

The Big Pine Beacon

News from Big Pine Unified School District

September 21, 2018
Volume 10 Number 2

We Are Crew!

Superintendent, Pamela Jones
Principal, Ed Dardenne-Ankringa



Upcoming Events

- Sept. 24/UNLV Rebel Steel Percussion Band Concert
- Sept. 26/MS & K-6 Community Meeting
- Sept. 27/HS Community Meeting
- Sept. 28/California Indian Day - **NO SCHOOL**
- Oct. 1-5/5th Grade Science Camp
- Oct. 8-13/Homecoming Week
- Oct 12/8th Grade Cerro Coso Campus trip
- Oct. 13/Homecoming Parade
- Oct. 17/Kinder Blue Day
- Oct. 22-26/Red Ribbon Week
- Oct. 24/MS Community Meeting
- Oct. 26/HS Community Meeting
- Oct. 30/Kinder Orange Day
- Oct. 31/9th & 10th Grade trip to Museum of Tolerance
- Oct. 31/Halloween - **Minimum Day**
- Nov. 5-9/Student Led Conference Week-Early Release
- Nov. 7/Veterans' Day Assembly
- Nov. 12/Veterans' Day - **NO SCHOOL**
- Nov. 13/MS & HS Community Meeting
- Nov. 14/Kinder Brown Day
- Nov. 15-16/8th Grade UNR Trip
- Nov. 16/District Advisory Committee Meeting
- Nov. 19-23/Thanksgiving Break - **NO SCHOOL**
- Dec. 3-7/Book Fair

We are Well Prepared!

By Pamela Jones, Superintendent

The staff and students at the Big Pine School District are appreciating a joyful and productive beginning to the school year. We started off with five days of professional learning and planning that moved us forward on two of our main District goals: continuous improvement in achievement of academic and character goals and a safe and healthy learning and working environment. Staff collaboratively worked on analyzing assessments and surveys to better support students in attaining academic success. We planned exciting and rigorous field work and expeditions. We also focused on the safety and emotional wellness of students and staff.

All staff engaged in an Active Shooter Response training on the

Thursday prior to the start of school. As a follow up, in the first week of the September we had a lock-down drill which was collaboratively developed with assistance from Inyo County Sheriff Detective Michael Durbin. All students sheltered in place, and the Detective and school administration assessed their response, making minor adjustments as needed. Detective Durbin stated: "I was pleased with the outcomes. The District is well prepared."

Our School District staff deserves praise for dedication, planning, and hard work, as we continuously strive for improvement. Being well prepared, whether it is for safety or instruction, is a strong indicator for future success.



Superintendent Jones surrounded by joyful and "well-prepared" Big Pine Elementary School students.

New Faces on Campus

The Big Unified School District is fortunate to welcome these well-qualified, caring and enthusiastic teachers to our Staff Crew. Students are enjoying their instruction in Spanish, Math, Science, Digital Design, Physical Education and 3rd Grade.



Mary Hershdorfer: Hello! I am the new Spanish teacher at Big Pine Schools. My name is Mary Hershdorfer. The students call me Mrs. H. I was an exchange student in Spain during my 4th year of college, and that

experience changed my life completely. Although I studied biology and ecology in college, my ability to speak Spanish is what brought me to jobs and other opportunities around the world. I love to tell students about the superpowers of Spanish! I hope to inspire them to want to travel and learn about the world. This year we are using a new, exciting and fun curriculum based on the practice of Comprehensible Input. Students speak, hear, read and write Spanish in an active, engaging, variety of formats, so that the Spanish is being used, and used again, and in this way is being input into the brain. This is not your mother's Spanish class!



Gabrielle Guerrero: I'm so grateful for the opportunity to teach 3rd grade at Big Pine Elementary this year. I grew up in Inyokern, CA and graduated from high school in Reno, NV. My first position in this area was

with the Bishop Indian education center and I received my bachelors degree from Portland State University and completed my student teaching at Round Valley. I seek to share my love for our mountains in the Owens Valley through our curriculum and field work with specialists in our area.



