



BYRON CENTER CHARTER SCHOOL

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BCCS Update 12/22/23

Dear Parents/Guardians of BCCS K-12 Students,

Well, we are quickly encroaching the end of the first semester of the 2023-24 school year. With that in mind please be reminded that shortly after the winter break we 'hit the ground runnin': the mid-high students will have mid-year/semester exams, K-8 students will be administered NWEA MAP testing in reading and math, K-3 and designated 4-5 students will have individual F & P reading assessments. Specific information will be sent home in the January newsletter the week of Jan. 8th. In the meantime, here are a few school related informational items for your awareness and understanding.

Winter BreakHappy Holidays

- Friday, December 22, Begins at the end of the school day
- Monday, January 8th, School Resumes
The school will be closed during the break as Mr. Boersma & CO will be cleaning carpets, stripping and waxing tile floors, handling some timely school maintenance items and general custodial services (shout out to Mr. B...Thank you!). Office staff and administration will be in the office on a limited basis each week. Please send an email to the office (office@byroncentercharter.org) if contact is needed.

Jan 9th and 11th : Mid-High After School Tutoring and Jazz Band

Jan 11th: PTO Meeting 3:30 Science Lab

Jan 12

- Eagle Assembly
- Popcorn Friday (50 cents) supports yearbook
- Mid-High After School Sports Club

January 17-19

- Half days of School : Dismissal 11:15-11:20
 - Grab and Go Lunches for those who order
- MidHigh Exams
 - Wed: 1st and 6th hrs
 - Thu: 2nd and 5th hrs
 - Fri: 3rd and 4th hrs
- KCTC student are expected to attend Career and Tech Ed Classes at KISD

January 19th: End of First Semester.

Shout Outs:

- **Hat and Mitten Tree:** Thank you to those who supported the *In the Image Donation Center* as we had an outstanding response from the members of the BCCS Educational Community ...your generosity and care for others is transparent, recognized and appreciated. Special thanks to Mrs. Timmerman for spearheading the event.

- **Student Council Recognized:** Students, teachers and staff extend appreciation to the members of the BCCS Student Council and sponsors for their leadership with the school holiday activities this past month to include the Gingerbread House Decoration Contests, Spirit Week Activities and Winter Candy Grams (Candy Cane and Hot Chocolate).
- **Congrats to the 2023 Gingerbread House Decoration Contest Winners:**
Winning entries will be posted to school [Facebook](#) and placed in the yearbook
 - For the first time ever, we had a tie in votes this year...
 - Entry #9 *Chess Board*, created by Matt Conover and Ian Emmelkamp
 - Entry #5 *Santa's Sleigh*, created by Evie Timmer, Lia and Ella Franson

Thanks for sharing your artistic and creative talents!
- **Ship Shape Awards:**
 - The Week of ...
 - Dec 4th 1st grade
 - Dec 11 3rd grade
 - Dec 18th 5th grade

Thanks for taking care of our school!

In closing.... On behalf of all teachers and staff, I extend sincere gratitude for the kindness and care shared with us this holiday season. BCCS is a special place, small but mighty, where together we are making a difference in the lives of our students. Your acts of kindness through salutations, cards and gifts exemplify positive character traits in action, one of the pillars of our school's mission. In the spirit of the season and the BCCS December character trait of Joyfulness, a special wish of peace and joy to all BCCS families. For those families who celebrate, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy & Joyful New Year to all. MK

*PS: I leave you with this poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, published in Longfellow's book *Kéramos, and other poems* (Houghton, Osgood & Company, 1878).*

Holidays

*The holiest of all holidays are those
Kept by ourselves in silence and apart;
The secret anniversaries of the heart,
When the full river of feeling overflows;—
The happy days unclouded to their close;
The sudden joys that out of darkness start
As flames from ashes; swift desires that dart
Like swallows singing down each wind that blows!
White as the gleam of a receding sail,
White as a cloud that floats and fades in air,
White as the whitest lily on a stream,
These tender memories are;— a Fairy Tale
Of some enchanted land we know not where,
But lovely as a landscape in a dream.*