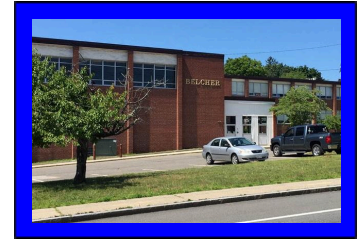


# BELCHER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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## Message from the Principal DECEMBER 2019

Dear Belcher Families,

Happy Holidays! I want to wish everyone a healthy and happy holiday season. Thank you to all the teachers who have met and discussed the progress your children are making in school. It is wonderful to watch them grow and learn. If you have not yet had a parent teacher conference there is still time. Please contact your child's teacher and schedule some time to discuss how your child is doing. Your child's teacher will be happy to schedule a mutually agreeable time to meet.

Report cards are scheduled to be sent home on Thursday, December 5, 2019 (reminder there is no school on Friday, December 6, 2019). When you receive your report card please review it and contact your child's teacher if you have any questions.

Now that the weather is colder, and we already have had snow, please make sure to dress your child appropriately. Layers are best as some places in the school may be warm, while others may be cold. Over the past few years I have noticed that some students wear lined sweatshirts as winter coats instead of a more traditional coat. This type of jacket is not rated for our cold New England weather. If you need help finding a winter coat let us know. We are happy to help. Office staff will call families of children who do not bring coats to school.

Students that are not dressed appropriately will not be allowed to participate in recess. On this note we often receive donations of hats, and gloves from Chicopee organizations that love to knit. If we see children without gloves we often just give them to the children. Please feel free to keep these. If you do not want them, just send them back the next day.

Our school nurse could use some clothing for unhappy accidents. We are in need of clothing that would fit larger second graders, especially pants and shirts. However, all sizes are welcome. We would also love donations of packaged underwear... all sizes. Thank you in advance for your donations.

The holiday season can be difficult for some children as routines can be affected by parties, special family gatherings... not to mention the excitement. I recommend that you maintain as regular a schedule as possible with plenty of sleep. Children do best when they can predict their routines and when they have had enough sleep. Of course calendars do need to be changed from time to time. If necessary just send a note giving your child's teacher a heads up should this be the case. Join us on Thursday December 12, 2019 at 10:00am as Belcher School celebrates the holiday season with a festive concert. All grade levels will be performing. Again happy holidays!

Samuel Karlin, Principal



## Upcoming Events

**Parent/Teacher Conferences. - Dec. 6th**

**Report Cards Issued - Dec. 5th**

**PTO Meeting - Dec. 9th @ 6pm**

**Holiday Concert - Dec. 12th**

**Christmas Vacation - Dec. 23rd-Jan. 1st**

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## Teacher & Staff News

### KINDERGARTEN

#### **Mrs. Huard, Mrs. Surprenant, Mrs. Masse, & Mrs. Legiadre:**

It's hard to believe December is already here! Our "harvest celebration" was so much fun! It was a lot of preparation but well worth it! Now we are into the holiday season and have many more great activities planned. We will be learning about the different holidays that are celebrated; Hanukkah, Las Posadas, and Kwanzaa. We will continue learning a new letter every week while constantly reviewing what we have already covered. In math, we are working with number sense, numbers up to 10, and addition and subtraction. Hope everyone has a happy, healthy, and safe holiday season!!

~ The Kindergarten Staff



### FIRST GRADE

#### **Ms. Barree:**

First grade has been working on many new skills in reading. We are now in the process of learning sentence structure with daily writing. We are also trying to grasp the concepts of addition and subtraction. This seems to be quite the challenge...BUT we will conquer it!! We work daily on problem solving. We know many strategies. We are looking forward to all the excitement of the Holidays and all the wonderful sights and sounds of the Christmas season. Please read every day with your child!

#### **Mrs. Fontaine:**

Happy Holidays to all! We have just begun Unit 2, "What Makes a Community?" What a wonderful month to be reading and thinking about things related to this theme. In Math we will continue with number operations and investigate more algebraic thinking. We will be continuing with light in Science. Please continue talking to your children about what new things they are learning in school. Enjoy the month of December with your "Community!"

