Bowen Parent Bulletin

On Target for Success

4483 Kalamazoo Avenue S.E.
Kentwood, Michigan 49508
Feb. 19, 2015

Blair Feldkamp, Principal
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A Note from the Principal…….

March is National Reading Month. It is important to keep in mind that this month-long celebration is not limited to our students reading only while at school. Research continues to show that developing strong reading skills is critical to a student's academic success not just in English, but in all the core academic areas- and not just in elementary school!
Bowen staff would like to send out a call for parent volunteers to read in classrooms. Mrs. Gombert, our amazing librarian, continues to pull together a great list of guest readers to come into the building every year and this March we would like to again reach out to our own parents. The experience of having a student's parent read to their class only reinforces the importance of reading for them as well as their classmates.
We would also like to make you aware of a great resource that can be used at home by parents and children. Bowen teachers use an on-line resource called *Raz Kids* that can be accessed from home. The site allows students to read or listen to books on-line at their own level. This site is used regularly at school by staff and students so many of them are already familiar with it. *Raz Kids* is very kid friendly, engaging, and easy to use. We encourage you to contact your child's teacher and see how easy it is to access this great program.

Mrs. Gombert and Bowen Elementary have lined up a great month long challenge and has planned celebrations and activities that will make reading fun and rewarding for our students. Anything that you can do as parents to help underline the value of daily reading to the children would be greatly appreciated. If you would like further information regarding coming in as a guest reader, accessing *Raz Kids* from home, or any of our other reading resources here at school, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher. This can be done by contacting the Bowen office, email, or setting up an appointment with the teacher either before or after school. Please help us show our students the value of reading. It truly is the foundation to a successful experience not just in school, but in life.

Blair Feldkamp

Dates to Remember

2/26 Used book sale 2:15 recess

3/3 HALF DAY 12:13 Dismissal

3/10 Reading Month Author Visit K-2 9:00am

3/25 - 4/1 Scholastic Book Fair

3/30& 3/31 **Parent/Teacher Conferences**
3/30 full day of school. 3/31-4/2 HALF DAYS

4/3 NO SCHOOL-Spring break begins

4/13 Classes Resume

Remember that all children go outside to play for recess twice a day unless it is less than 10 degrees outside.

Please dress your child in warm coats, snowpants and boots.

Also, please label all items with your child's can be easily

Kentwood Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, height, weight, or marital status in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: ASST. SUPERINTENDENT FOR STUDENT SERVICES, 5820 Eastern Avenue SE, Kentwood, Michigan 49508, 616/455-4400.

Library Corner

Hard to believe February is almost over. We're getting ready for a lot of fun reading adventures in March!

We have a lot of fun events and challenges coming up. Our theme is "Reading is Out of This World".

Our March Reading Challenge will launch on Monday, March 2nd. Check out your child's class progress on the bar graph in the hall outside the Art Room.

March 2nd is also Dr. Seuss's Birthday. Each class will have a guest reader to share a favorite Seuss story.

We'll end the month with a fun Reading & Writing Day before Spring Break.

The Scholastic Book Fair will be here from March 25 – April 1. Stock up for plenty of reading during Spring Break and beyond.

More information will be sent home in early March.

WANTED: Parent Readers to share a favorite story with our classes during March. Contact Mrs. Gombert if you're willing to do this. Thank you in advance.

MARCH IS READING MONTH

Guest Author Visit!

Kenn Vidro will be here on March 10th to present assemblies for our Kindergarten through 2nd graders. He is an author-illustrator as well as a local teacher.

You can purchase his book and have him autograph them for your students.
Return the attached flyer by 3/3.

Attendance information
If your child will be tardy or absent,
Please be sure to call the office at
455-5220 by 8:30 AM.
This is for your child's safety. We want to be sure all our kids are accounted for if they are not in class. Also, please be sure we have current cell, home and work numbers in case we need to reach you in an emergency.

Talent Show!

Does your child have an amazing talent they would like to share? If they do please sign up to perform it for us in our spring talent show.
The audition slips can be turned in to the office or to Mrs. Schwartz.
They are due by February 26th!!

KENTWOOD GIFTED AND TALENTED

Parents, Educators and Kids=Success P.E.A.K.S. Program is an all inclusive gifted and talented program for students in grades 3-8 that focuses on the development of STEM Skills, 21st Century Skills, and Service Learning. The program is designed to meet the needs of the child that performs above grade level in core academic areas and is highly motivated to learn. For the past 20 years, Kentwood has been proud to have provided for its gifted learners.

To apply for P.E.A.K.S. Program:

- Parents MUST attend a program informational meeting

at Discovery Elementary: **Wednesday, Feb. 25 OR Thursday, Feb. 26, 2015 at 7:00pm.**

- Parents MUST ensure the completion of all application processes and forms and return materials to Eric Closson at Discovery Elementary by Monday, Mar. 30,2015.

Note:: application process details will be explained at the parent meetings in February.

Notes from the Counselor…...

It is that time of year; ice cold temperatures and minimal sunshine often lead to a decrease in physical activity and in increase in energy levels. Here are some family fun activities to keep your blood flowing:

Home:

-Chores can be a workout (turn picking up into a game of basketball)
-Blow up some balloons and play "keep it off the floor"
-Turn some empty water bottles into a game of bowling
-Bundle up and enjoy Michigan winter with a long, scenic stroll

Community:

-Take the family sledding (Pinery Park and Johnson Park are both located in Wyoming, close to home)
-Ice Skating (Rosa Parks Circle $1.00 and free skate rentals)
-A stroll through John Ball Zoo is free for the month of February!
-A little summer fun in Kentwood's very own Aquatics Center

details: http://www.kentwoodps.org/communityfacilities/aquaticscenter/hoursratesandrules/

Reminder…….
If your child is home or goes home sick he/she must be fever free and vomit free for 24 hours before they can return to school.

BOWEN FACEBOOK PAGE
Be sure to "like" us on Facebook for current updates. Our page is: Bowen Elementary School of Kentwood Public Schools. Watch for information on all activities and events during the school year.