

Parent Link 11-18:

Good Evening Bell-Graham Families

I look forward to seeing many of you next week during Parent/Teacher Conferences. On Thursday morning and evening, Kindergarten students shared their learning with family members during student-led conferences. Our youngest learners did a great job of sharing their learning and growth; many adults were in awe of the learning taking place! When we reflect on our own Kindergarten or elementary experience, we can see the difference in depth of learning our BG students engage in every day. The level of commitment and dedication to providing exciting and thought provoking lessons each day by BG staff is something to be thankful for!

Wishing you and your family a relaxing and enjoyable Thanksgiving Holiday

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Patti Palagi

[331-228-6457](tel:331-228-6457)

[Patti.palagi@d303.org](mailto:Patti.palagi@d303.org)

Important Dates:

11-21&22: Parent teacher conferences: No student attendance

11-23-25: Thanksgiving Holiday (BG Office closed 11-24&25)

11-23: HAC opens for review of Tri 1 report cards

**Resiliency:** We had a great conversation on the topic of resiliency at last night's PTO meeting. As defined, *resiliency is a strength...the quality in objects to hold or recover their shape, or in people to stay intact; the ability to recover quickly from discouragement or depression.* The group discussed ten ways adults can build resiliency in children. An example is finding opportunities to engage your children in problem-solving language (ex. If your child asks if they're getting a shot at the doctor's office, instead of placating them, say, "I don't know. You might be due for a shot. Let's figure out how you're doing to get through it." If your child worries they'll hate their college, instead of saying, "You'll love it," you might explain that some freshmen don't like their school, and help them figure out what to do if they feel the same way. The following links were shared at the meeting and will be posted on the BG website. Resiliency, grit and a growth mindset are all skills we are working to develop at BG. Please review the resources provided and give one of the examples a try!

<https://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/aap-health-initiatives/resilience/Pages/Promoting-Resilience.aspx>

<http://psychcentral.com/lib/10-tips-for-raising-resilient-kids/>

**Fifth Grade Band Concert:** The Fifth grade beginning band students will perform their very first band concert on Monday, December 5th. The concert will be held at Thompson Middle School in the gym. Students should arrive at 6:00 P.M. to warm up and the concert will begin at 6:30 P.M. Students should wear dress clothes for this performance. Questions? Contact Ms. Rice at [marianne.rice@d303.org](mailto:marianne.rice@d303.org)"

**Stop by the LRC during Conferences:** Math is everywhere! That is great news for parents, because we can talk with our kids about math in fun and natural ways. Building this kind of math talk is very important. As parents, we can give our kids the opportunity to get comfortable with math concepts like measuring and counting at home. During conferences our ISC, Alexis Hanson would like to offer you the opportunity to learn about the kind of number talks that are taking place within our classrooms as well as help parents find ways where they can add math to their child's day at home. These activities will be differentiated so they can meet the needs of all students no matter their age. The times she will be running these sessions are the following: Monday, November 21st from 10-11 and 6:00-7:00 as well as Tuesday, November 22nd from 9-10. All sessions are in the LRC. You are more than welcome to come up to school during any of these times and if you are unable to attend, she will be sure to post resources on our website. We look forward to seeing you there!

Performance Series and CogAt results are a component of the AT identification process. This assessment information is also reviewed by teachers to provide additional insight into student learning. We recognize the

interest you take in your child's performance on these measures and will be providing them to you in one mailing. Please look for your child's Performance Series and CogAt assessment results the week of January 2, 2017. Information on further assessments for AT identification will be mailed home the week of January 23, 2017. Please contact me with any specific questions you may have.

**Parent University:** Do any of these phrases describe your child?

- Can't get organized
- Runs out of time
- Waits until the last minute
- Gets stuck on an idea
- Difficulty shifting between activities
- Surprised by failure

These are all components of Executive Functioning. Learn about Executive Functioning, how it impacts your child, and what you, as a parent, can do to improve your child's Executive Functioning skills.

Join us for District 303 Parent University- **Executive Functioning: Skills Needed in the Classroom and Beyond** on Tuesday, December 6 at 6:30 p.m. in the Haines Middle School LRC, located at 305 S. 9th St. in St. Charles. The session will be led by St. Charles North H.S. English Teacher Mr. Scott Von Essen, who has extensive experience with Executive Functioning skills in the classroom. This session will begin with a brief overview of Executive Functioning skills to be followed by breakout sessions that are specifically directed to the elementary, middle, and high school levels. Due to space limitations, we are limiting this session to the first 100 RSVP's. [Click here](#) to RSVP and reserve your place.

**Middle School:** On November 14, the District 303 Board of Education approved a plan to upgrade Wredling Middle School, renovate Thompson Middle School and, by Fall 2019 close Haines Middle School. Construction work will begin in June 2017 when the current school year ends. For more details, [click here](#).

**Pokemon Cards:** Pokemon cards are to be kept at home unless your child's teacher has communicated with you that they are allowed for a specific reason. Your adherence to this request is appreciated.