#### **Mrs. Dunn:**

I can't believe it's already December! Thank you for all your help with the Turkey in Disguise project; it was a huge success. In reading we will continue reading about communities. Our math program will focus on addition

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with subtraction being added very soon. And in social studies, we will travel the globe to learn about celebrations around the world. Try to relax this holiday season and enjoy your family and friends!

## **SECOND GRADE**

### **Ms. Demers:**

Learning about the Earth as well as the first Thanksgiving were a huge part of our November learning as well as more difficult math. The pilgrims struggled to survive during their first year in the new world. Nature was important to the Native Americans who lived here and taught the Pilgrims so much about it to survive. We will continue to learn much more in math now that it is coming to term two. Keep reading and practice math facts each night with your child. It will give him or her the boost needed to be more successful.

### **Mrs. Domingos:**

It's hard to believe December is here! The students have been working very hard using their reading strategies to decode, predict, and summarize. In math we have finished working on place value, numbers to 100, and different ways to show the value of two-digit numbers. We have also practiced skip counting by 2's and 5's. Soon we will be developing our algebraic thinking skills by extending, describing, and creating repeating and growing patterns.

### **Mrs. Kindness:**

It was great to meet with all of the families of our class. Thank you to those who took time out of their busy schedules to meet with me! Please be sure to ask your students about what they are reading when they read at home. This will help them begin to take a closer look at what they are reading and help with reading for meaning. Students will take a closer look at different addition and subtraction strategies and begin working on patterns. They will also begin adding and subtracting with regrouping. The days are getting colder, so please make sure your child is dressed warmly. Happy holidays to all!!

### **Mrs. Forbes:**

It's hard to believe December is here already! The children have been working very hard this year. In math, we will continue to work on addition and subtraction. If you can study math facts with your children this would be very beneficial. I hope that everyone has a wonderful holiday season and a very Happy New Year!

## **ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION**

### **Mrs. Belanger:**

It's hard to believe that the holidays are just around the corner and that we are heading into the year 2020. With all of the special activities you have planned for your family, please remember that a consistent and structured routine is essential over the holiday season. Take some extra time to read a book to your child, play a game, or have them help out in the kitchen are all great ways to provide them with positive attention. The students have been making wonderful progress in all areas and we continue to expect great things from them. We will have a

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couple special activities throughout the month to celebrate the many holidays observed in December. Have a Happy and Safe Holiday Season!

### **Special Education**

#### **Mrs. Bukowski and Mrs. Greenia:**

The holiday season is upon us! We continue to be very busy working in small groups within the K, 1, & 2 classrooms. In Kindergarten, we have been focusing on introducing a letter a week. First and Second graders are working on CVC & VC words, blends, and short and long vowel sounds. Students are also increasing their sight word vocabulary. We recommend reading to your child for fifteen minutes every night. Math has been exciting. We continue to work on numbers 1:1 correspondence, patterns & skip counting, and basic addition and subtraction. Since the holidays are upon us, flashcards make a great gift. Have a wonderful and safe holiday.

### **SPECIALISTS**

#### **Title 1 Reading Mrs. Merchant and Mrs. Franco:**

The children have been working hard these past few months. Our first and second graders are doing a great job reading. Our kindergarteners are still learning their letters and sounds. They continue to use the pictures to help them read. They have learned that every word has to have a vowel and are beginning to try to read small words such as “mat” or “pit” without using pictures. Continue to encourage reading by having them read to you or by reading to them. Our school-wide vocabulary has returned. Each week, we will learn 2 new words from a poem read by Mr. Karlin. Students are encouraged to use the words throughout the week. On Friday, 3-4 students are chosen to read over the intercom sentences that they wrote using those words. Our vocabulary words for November were: **approve, gobble, determined, enthusiastic.**

We wish everyone a safe and wonderful holiday season. Keep Reading!

