

Banks Middle School

March Newsletter

Dan Van Winkle - Principal

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BMS Staff

Leann Gallien - Counselor
Kim Javorsky - Secretary
Kim Carson - 6th Grade
Shannon Dotson - 6th Grade
Ashley Thomas - 6th Grade
Kellie Meeuwesen - Art
Koreen Bennett - Band
Laura Cummings - Language Arts
Madalyn Hatcher - Language Arts
Cole Linehan - Health & Phys. Ed.
Megan King - Health & Technology
Cathy Davis - Learning Specialist
Lori Marston - Learning Specialist
Kathleen Poulsen - Learning Specialist
Karla Clark - Math
Nick Rizzo - Physical Education
Tony Richeson - Science
Shawn Speer - Social Studies
Pat Marlia - Spanish
Janelle Calendar - I. A.
Ashlee Croissant - I. A.
Heather Hardman - I. A.
Heather Poetter - I. A.
Shari Ragsdale - I. A.
Aubrey Rue - I. A.
Sheri Rue - I. A.
Judy Stone - I. A.

20 MARCH 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Spring has sprung and things are clicking here at BMS. At the end of our fourth six-week grading period, 133 students have a place on the honor roll with GPAs at or above 3.5. Flu season made a dent in our school-wide attendance average which dropped to 93.6%. Even so 46 students maintained perfect attendance for the fourth six-weeks and five hearty students still haven't missed a day all year. Our "chronically absent" group, or students who have missed more than 10% of the school year, has crept back up to 46 students. I'm hoping that number will improve between now and June as students get healthy this spring.

We had another fantastic science fair with exhibits from OMSI, the Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals, the BHS robotics team, and over 275 student projects on display. The BMS bands and choir performed for a packed house last Wednesday and on Thursday our Drama class performed *Alice in Wonderland* for a standing-room-only crowd in the BHS cafeteria. Our school and youth community sports programs had a successful winter season as well. Our Oregon Battle of the Books team placed fifth at regionals. Banks took sixth as a team at the Columbia Pacific District Wrestling Championships with three individual champions. The Banks Youth Boys Basketball seventh and eighth grade teams qualified for state and the eighth grade team finished in fourth place. Both seventh and eighth grade girls basketball teams also qualified for the state tournament and both won first place in their respective brackets. Great job representing our community!

Thank you for your participation in our cookie dough and magazine subscription fundraiser. In just over a week we raised over \$3,500! Tristian Rogers was our top seller with over \$600 in sales all on his own! We will have one more fundraiser this year, a jog-a-thon, which will take place at the end of the school day on April 20th. Stay tuned for more details. All funds raised contribute to our Student Body Fund which pays for the "extras" that make school better for our students.

As always, thank you for everything you do to support your child's success at BMS!

Sincerely,

Dan Van Winkle, Principal

Banks Middle School

Dates to Remember

March 26-30 - No School-Spring Break
April 3 - PTO Meeting
April 5 - Freshman Parent Night
- NJHS Inductions
April 9 - School Board Meeting
April 13 - Dance of the Decades
April 17 - Band Festival
April 20 - Jog-a-Thon
May 1 - PTO Meeting
- 6-12 Choir Concert
May 4 - No School (Grade Day)
May 14 - School Board Meeting
May 21 - Fine Arts Festival
May 24 - Music Awards Banquet
May 28 - No School (Memorial Day)
June 5 - PTO Meeting
June 6 - World Expo
June 7 - 8th grade Oaks Park trip
- 8th grade promotion & dance
June 8 - Field Day (last day of school)

Announcements

Outstanding Students

The following students have been recognized by the staff as a "Student of the Six Weeks." All of these students have been recognized by the staff as demonstrating excellent peer modeling of safe, responsible, and respectful citizenship and academic effort.

Sixth Grade

Ireland Wilson
Jack Vandehey

Seventh Grade

Jasmine Kueber
Parker
Vanderzanden

Eighth Grade

Marin Rose
Cason Vandehey

Class of 2022: Freshman Forecasting and Parent Night

April 5th is a big day! 8th grade students will be forecasting for their 9th grade classes on April 5th during the school day. Incoming Freshmen Parent Information Night will also be on April 5th from 6 to 7 pm in the Banks Middle School Cafeteria. Please check your mailbox for a letter with more details! You can preview the 2018-19 Banks High School Curriculum guide over spring break here:

<https://www.banks.k12.or.us/high-school.html>

Please contact Ms. Gallien with any questions.

Snow Days

As you know, Banks School District missed three days of school as a result of our late-season snow. Mr. Leo, our superintendent, has announced that he is not extending the school year for students beyond the scheduled end date of June 8th. Instead, staff will spend three extra days the following week honing their craft in professional development and collaboration sessions.

Annual State Testing

State testing season is right around the corner. At BMS we will start with the Smarter Balanced Assessment in reading the week of April 16th, followed by the Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills in science, and wrap up mid-May with the Smarter Balanced Assessment in Math.

School Safety

After the school shooting in Florida in February, school safety is definitely at the forefront of everyone's mind. On that subject, please consider the following excerpt from a statement by Oregon Deputy Superintendent Colt Gill:

"The Oregon Legislature has enacted strong laws around bullying, harassment, and cyberbullying, and Oregon schools are required to teach, practice, and document safety drills. The Oregon State Police has implemented the SafeOregon School Safety Tip Line. Today, if any student, family member, or community member has a concern about a threat to school safety, they should contact a trusted adult at the school or their local police. If that feels ineffective in any way, please use the SafeOregon Tip Line at <http://safeoregon.com>."

Lost-and-Found

We've got lots of stuff in our lost-and-found from the last six weeks. Most of it is jackets and sweatshirts, but we've also got water bottles, bags, lunch boxes, a scarf, and several pairs of pants! Please come claim your stuff because all unclaimed items will be donated soon. For pictures

of everything, see our Facebook page at
<https://www.facebook.com/BanksMiddleSchool/>