

Bell Hill Academy Bulletin

DATES TO REMEMBER

CHARACTER TRAIT OF THE MONTH: TRUSTWORTHINESS

- 2/7 Early Release at 1:50
Paw Pride Drawing
- 2/9 100th Day of School!
Spirit Day! Wear your black and red
Helping Hands Parent Group 9:15am
Panda Express Dine and Donate
- 2/12 Start with Hello Week Begins!
- 2/13 GVSD School Board Meeting 6:30pm
- 2/14 **Valentine's Day!**
Early Release at 1:50
Paw Pride Drawing
- 2/16 and 2/19 Presidents' Day--No School**
- 2/21 Early Release at 1:50
Paw Pride Drawing
Spring Fundraiser Begins--See's Candy
- 2/22 Breads of the World Day!
Dual Immersion Program Tour 9:15am
- 2/23 Spirit Day! Wear your black and red
Helping Hands Parent Group 9:15am
Citizenship Awards
Lazy Dog Attendance Treats!
- 2/27 Dual Immersion Parent Meeting 6-7pm
- 2/28 Early Release at 1:50
Paw Pride Drawing
- 3/1 ELAC 5:30pm
- 3/2 Spirit Day! Wear your black and red
First Grade Field Trip to see Peter Pan
- 3/5 Student of the Month Assembly 9:20am
Coming Soon!
- 3/8 **Parent Information Night--What is PBIS?
6pm**
- 3/10 **Saturday--Garden Clean Up Day with
Maestra Turner!**



PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Bell Hill Families,

It is hard to believe that we are already more than half way through the school year! I hope you have all been staying as healthy as possible and have been able to get outside to enjoy the beautiful weather we have had--including that sprinkling of snow a couple of weeks ago! I continue to be delighted by the many benefits to living in Nevada County, particularly being a part of our BHA community!

The character trait for the month of February is Trustworthiness, such an important and sometimes difficult trait to develop in ourselves. We want to make sure that when we give our word, we keep it and when we say we will do something, we follow through. As with all of the character traits, the best and most effective way to instill these in our children is to model them ourselves. We can also discuss examples of people we know or characters in books who have demonstrated trustworthiness and integrity.

You may remember that at Back to School Night, I encouraged all parents to find a new way to get involved in the BHA school community. It is well-documented that family participation in their children's education is highly beneficial to student achievement. So, for example, if you have never volunteered in your child's class, reach out to his/her teacher to find a time to come in. Not only will you show your child that you value their schooling, you will also gain a deeper understanding of the expectations we have for all of our students.

With much appreciation,

Mrs. Graham

Campus Beautification!

Let's take pride in our school!

Are you interested in helping beautify the BHA campus for the springtime? We will be holding our first Garden Workday on Saturday, March 10 from 9am to noon. Our first task will be to clean up the raised beds and get them ready for spring planting. Kids are welcome, of course, but must be supervised.



Start with Hello Week

Now in its second year at BHA, **Start with Hello Week** is a program implemented nationwide to help combat social isolation and violence in schools by building healthy relationships among students and staff. At BHA, the activities will start on Monday, February 12 and run through Thursday, February 15. All students will participate in daily activities that encourage inclusion and connection. Information will be sent home for parents to learn more about it. For more information, you can check out the website: <https://www.sandyhookpromise.org/>

If anyone is interested in knowing more or helping out with these activities, please contact Mrs. Graham in the BHA office.



The Official Bell Hill Academy Facebook Page is here!

<https://goo.gl/RmKa3c>

This is another way for parents and community members to stay up-to-date on the happenings at BHA.

Look for upcoming events and information!

A Review of the Parent Information Night on School Safety

by Danielle Noble

Last Tuesday, January 30, was Bell Hill Academy's first parent safety night and it was jammed packed with helpful information. Chris Espedal, the School Safety and Climate Coordinator for Nevada County, was able to provide insight on how things are handled at the school site and by the county for a variety of emergency situations. Officer Zach helped answer questions on what the GVPD's response time will be and what happens when they first arrive on campus. Our school counselor, Emily Gallup, attended and answered questions from parents on how we provide comfort to our children after an incident.

An important takeaway was that the more we talk about the procedures and ask questions, the better prepared the staff, children and parents can be. If you have any questions or comments; please feel free to contact Principal Graham or attend our next safety committee meeting.

Next Steps for BHA regarding School Safety:

1. Chris Espedal will meet with all BHA staff on Feb. 22 to go over safety procedures, especially those for lockdowns.
2. Mrs. Graham and staff will schedule a lockdown drill when Chris Espedal can be present to support us.
3. Families of Bell Hill students will be notified of the approximate date of the



drill as well as other details to help reduce anxiety about the procedure.

4. Bell Hill staff and the safety committee will continue to review and practice safety measures throughout the year.

Eating Dinner Together Has Educational and Social Benefits

Last month, as I was preparing my workshop presentation for the Title I Literacy Night, I came across this website: thefamilydinnerproject.org and was intrigued. My topic was oral language development in children and how families can support this at home. What better time and place to work on improving students listening and speaking skills than at the dinner table? I know from personal experience that it can be very challenging to find time to sit down and eat dinner together everyday. This website has some great ideas for how to set goals and get kids talking in a fun and productive way!



Parents Supporting Teachers

****Next Meeting: Friday, February 9 at 9:15!****

Looking for a fun way to support our wonderful and dedicated BHA teachers in a relaxed and fun way? Mrs. Graham has started 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!

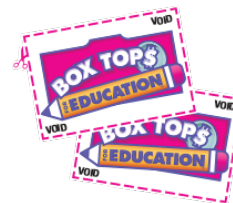
Bell Hill Academy is a Global Studies and Dual Immersion School. The educators at Bell Hill share the goal of preparing students to be informed and curious world citizens.

What's All This Talk about a School Bond in Grass Valley?

You may have read in the newspaper that the Board of the Grass Valley School District, after much research and consideration, has decided to go out for a general obligation bond which, if approved by the voters in June, would provide relief from some of the ongoing issues in our aging facilities.

Bell Hill Academy would benefit from the passage of the bond in a number of ways. First of all, our site would receive a multi-use room. As most of you are aware, BHA does not currently have a cafeteria or any space large enough for the entire school community to gather. A multi-use room would change things for us dramatically. Additionally, many maintenance repairs that have been deferred for lack of funding would be repaired along with updated classrooms and new furniture.

I would like to thank the following parents for their willingness to step up and help out with this effort: Danielle Noble, Leah Helmen, Jim Manley, Michelle Springmeier, Jennifer Jones and Hannah Charberlain. Many, many thanks!



Remember to bring in your Box Tops!
Box Tops = New Library Books
Congratulations to Mrs. Jackson's 4th grade class for bring in the most Box Tops in January!