#### **ELL Mrs. LaDuke and Mrs. Serrao:**

ACCESS Testing for ELL students will be taking place during the month of January. If you have any questions about the testing or when testing results will be in please feel free to contact Mrs. LaDuke or Mrs. Serrao. We hope you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

#### **Music Mr. Fossa:**

I'm happy to announce that our winter concert will take place on Thursday, December 12 at 10:00 at Belcher School. We will sing some Holiday songs and winter songs. The students are very excited for the concert and so am I. I hope to see everyone there.

#### **Technology Mrs. Desautels:**

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Students have been very busy in the Computer Lab! This month all students will be focusing on Internet Safety. We will also complete some technology projects focusing on the holiday season. I hope you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**Physical & Health Education Ms. Moss:**

*Snow Much Fun in P.E.* - Each grade level has been put to the challenge to learn to tie their shoes! 2nd, 1st, and kindergarten are in grade level competition until January 2020 to learn to tie their own shoes! Please work with your students at home as this skill takes time. There are many awesome videos on YouTube to help with quick and easy ways to tie (no more around the bunny hole techniques). We have also been working in the classroom on Throwing & Catching skills! Overhand throws should have: side to the target, (throwing) arm makes a muscle or 'L', Step-Twist-Throw! Underhand throws should have: belly to the target, (throwing) arm straight, Swing-Step-Throw! Catching has also been practiced and should look like: eyes forward, hands and arms out, thumbs or pinkies together, hug it in tight! These skills should come in handy for our first snowfall and can be practiced with some snowballs!

**Guidance Ms. French:**

December greetings to all our Belcher Elementary School students and their families! In this season of continuing to think about gratitude and all that we appreciate in our lives, I want to say how thankful I am to work in a school and in a city that celebrates its diversity. Here at Belcher School, we are fortunate to have students from all different backgrounds and life experiences. Many of our students were born somewhere other than Massachusetts, and some even from countries other than the US. Many families speak more than one language. On any given day at school, however, we are struck by the similarities all of these children share. Every day there are many examples of children helping others - whether it's being a classroom helper, tying a friend's shoe, or even simply using kind words! This December let's embrace the season of caring about our friends and family.

**Nurse Kathy:**

Happy Holidays to all the Belcher families! Thanks for all the physicals and immunizations that you send in to me. Please continue to send them in to me to keep your child's records up to date in school. I am still accepting any clothing donations and will throughout the school year. Not only do we have children who have bathroom accidents, but as the snow begins to fall, they will get wet outside and need to change after recess as well. Any children with asthma that flares up when the temperature drops will need a doctor's note to stay inside during recess. All children go outside as long as it is above 20 degrees. We have had some strep throat and stomach viruses spreading around the school lately. If your child has a fever over 100 degrees or vomiting the night before, they should not come to school. The Chicopee Public School policy is that your child must be fever free for 24 hours without taking any medications to keep the fever down before they can return to school. This helps to prevent the spread of infections. Thank you for your cooperation and have a safe and healthy Holiday.

Kathy McCarthy, R.N.

Belcher Elementary School Nurse

**Library Mrs. Ewing:**



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Belcher children have been busy picking out favorite reading books to read or to be read to. It's great to see their eager faces when they have selected that special book! Parents, please consider putting books on your list of things to buy. It's the gift that gives back, again & again. Box Tops still count! Please send them in. Help your child's class! Happy holidays!

**PTO Corner:**

Come support our school!! Our next PTO meeting is on Monday, December 9th at 6:00 in the school's library. Please help support your children, our students and the PTO by collecting and sending in Box Tops! Come show your school spirit! Free daycare provided!

Safety is always a concern to keep our students safe. A few friendly reminders to parents when dropping off and picking up students:

- ➡➡ Please NO PARKING in the drop off area behind the school and in the bus lanes.
- ➡➡ Please drive slowly in the parking lot.
- ➡➡ Allow for extra time and be cautious
- ➡➡ If you are dropping off in the rear parking lot, please do not hold up traffic. Park in the lot if you are walking your child into the building.
- ➡➡ Dismissal is 2:38. Unless a note is sent in with your child, they will be sent home on their usual way.
- ➡➡ All pick up people must be listed on that student's emergency form to allow us to dismiss.
- ➡➡ Please keep your phone numbers updated in the office.