Mike Walsh: I am a graduate of the University of Oregon. I first became involved with young people when I worked for the City of Pleasanton's Recreation Department. I operated a teen drop-in center, taught people

to climb, and supervised a 150 mile bike trip to Yosemite Valley. I ran track in both high school and college. I have coached cross-country and track and field for thirty-nine years. I have worked mostly with middle and high school age athletes. I worked for the U.S. government at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory as a Fitness Specialist. I am currently the Head Boys and Girls Track Coach at Bishop High and I am the Scoutmaster for The Boy Scout Troop 86 in Bishop. I have held a California Teaching credential for over thirty-five years. I enjoy teaching students the importance of physical activity in their lives.



Autumn Eanes: Hi, My name is Autumn Eanes, and I have the privilege of teaching Graphic Design at Big Pine High this year. I am originally from Lake Tahoe, where I spent a lot of my time playing outdoors, and drawing with my big

brother. I have been practicing art for as long as I can remember, and I am excited to share my love for art with my students. I am also looking forward to helping my students discover their creative side through graphic design. I am looking forward to getting to know Big Pine students this year!



Indigo Johnson: Hello Big Pine! My name is Indigo Johnson, and I'm thrilled to say that I'm the new math and science teacher at Big Pine High. I was born and raised in the Bay Area and moved to the Eastern Sierra after

completing a Bachelor's Degree in Integrated Environmental Science from Stanford University. I am truly excited about what I teach, and, although my students tell me I'm a goof when I get overly excited about finding solutions to problems, I am so grateful to take part in their learning experience. Please feel free to come say hello if you see me out and about!

Measures of Academic Performance - NWEA MAP

By Ed Dardenne-Ankringa, Principal

Our school year is off to a busy start, and one of our most important tasks this new year was establishing baseline data on all our students' academic performance levels. Knowing exactly what students need assistance or enrichment on in core subject areas is a goal for our schools and all students Kindergarten through 12th grade. Students are just finishing Fall Benchmark MAP testing. These are interim assessments that provide us with essential information about a students' continuum of learning and their growth. We look at MAP as a tool to help identify student strengths and also opportunities for teachers to focus instruction on any areas of greatest need. Please feel free to contact me or your child's teacher to find out more about your child's academic progress. We will have out Fall results shortly and then comparison data in the Winter and again in the Spring.

Patriot Day at Big Pine Schools

By Pete Schlieker, 7-12 History Teacher

Seventeen years ago, on a Tuesday morning, a major terrorist attack took place in the United States. Four planes were hijacked by nineteen terrorists. Two planes crashed into the World Trade building in New York City, one plane crashed into the Pentagon building in Washington D.C., and the fourth plane crashed in a field outside of Shanksville, Pennsylvania. In all 2,977 people were killed, exceeding the 2,335 that were killed during the attack at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

Both the Elementary and High Schools honored the memories of those who lost their lives in this senseless act. The entire school was gathered around the flag pole at the front of the school. The 8th grade class had the honor of raising the flag, to half staff, as a symbol of tribute. The 8th grade students in charge of the raising of the flag were Kelsy Bardonnex, Andrew Barlow, and Evan Fuller. Morgan Renard, 7th grade, led the school in the Pledge of Allegiance.

In talking to the high school and middle school students during Social Studies class, we came to the conclusion that only three seniors had been born prior to this terror attack. We spent some time in the high school classes discussing what happened and how it looked to the stunned public at the time. Students were surprised to learn that the second plane crashing into the World Trade Center was shown live on television.



Andrew Barlow, Evan Fuller and Kelsy Bardonnex (lft to rt around the flag pole) raising the US Flag to half staff.



2018 Back-to-School Night

By Melinda Dardenne-Ankringa, CARE

The 2018 school year started on Monday, August 20 this year. After meeting the students and starting new classes on the first day, teachers and staff welcomed families at Back to School Night in Helen Lund Square. Back-to-School Night is a great opportunity for parents to meet their student's teachers face-to-face and get an overview of the curriculum and classroom expectations for the coming year.

Homecoming Week 2018

It's that time of year again Warriors! Help us make this year's homecoming a memorable one by joining in the fun!

