



BYRON CENTER CHARTER SCHOOL

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12/3/21

Dear Parent/Guardians of BCCS Students,

When I looked at the opening to last year's December newsletter it felt like deja vu as it read ...

We continue to carefully navigate our way through this pandemic. I am proud of the work our faculty and staff have done to provide comprehensive educational plans that meet the demands of the times. I continue to stress the point that BCCS will push to provide face to face/ in person learning whenever possible. In the same breath we will also maintain the safety and welfare of the members of our school community as a priority. We are agile and prepared to adjust as needed, yet we must have all hands on deck and an informed community of learners. Please stay engaged and communicate as appropriate.

To be honest, the only thing I would add this year is that we must do what we can so as not to grow weary with the continued reality. While I admit that I am growing tired of the amount of time and energy I have to give with work activity related to this pandemic, I am reminded today of the greater value.... the kids. These students deserve a good education in a safe, productive and healthy school environment. Please join me in our commitment to accept the challenges we face, and perhaps change the narrative from what we cannot do to what and how we can support our students.

Positive Character Traits in Action

The character trait highlighted during the month of December is Joyfulness. Joy is an emotion that is quite noticeable and contagious. It is traditional for many of us to share expressions of joy during the Holiday/Christmas season. Isn't it great that BCCS I that we recognized this character trait at this time of the year ? Many people agree that being in a state of well-being and happiness is good for our culture and what better place to start than with our children. As a member of the BCCS school community, we are called to seek opportunities to bring joyfulness into the atmosphere of the building. So, choose joy, as this is an important character trait to share among our school family.

Informational Items From the Office

COVID Update: I wish I had better news and we are 100% free of COVID positive cases, yet this is not the case. The fact of the matter is, most of the current cases are family specific, yet there have been a fair amount of close contacts in the school. We will continue to monitor and report the activity in the school as appropriate. Please continue to communicate any close contacts or positive cases in the home.

Please note: depending on the rates of transmission of COVID in the school, we very well may have to consider initiating additional mitigation strategies.

KCHD Mask Update: This week schools received an update from Dr. Adam London, Chief Health Official KCHD, stating that he has no intention of extending the county-wide mask mandate for schools. As of January 3rd, KCHD will no longer require K-6 students to wear masks in schools.

Extended Day/Child Care Pause: Unfortunately we are unable to continue the school's aftercare program for K-5 students as we are unable to staff the position at this time. We are seeking a qualified candidate to fill the role yet have no applicants to date. We truly apologize for this inconvenience and will communicate if there exists a change

School Information

Progress Reports: 2nd Quarter Progress Reports will be sent home with students next week Wednesday, (12/8). Students are expected to have parents sign and return to designated teachers. Parents please let the office know if you do not receive a report. Given the disrupted schedules, parents should pay close attention to student performance at this time.

Elementary Winter Wear: At this time, students are to dress appropriately for the weather. Winter wear includes coats, boots, hats, and gloves. If there is snow, and in order to play in the snow, both boots and snow pants are required. Please let the office know if hats and/or gloves are needed for your child.

Outdoor Recess: If students are well enough to attend school, then they should be able to attend outdoor recess. Parents must provide a note (signed and dated), if there exists a specific medical reason for a child not to attend outdoor recess.

Your Help Please... Monitoring Student Tech Use: School technology is issued to students for, and is to be exclusively used for educational purposes. Parents are asked to monitor usage in their homes. Student logins and passwords are to be freely shared with parents. Please communicate with the school if there is any activity considered to be lewd, offensive or anything that would compromise the safety and welfare of students, staff and/or members of the school community.

