

# Bell Hill Academy Bulletin

## DATES TO REMEMBER

CHARACTER TRAIT OF THE MONTH:  
CARING AND COOPERATION

- 12/6 Early Release at 1:50  
Paw Pride Drawing  
Safety Committee 4-5pm
- 12/7 ELAC Meeting 5:30pm
- 12/8 Spirit Day! Wear your black and red  
Award for Class with Highest  
Percentage of Attendance for the Week
- 12/11 Site Council 3:30-4:30pm
- 12/12 GVSD Board Meeting 6:30pm
- 12/13 Early Release at 1:50  
Paw Pride Drawing
- 12/14 Pastries (and Coffee) with the Principal  
9:15am  
Winter Sing 6pm at Lyman Gilmore
- 12/15 Spirit Day! Wear your black and red  
Award for Class with Highest  
Percentage of Attendance for the Week
- 12/18 to 12/20 Holiday Boutique
- 12/20 Early Release at 1:50  
Paw Pride Drawing  
Safety Committee 4-5pm
- 12/21 Donation Day Parade  
Student of the Month Assembly  
Minimum Day--1:50 Dismissal
- 12/22/17 to 1/7/18 Winter Break!**
- 1/8/18 Return to School

### Jogathon Update

***Wonderful news! BHA students earned almost \$13,000 in the Jogathon this year!! That is a huge increase over last year's total of \$9,200.***



## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Bell Hill Families,

For many, December is naturally a time of year when we think about ways to connect with our loved ones through the holiday season. I have enjoyed discovering all the various events and activities available for families in Nevada County. For such a small community, there is certainly an abundance of ways to get involved!

I am so pleased that caring and cooperation are the character traits we are emphasizing this month. Our BHA community already does a wonderful job with modeling these traits, and I look forward to hearing about the creative ways our students demonstrate these qualities. As parents and families, I know it is hard to get away from the consumerism that is so prevalent around the holidays, but having a focus on caring can shift us in a positive way. One of the best ways to show caring is by offering our time and attention to one another.

Speaking of caring, I would like to thank Natalie Fowler for taking the initiative to help with our lost and found items. Natalie took pictures of the lost coats and sweaters and put them on Facebook for parents to claim. Great idea!! I also want to thank Andrea Bradley, Ashley Schwarz, Eva Lea and Sonia Garcia for helping me make the Jogathon \$100 Club party so special and fun! I appreciate knowing that I can reach out for help with projects and events and receive so much support.

I hope that all of our Bell Hill Families have a lovely winter holiday.

Warmly,

Mrs. Graham

## *HOME/SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP: KEY TO STUDENT SUCCESS*



**4TH GRADE STUDENTS  
WORKING HARD!!**



### **Helping Hands: Parents Supporting Teachers**

Looking for a fun way to support our wonderful and dedicated BHA teachers in a relaxed and fun way? Mrs. Graham will be starting a group called Helping Hands that will meet the second and fourth Fridays of each month at 9:15 in the office. Teachers will leave prep work that they need done, and Mrs. Graham will make the coffee. We are excited to offer parents and families another way to be involved in our school community and to save our teachers some of their precious time. Above all, we will be working together to support the education of all students!

**"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."** Not too long ago, I heard this statement, and it made me think of the home/school partnership that we are working on strengthening here at BHA. It is well-documented in educational research that the more parents and families are involved in their children's education, the better the academic and social-emotional outcomes for the students. A key aspect of a healthy partnership is communication. Families can expect ongoing communication from Bell Hill in the following ways: monthly school newsletter, weekly all calls/emails with updates, classroom newsletters and Dojo messages, as well as teacher emails and phone calls to individual parents. Remember that communication from families and parents to the school is equally important. We value your comments and questions because they help us to better serve our students. If you are unsure where to go with your question or comment, please contact Mrs. Graham in the office.

### **SAFETY COMMITTEE ON DEC 6**

As mentioned in the all call, the Safety Committee will meet on Wednesday, December 6. This meeting was to make plans for gathering supplies and assembling the emergency buckets for each classroom. After our lockdown a couple of weeks ago, we realize more than ever how important emergency preparedness is. Please contact the office of BHA if you are interested in helping out with this effort.



## TIPS FOR FAMILY MATH ACTIVITIES

An important way families can help support their children's mathematical thinking and understanding is by showing them how much we all use math in our day to day lives. Numbers are all around us! Kindergarten and first grade students can start to learn all the numbers related to themselves. How old are they? How many people are there in their family? If you invite friends over for dinner, how many more chairs will you need at the table? An older student can help you estimate how much your basket of groceries will be at the check out stand. How do you decide which products are the best deal? Talk to your children about budgeting and how to plan ahead for big purchases. Another important mathematical concept is time. If children need 10+ hours of sleep each night, what time should they go to bed? Have fun figuring out all the ways we use math without even realizing it!



### Box Tops for BHA!

Mrs. Swartz has been collecting the Box Tops each month and calculating which classes had the most. For the month of November, Maestra Campbell's class won for the second time this year and will receive *another* prize from Mrs Swartz. Well done! Thanks to all who turned in Box Tops for BHA!



**Bell Hill Academy** is a Global Studies and Dual Immersion School. The educators at Bell Hill share the goal of preparing students to be informed and curious world citizens.



### Parent Teacher Club (PTC) at BHA

The Bell Hill Academy PTC founding group is just in the beginning stages of applying for non-profit status and writing our bylaws. We will be doing lots of prep work and planning this year so that we can be ready for next school year and really get the most out of the opportunity to connect our parents and teachers and to enrich the lives of our precious children. Exciting things are ahead! Everyone is invited to take part in supporting our school.

### TRAFFIC AND PARKING--REVISITED

Safety is a top priority at BHA, and we all need to work together to ensure the well-being of our students, families, and staff. Remember to drive slowly on all sides of the school at 15 mph at drop off and dismissal. Also, Dalton is a one way street going up the hill from School Street. Please be aware of our neighbors' driveways, too. Thanks!