October 12:

- He-man beach volleyball game at 3:45 p.m.
- Powder puff game immediately following the he-man volleyball game
- Bonfire Rally at 7:00 p.m. (subject to change based on weather conditions)

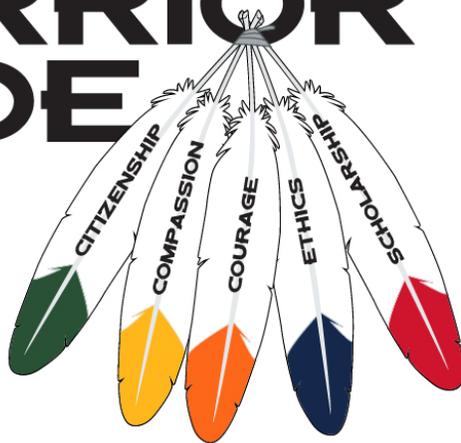
October 13:

- Pancake Breakfast at Big Pine Methodist Church
- Homecoming Parade down School Street beginning at 9:00 a.m.
- Volleyball game beginning at 11:00 a.m.
- Football game beginning at 2:00 p.m.
- Half-time court announcement/parade

DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL Parents Members Needed

We need two parent representatives for the DAC. We meet 3 to 5 times per year to discuss safety, school programs and the Local Control Accountability Plan. Contact Superintendent Pamela Jones if you have an interest. 760/938-2005 ext. 2452 or pjones@bigpineschools.org.

BIG PINE SCHOOL DISTRICT WARRIOR CODE



New Warrior Code

By Melinda Dardenne-Ankringa, CARE

With the beginning of the school year, Big Pine Unified School District introduced the "new" Warrior code. Students across all grade levels, K-12, follow the five traits: Citizenship, Compassion, Courage, Ethics, and Scholarship. The Warrior Code is a set of character traits that help develop effective learners who are ready for college and career opportunities.

During the first week, the entire school met for a Community Meeting to roll out the new Warrior Code. Students are recognized by staff on a regular basis when they demonstrate the Warrior Code with feathers and on report cards. Crew and Community Meeting times will focus on learning more about what each character trait means. For example,

- **Citizenship:** I can help myself and others.
- **Compassion:** I can show compassion.
- **Courage:** I can have courage. (in math, reading, and writing)
- **Ethics:** I can do the right thing.
- **Scholarship:** I can be an active learner.

Together, staff and students are fostering the habits of character to enable students to make a better future.

MS ASB Events

By Sunny Meza, MS ASB Advisor

Halloween Candy Gram sales will take place from October 15 - October 26. Students will be able to purchase them during lunch on those days.

- \$1.00 per full size candy bar
- \$0.50 for lollipop or pumpkin filled with candy

Fall Dance will take place on October 26 from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. All students must be academically eligible and have a signed permission slip to attend. Ticket prices are as follows: \$2.00 per person, \$3.00 per couple (cash only).

Volleyball and Football Games

Come out and support our Warrior athletes! *We are pleased to announce that game admission for everyone school-aged and up is now only \$1.00* (children 5 and under are free). Show us that Big Pine pride and fill our bleachers with the green and the gold!

Snack Shack

While supporting our Warrior athletes please also support our BP ASB! The funds generated from snack shack sales are used to promote school spirit and sponsor events such as Homecoming and others throughout the year. You can find the following items at Snack Shack:

- * Popcorn, Soda, Water \$1.00 each
- * Candy Bars \$1.50 each
- * Gatorade \$2.00
- * Nachos \$3.00

Red Ribbon Week

"Life is your journey, travel drug free"

Spirit Days to take place October 22 - 26 with the following themes:

- **Meme Monday** - dress up as your favorite meme
- **Tourist Tuesday** - dress up as a tourist
- **Wacky Wednesday** - dress up with crazy hair day, mismatched shoes or socks, different patterns, or clothes inside out
- **Time Travel Thursday** - dress up as if you're traveling back in time or into the future
- **Freedom Friday** - show your patriotic pride by wearing red, white, and blue

Counseling Corner

By Sunny Meza, School Guidance Counselor

★ **FAFSA** - Senior parents beginning October 1st your students may complete the **FAFSA Free Application for Federal Student Aid** form. A workshop will be held during the student's Capstone class to assist with the process. More information on the date and time of this workshop to follow. For more information on FAFSA please visit <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/>

★ **PSAT/SAT** - As we prepare our students to be college and career ready we encourage all 8th-12th graders to prep for the SAT by using <https://www.khanacademy.org/sat> on a consistent basis in preparation for the upcoming tests.

★ **Upcoming tests as follows:**

All 10th and 11th graders will take the PSAT on October 24 and all 12th graders will take the in school SAT. In the late winter (date to be determined), 8th and 9th grade students will take the PSAT 8/9.