Checking Powerschool Regularly

The Holiday Giving Tree: We would like to decorate the tree, in the main hall, with hats and mittens for children in need. These items should be new, not gently used. We will be donating these items to *In the Image*. This organization helps families in need in the Wyoming, Kentwood, and Grand Rapids areas. Please help decorate our tree to keep children warm this winter. We will be collecting these items until December 17th. Thank you for helping others in our community! If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Timmerman (BCCS First Grade Teacher) ptimmerman@byroncentercharter.org

School Calendar Updates

Dec 1-17 Holiday Tree Decoration/Drive: Hat,Mitten and Glove Drive

Dec 6-13: Student Council Candy Cane and Hot Chocolate Sale (Dec 17 delivery)

Dec 8: 6-12gr - 2nd qtr. Progress Reports (please sign and return)

Dec 9-10: PTO Lil' Shopper's Shoppe Sale

Dec 13-17: BCCS Spirit Week/ Student Council

- Monday – Holiday Sweater day
- Tuesday – Festive Socks day
- Wednesday – Holiday Colors day

- Thursday – Holiday Movie Character day
- Friday – Plaid day

Dec. 14: K-4 Music Program Video Recording (information forthcoming)

Dec 16: 5th-HS Band Recording (information forthcoming)

- Elementary Holiday Parties

Dec 17: Candy Cane and Hot Chocolate Delivery

December 20 - Dec 31: Holiday Break

Jan 3: School Resumes

FYI

Jan 19-21 Mid High Exams

- ½ day of school for all grades
- Grab-N-Go Lunches

COVID Related Cancellations

- December 14: Winter Band Concert has been cancelled
 - Video performance will be taped on Dec 16th
- December 15: Gingerbread House Decorating has been cancelled

Counselor's Chair

{MI}Code Experience: 3rd-5th Grade Virtual or In-Person December 6-17, 2021

- {MI}Code Experience seeks to introduce third through fifth-grade students to coding and computer science career paths. Learning to code can help these students become the next generation of problem-solvers, creators, and innovators!
- **This year's event will be multiple live, virtual events throughout National Computer Science Week and the week after (from December 6 – 17).** [Sign up here!](#)

Ski Club: Ski Club Cards – THINK SNOW! Discounts available at Bittersweet Ski Resort for the season. Purchase a club card for a one-time fee of \$27 for students and adults to receive discounts on lift tickets and rentals, *plus two free lessons for students*. The club card gives you access to almost half price tickets during the allowed times. Available for those seven years and older. Friends and family are eligible too!

- The Ski Club registration form with details is available [here](#).
- Please return signed forms with payment (checks payable to Bittersweet Ski Resort) to the office **no later than Tuesday, December 14**. Contact Holly Cravino (hcravino@byroncentercharter.org) with any questions.

Nurses Corner

Influenza: This past week it was reported that the State of Michigan leads the country in influenza cases. The greatest incidents are among college-age students. At BCCS, we have seen about ½ dozen cases of students having a viral intestinal illness. Please be aware and have students engage in basic safety protocols (washing hands, sanitizing etc...) to help prevent the spread of illness.

Student Awards and Recognitions

October

Student of the Month:

- K-2 Torrance Heintz
- 3-5 Gracie Pike
- 6-8 Jocelyn Bown
- 9-12 Logan Timmer

Character Recognitions (Responsibility and Self Discipline):

- ELEMENTARY: Nora Kuncaitis, Angela Palasek, Katie Gonzalez, Jonah Arthur, Judah Beute, Ava Leys, Bridget Lytle, Hannah Bunnell, Zavian VanNoy, Addyson Coffey, Symone Brown, Laura Shrontz, Mirian Appotheke, Sarah Uminn, Xander Lang
- MIDDLE SCHOOL: Lia Franson, Grace Duncan, Amelia Pike, Rylee Bos, Alydiah Coffey, Annika Emmelkamp, Ryhs Houda, Ellie VanDussen, McKenna Lang, Ava Syswerda
- HIGH SCHOOL: Ella Franson, Joselyn VanDussen, Gabriella Verburg, Lauren Lauver, Daniel Jones, Lizzy Brandow, Sarah Buchanan, Molly DeVries, Sarah Solis, Jedaiah Armour, Xavier Coffey, Logan Timmer, Matthew Nixon, Paul Hollis

November

Student of the Month:

- K-2 Jensen Braun
- 3-5 Addelyn Hubbel
- 6-8 Abigail Uminn
- 9-12 Lauren Lauver

Character Recognitions (Appreciation):

