook) to any of the above-named students or to Ms. Akyuz. A receipt will be provided.



(lft to rt) Gio Talamantes, Joe Huston, Robert McDowell, Martin Woollard (foreground) and Rocko Moore.

Chili Pepper CREW

By Pete Schlieker, 8th Grade Teacher

Recently, two actions occurred in the 8th grade CREW, aka the Chili Peppers, that showed the growth of our students. Each of these actions focused on an empathic response to a situation one would not wish upon any human being. The Chili Peppers CREW responded to the shooting at North Park Elementary school in San Bernardino by creating cards expressing their sorrow regarding the tragedy the students and staff experienced. Also, during a bake sale we had during the Senior Worm Sale, a homeless individual was given some food and a drink by two 8th grade students.

After the shooting in San Bernardino, the class decided that it would be respectful for each student to create a handmade card and write something that expressed their feelings to what the school is currently going through. Each student developed a card using their own design, wrote some kind thoughts, and signed it. We mailed the cards to the school with a note expressing our sympathy as to the sadness they were experiencing. The students did a nice job in creating their card and each student finished their card within the allotted time frame.

For the second year in a row, the 8th grade class held a coffee/pastry sale during the morning hours of the Senior Classes Worm Sale. We were able to get a number of items donated from Great Basin Bakery, Schat's Bakery, Hings Donuts, Carl's Jr., and Looney Bean. During the sale two students, Sonny and Arthur, ran up to the table and grabbed a bagel and a carton of orange juice. At that point a man, pushing a cart, was walking by the front of the school. He appeared to be homeless. The two students went up to the gentleman and gave him the bagel and orange juice. The man responded with a thank you and continued on his way, taking a bite out of the bagel as he left. This was another incident of the Chili Pepper CREW demonstrating concern and empathy to individuals outside of our school.

Kudos to the 8th grade for demonstrating the Warrior Code feather goals of being respectful, being responsible, and being a problem solver.



Big Pine Unified School District
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Check us out on the web:
www.bigpineschools.org

Academic Awards Assembly

Sunday, June 4th

5:00 pm in the Gym

A free dinner will be served: Sandwiches, chips, fruit & dessert
Please come to support our students and celebrate their achievements!

The Inyo Promise

We, the Inyo County educational community, in cooperation with our sister schools (Cerro Coso Community College and the University of Nevada at Reno), do promise that the graduates of an Inyo County High School have two guaranteed options for higher education:

1. Cerro Coso Community College/Bishop

a. Any student with a 2.0 GPA from high school will be guaranteed admission to Cerro Coso Community College/Bishop and provided, through the Eastern Sierra Foundation, a full tuition and a \$300 credit per semester for books for up to two years in order to complete an Associate of Arts (A.A.) degree or professional degree program.

b. Students who complete at least 24 transferable credits on an Associate of Arts degree from Cerro Coso with a 3.0 GPA will be admitted to the University of Nevada at Reno and provided a sister school reduced tuition of \$4,309.00* per semester.

2. University of Nevada at Reno

a. Any Inyo County High School graduate who completes a high school course of study that includes: 4 years of English, 3 years of science (2 yrs. of lab), 3 years of mathematics and 3 years of history with a 3.0 cumulative GPA in those core subjects and a SAT 1 score of at least 1100 or ACT score of at least 22 will be accepted to UNR and provided a sister school reduced tuition of \$4,309* per semester. Students must apply by February 1st.

b. The Inyo County Board of Education will grant a \$1,000 scholarship to all Inyo County high school students who attend UNR as a freshman to offset books and transportation costs.

**denotes that this tuition break is comparable to any CSU tuition and is far less than any UC tuition.*

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