Namaste! Big Pine Introduces Yoga to Crews

By Tim Steele, Crew Leader & LA Teacher

Big Pine students are now enjoying the benefits of yoga more than ever as many crews have begun trying out the ancient practice. What started with a small group of 7th grade girls meeting at lunch time for yoga last year has now taken off as numerous other crews scurry to borrow the newly purchased set of yoga mats. The girls have been meeting during lunch time with Mrs. Thompson-Sorrice, who is a certified yoga instructor and school psychologist, as a way to relax and “take a mental break” from the rush of a typical school day. Their enthusiasm for yoga was evident as they excitedly spoke about the poses they had accomplished after their meetings. Soon their enthusiasm spread and the school has now purchased mats and Mrs. Thompson-Sorrice is working with both the 6th grade and 8th grade crews. The core group of girls who learned yoga last year is now putting their newly developed expertise to use as they will be leading elementary crews in yoga. Even the high school crews are busy doing yoga too.

Big Pine is not the only school to try out yoga. Hundreds of schools across the nation are integrating yoga and meditation into the school day and seeing results. A recent study by Tulane University concluded that, “Kids who were given the yoga and mindfulness intervention improved in a couple of important measures, including psychosocial and emotional quality of life.” Giving kids ways to cope with stress and anxiety is important for the wellbeing of the child and their ability to succeed. According to Mrs. Thompson-Sorrice, “Research is finding that schools that include mindfulness training experience a number of student benefits including: improving of overall wellbeing and self-esteem, and a reduction in reported worry, anxiety, distress and student reactivity. This brings about greater calmness, relaxation, self-regulation and awareness.” Our students seem to echo what others are saying.

Advanced yoga student, Larielle McDowell says, “Yoga is fun and I like how it calms me down and gets all the pressure and stress away.” Her friend Grace Reeder concurs, “I like yoga because it



Advanced students, (lft to rt) Paige Johnson and Jazmin Botello, demonstrate an inverted pose.



Mrs. Thompson-Sorrice teaching 8th Grade class.

helps me with stress and helps when I’m mad or sad.”

Big Pine is fortunate to have such a highly qualified yoga instructor to help kick-start a generation of kids who will gain lifelong skills for dealing with stress while building emotional well-being and physical fitness. Yoga is something that doesn’t require any equipment and can be done virtually anywhere. Health and wellness is essential to our mission at Big Pine and it is embedded in Expeditionary Learning’s model as a core practice. Mrs. Thompson-Sorrice explains her motivation for introducing yoga by saying, “I wanted to bring the many benefits of mindfulness that I have experienced through yoga to the students of Inyo County including: stress reduction, accessible physical activity, improved self-esteem and most importantly, joy! It has been said that through play, i.e. exploring how to make crazy shapes with our whole body and connecting and controlling our breathing with the movement, we can achieve peace of mind and connectedness to the present moment. What that spells for students is better mood and better focus in class. A win-win for students and teachers!”

The future of yoga in Big Pine looks bright as students find that yoga offers more than just stretching in weird poses; it offers a way to access and deal with their emotional needs in a constructive and accessible way. Yoga also offers our students a way to express and practice compassion. In fact, the traditional greeting in yoga is “namaste” which literally means, “I bow to the divine in you,” a way of recognizing the sacredness of everyone.

Says Larielle McDowell, “I’m looking forward to teaching the kindergarteners the stuff that I learned that helped me.” I can think of no greater gift than compassion for others, and our students are the ones planting the seeds that will soon blossom.



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

Check us out on the web:
www.bigpineschools.org

**School Street
will be closed,
between Baker
Creek and Blake
Road, from 8:45
am to 10:00 am on
Saturday, October
13 for the
Homecoming
Parade. See you
there and thanks
for your support!**

Why School Attendance Matters!

If children don't show up for school regularly, they miss out on fundamental reading and math skills and the chance to build a habit of good attendance that will carry them into college and careers.

Preliminary data from a California study found that children who were chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade were far less likely to read proficiently at the end of 3rd grade.

Who Can Read on Grade Level After 3rd Grade?



64%

of kids with good attendance in K and 1st
(missed 9 or fewer days both years)



43%

of kids with at-risk attendance
(missed more than 9 days both years)



41%

of kids chronically absent in K or 1st
(missed 18 or more days one year)



17%

of kids chronically absent in K and 1st
(missed 18 or more days both years)

Big Pine Unified School District
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