

Parent Link 9-16:

Good Evening Bell-Graham Families

Thank you all for coming out for Curriculum Night! Please refer to the materials/resources shared to support your children throughout the school year. Make sure to keep your child's teacher is "in the loop" to concerns/issues shared at home. Often a remedy is quickly available. Being an active problem-solver is a major component of our Bell-Graham vision. Crafted during the 2013-2014 school year, our vision states:

All members of the Bell-Graham community strive to work together to honor, empower and nurture ourselves and others in order to be our best in all we do. We recognize and use our talents and potential to make a positive impact in our world.

Students demonstrate this by:

- Are active problem-solvers:
 - Advocate for their needs; to better understand and enrich
 - Learn from mistakes, take risks and persevere
- Accept and respect every member of our BG community

Adults demonstrate this by:

- Serve as role models for the BG vision
- Empower children to be active problem-solvers
 - Allow children to advocate their needs
 - Foster independence through the acceptance of mistakes, risk taking and perseverance
- Build collaborative relationships across the BG community

The BG vision supports the learning and social-emotional needs of our students. You can hear the vocabulary of our vision in daily instruction and from students reflecting on their learning day. I encourage you to reflect and determine how you will support our school's vision. Have a great weekend and please let me know how I can support you or your child.

9-9-16

We engaged in our yearly "safety day" last Wednesday. Our entire school community engaged in fire, severe weather and a lock down drill. We had the fire and police departments on hand along with district staff to observe and provide feedback. All of the drills went well and our first responders were very impressed with our students and staff. We will continue to practice expectations for drills throughout the school year. At school we discuss the need for practice so that teachers and students know automatically what to do in the event of an emergency. This weekend would be a perfect time to review safety procedures with your children when at home.

Today we held our first Bobcat Gathering. These whole school meetings allow our students to come together and work with their buddy classrooms. The focus of our time together today was to get to know how we might be alike/different than our buddies and to identify ways to include everyone. We enjoyed a thought provoking video on the impact of bullying and a great video

crafted by Ms. Bush and several of our fifth grade friends on how to use our Buddy Bench to include everyone when outside at recess. Throughout the school year, students will learn what they can do to ensure bullying is not a part of our school day. The definition of bullying is any behavior that is:

- Repeated
- Intentional
- Hurting someone's feelings or harming them

We also work to support students' ability to advocate for themselves and others. We encourage students to give friends feedback or get adult support. We use the term bystander to describe someone who sees something going wrong and does nothing to help. At Bell-Graham, the following pledge is part of our work:

At Bell-Graham

We are all "PAWS"itively Bully Free!

I agree to not BULLY other students.
I will help students who are BULLIED by speaking out and getting adult help.
I will include students who are left out.

Ms. Bush works alongside of our classroom teachers to deliver lessons to support students identify bullying and gain the confidence to advocate for themselves and others. Please contact me if you have any questions about this work or concerns noted from conversations with your children. We want to partner with you to support all children navigate their learning and social environments.

PARCC Reports (4-5 grade students): Reports from the state will be mailed on Monday September 19.

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Important Dates:

September 19:	BG Runners club starts (Grades 3-5 only)
September 22:	PTO meeting 1:30 BG staff lounge
September 26-29:	Book Fair