



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE March 2024

Spring is in the air today. This is the time of year when we get to watch the Earth come back to life with the greens and vibrant colors blooming all around us. The warmth of the sun fills us with energy and enthusiasm to be outside. It is my goal to bring all of this color and energy into our work here at the school. Our BSP Team – students, teachers, support staff, parents and community are an amazing group of people. We are not afraid of hard work or the challenging demands that come our way.

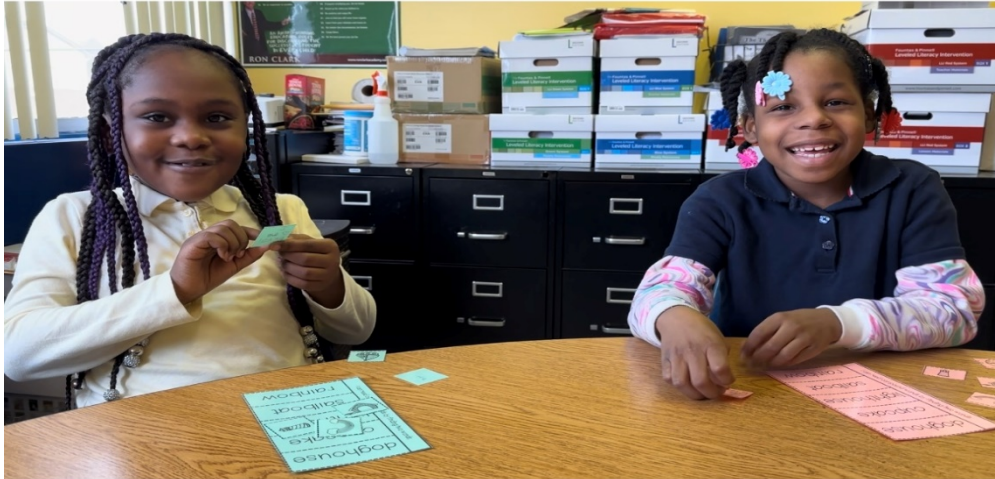
We are seeing so much progress in our students. Their increase in capacity to accomplish their academic work and improve their decision-making skills in all areas is helping them find success. I am so proud of them. I am proud of the way they are treating one another, the way they are setting and meeting goals, the way they are willing to accept responsibility and the way they are problem solving both academically and socially. I feel like the proud parent of over 80 children. I hope that you know how much I care about your children, not just as students but also as the wonderful people that they are.

As we wrap up this third term of the year (I know! Can you even believe that we are almost three quarters of the way through this year) I want to encourage us all to carry on with the energy that spring will bring. We need to continue strong. It will take all of us to help our wonderful students to be able to show how far they have come this year. Carry on and enjoy the beauty that is all around us and especially in our wonderful students.

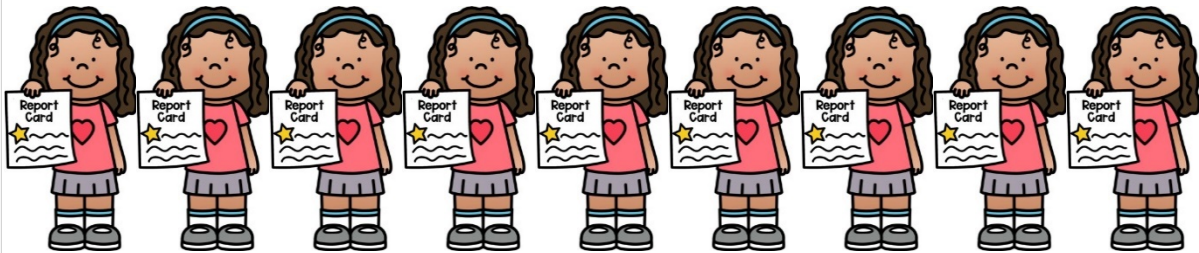
Please watch for information about exciting programs that will be highlighting the work the students have done this year and important testing dates.

Dr. Fant

Principal, Bessie Sherrod – Price



Talking to Kids About Report Cards



Soon report cards will be out and it will be more important than ever for us all to remember to focus on areas of progress and where effort has been demonstrated. Because neuroscience has shown that too much stress leads to the shutdown of the prefrontal cortex (the thinking part of the brain), we know that what we say and how we say it actually really matters. Comments that may contribute to feelings of guilt, shame or pressure may actually make it harder for children to do well. There are different reasons why you might be disappointed, surprised or concerned with your child's report card. Try to be aware of those reasons, and remember that you have an opportunity to encourage your child and contribute to their joy of learning, which is one of the most helpful things you can do. Here are some suggestions:

- Ask open-ended questions about your child's progress instead of yes or no questions. (Eg: what is easiest / hardest for you? What do you like the most / least?) Remain present and listen to their responses.
- Offer specific praise and encouragement instead of general statements. (Eg: It looks like you worked very hard in math this term.)
- Focus on a goal and come up with a plan together. (Eg: How can I help you? - practice math facts, get to bed earlier, read together, get up earlier, have breakfast)

Report cards are only one way that demonstrates your child's capabilities / learning; they do not define how smart or capable your child is. There are many, many other ways your child demonstrates skills, capabilities and talents. Remind your child to remember those too.

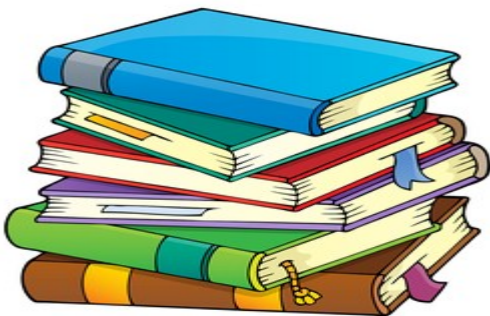
Our words matter, and when we use a growth mindset language it encourages learning.

March is Women's History Month. We will be learning about the great contributions made by women.

State Testing Begins March 27th. Please make sure your child gets a good night's sleep, and comes to school each day.

Spring Break March 29th- April 8th

Celebrating our Rich History



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Book Club meets Mondays at 2:45

LITERACY NEWS

Throughout “I Love to Read” month, students were asked to return a form about books their family loves. The idea behind this activity was to spur conversations about books and to have a source for book recommendations. It wouldn’t make sense to keep this valuable group resource to ourselves, so below I’ll share just some of the many wonderful book titles discovered.

There were a couple of authors that were repeatedly recommended. Many students suggested books written by Mo Willems including The Thank You Book, The Pigeon Finds a Hot Dog, I Will Surprise My Friend, and I Really Like Slop. Robert Munsch was another popular author with titles such as Love You Forever, Moose!, Finding Christmas, School Rules, and the collection Munsch More. I think we can now add author Oliver Jeffers to this list after enjoying many of his books during school-wide “I Love to Read” month activities.

It’s always great when you can discover an enjoyable book series so that one book can lead to another. Series that were recommended included Junie B. Jones by Barbara Park, The Trouble at Table 5 by Tom Watson, Harry Potter by J.K. Rowling, Nancy Drew by Carolyn Keene, The Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis, and The Land of Stories by Chris Colfer.

Thank you to all of our students who participate in Book Club! **Reading is FUN-DAMENTAL**





It's not all work and no play at BSP. Spirit Week brings out the silly side of our staff and students.

Be on the lookout for upcoming events like Muffins and Moms, Granola and Grandparents, Pizza and Parents, and Fruit and Families.