- ELEMENTARY: Clara Butler, Zayden Redman, Torrance Heintz, Aeris Leyrer, Liam Stratton, Luna Gillikin, Caden Searl, Lamia Kovacevic, Sarah Uminn, Addelyn Hubbel, Joshua Hoort, Cheyenne Drier, John Duncan, Allyson Houghmaster, Lilliana Miller
- MIDDLE SCHOOL: Emily Uminn, Amanda Boorsma, Haley Hartnett, Kinze Anderson, Elina Wiersma, Parker Harrison, Dominic Stratton, Liam Borsk, Tori DeVries
- HIGH SCHOOL: Nick Dies, Emily Shrontz, Lelie Miller, Sarah Solis, Gabriella Verburg, Matthew Conover, Joselyn VanDussen, Daniel Jones

ShipShape Awards:

- Week 1: 3rd grade
- Week 2: 4th grade
- Week 3: suspended due to a class being out on quarantine
- Week 4: Thanksgiving break

Mid-High Honor Roll for 1st quarter

High School:

A Honor Roll

Nick Dies
Ian Emmelkamp
Sadie Uminn
Sarah Buchanan
Molly DeVries
Joselyn VanDussen
Gabriella Verburg
Elizabeth Brandow
Daniel Jones
Gracie Leys

A/B Honor Roll

Tate Anderson
Lauren Lauver
MaryJane Anderson
Hannah Schneider
Olivia Gregorski
Logan Timmer

Middle School:

A Honor Roll

Nolan Bolt
Rylee Bos
Abigail Uminn
Max Ayon
Ruth Apotheke
Grace Duncan
Ava Syswerda
Cole Verstrate

A/B Honor Roll

Annika Emmelkamp
Bayley Houghmaster
McKenna Lang
Kade O'Neal
Rebekah Rocheleau
Emily Uminn
Elina Wiersma
Jocelyne Brown
Lacey Elliott
Lia Franson
Amelia Pike
Ellis VanDussen
Kenzie Anderson
Alydiah Coffey
Tori DeVries
Braedon Duncan
Zack Gregorski
Haley Hartnet
Rhys Houda
Max Miller
Cian O'Neal
Lucas Rus
Dominic Stratton

Thanksgiving Food Drive Winners:

K-5 First Grade with 223.5 points

6-12: Jr. Class with 647.75 points

While we do not have the final count to date, the initial thought was that this was the most amount of food donated to Buist Community Center by BCCS in our school's history. Another fine example of our *Small, But Mighty* school in action!

News You Can Use

ESSER III Survey: In the recent survey regarding the use of ESSER funding, we had 40 people respond. The top recommended uses of the funding were:

- 60% Extended instructional time/tutoring for students
- 47.5% Increase access of instructional materials/tools to help learning recovery
- 42.5% Educational technology to increase student engagement and interaction with educators
- 42.5% Additional services/resources to address mental health and wellness

This information will be used to help our SI Team make decisions regarding expenditures of the federal COVID relief funding. I want to thank those who participated in the survey

Canadian Currency : This is a bit odd, yet please do not send Canadian currency to the school. Our bank is no longer accepting Canadian coins...sorry.

Building Upgrades: Over the Thanksgiving break Mr. Boersma installed surveillance cameras in the building. He also had the rooftop HVAC unit (gym area) replaced, and replaced a door in the portable. We appreciate his service and many talents.

Follow PTO on Facebook

Go [BCCS PTO Facebook Page](#) and request to join!

Closing

I want to reiterate that our school continues to thrive and perform in spite of the adversities experienced in our nation, state and local community. The state has released the school report cards for the 2020-21 school year (see <https://www.mischooldata.org/school-grades>). When you locate BCCS you will notice that our school showed improvement as compared to the prior year (2018-19 as no reports were computed in 2019-20 due to the pandemic). Additionally, our school significantly outperformed peer (like) schools and the state subgroups in all categories observed. Let us not forget the product of this organization is the performance of the students. In my opinion, this report card demonstrates the commitment, dedication and effort of the staff, students and families. Good job, well done...and let's keep it going. MK