



WILDCAT NEWS

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 5

JANUARY 2012

PRINCIPAL CORNER—NEW YEAR'S

*Welcome back and
Happy New Year to all!*

A Pop Quiz:

1. Name the last three Heisman Trophy winners.
2. Name the last three Academy Award winners for the best actor/actress.

How did you do? The point is, rarely do we remember the headliners of yesterday. Although they were the best in their field, the applause dies, the awards tarnish and the achievements are forgotten.

Another Quiz:

1. Name three people who have helped you through a difficult time.
2. Name three people who taught you something very important.

The lesson...the people who make a difference are typically not the ones with the most awards or credentials but rather the people who care.

Recently I read that 95% of the people who make a health-related resolution on January 1st break it within the first week. Perhaps a more feasible (and only slightly late) **New Year's Resolution** would be to thank those people who care about you or your child and to be one of those people who demonstrates caring for others.

OPEN ENROLLMENT APPLICATION

The Open Enrollment program is a statewide school choice program that allows students in grades K-12 to attend a public school in a district other than the one in which they reside, if space is available. Applications to attend the Germantown School District are available on the district website, www.germantownschoools.org. Parents/guardians must submit an application to the non-resident school district of their choice during the three-week period of February 6th - 24th, 2012, to be eligible for consideration. Late applications can NOT be considered.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CALENDAR, REMINDERS & UPDATES	2
TIME TO PAWS FOR PRAISE, CALLING ALL WILDCATS, BLT UPDATE	3
WHAT'S HAPPENING, SKYWARD LOGINS & PASSWORDS, SKYWARD STUDENT INFORMATION	4
TEACHER WORK & IN-SERVICE DAYS	5
PTA SCRIP, CAMPBELL'S UPC & MILK CAPS, BUS DRIVER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST	6

Teacher In-Service No School

Monday, January 2nd
Friday, January 20th

School Hours

8:50 a.m. to 3:44 p.m.

Office Hours

7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

Teacher Hours

8:35 a.m. to 3:59 p.m.

JANUARY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
BLT = Building Leadership Team						
1	2 Teacher In-Service—No School	3 Welcome Back!	4	5 School Store, Variety Show Practice to 5:30p	6	7
8	9	10 BLT 7:30 am	11	12 Market Day PU 5-6p, Variety Show to 5:30p	13 Popcorn, Eye Glass Collection Ends	14
15	16	17 KMS Band 9:00 a.m.	18	19 School Store, PTA Mtg 6:30p, Variety Show to 5:30 p	20 No School, Teacher InService	21
22	23	24	25	26 Variety Show to 5:30p	27	28
29 Pablo Picasso Exhibit here this week	30	31	Feb 1	2 Dinner with the Arts :)	3	4

REMINDERS & UPDATES



Kids 2 Kids Christmas
Wow! Thank you to everyone who donated toys to the Kids 2 Kids Christmas campaign. We collected 4 overflowing boxes. We received a visit from the Kapco sleigh (truck) and visitors from the North Pole on Friday, December 9th.

Way to go Wildcats by brightening the lives of many kids just like you.

Hat & Mitten Tree Thank you to those that donated to the Hat & Mitten Tree. Our collection was very successful. We are able to keep the heads and hands of our Wildcats warm and cozy.

A **Reflections Exhibit** was held at the Germantown Community Library on Monday, December 12th. We had several participants. Here are the results from the local judging (all pieces are sent to the State PTA convention for judging as well). 1st Place - Hannah Brown (Photography); 1st Place - Ian Leonard (Visual Arts); Honorable Mention - Kiran Bajwa (Visual Arts); Participation Awards go to Puja Bajwa, Shane Crowley (2 pieces), and Jonae' Foulks-Simmons. Good luck at State.

The **Pancake Breakfast/Secret Santa Shoppe** was a success. Thank you to all of the students and families that turned out for a “tasty” breakfast! Seeing the smiles on the children’s faces when Frosty the Snowman came to say hello was priceless. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped to make this event a success. It couldn’t have been done without you! We’ll see you next year!

TIME TO “PAWS” FOR WILDCAT PRAISE

Please feel free to jot Mrs. Kucharski a note or email message (mkucharski@germantown.k12.wi.us) of brief, positive comments you hear or read about a member of our school community (students, staff, parents) for possible submissions in this news article. We reserve the right to edit as necessary for anonymity and length.

From a staff member about a substitute teacher:

“Substitute teacher X seems to be very in tune with the social-emotional side of kids and has made it a point to learn every name in the class.”

From a parent about a substitute teacher:

“I just wanted to take a moment to tell you about my experience while in the room. This substitute teacher was the best I have ever seen. She was motivating, kind, calm, organized, spoke at the children’s level with catchy, cute ways of describing directions, and had such an authority about her that the children *wanted* to do as they were told. To say I was impressed is an understatement.”

CALLING ALL AMY BELLE WILDCATS...

Bring your smile and join us for a great night of song and dance!

Dinner with the Arts Variety Show

February 2, 2012

We need boys and girls who love to jump, sing, laugh, and just have fun.

ALL kids who attend Amy Belle are welcome to participate. No talent is required and you will not have to perform alone. Kindergarten and 1st Graders will be assigned to a 5th grader to act as his/her buddy during practice and show night.

99 WMYX wants to see video of one of our group numbers:

“MOVES LIKE RODGERS”

Practice dates are: 1/5, 1/12, 1/19 and 1/26

After school until 5:30 p.m.

Solo & Duet Musical Acts: Please come to the January 5th practice ready to perform your piece. We will need to see your act for placement in the show. These acts will only need to attend the January 26th rehearsal. Practice should be done at home. Of course they can also participate in the group numbers.

As always, we’re looking for a few parent volunteers. No experience necessary. Any questions, contact Devon Beckes at 252/502-0148 or devonb@travelbykeystone.com.

BLT UPDATE

The BLT (Building Leadership Team) met on December 6th, 2011. Below is a brief description of the items that were discussed:

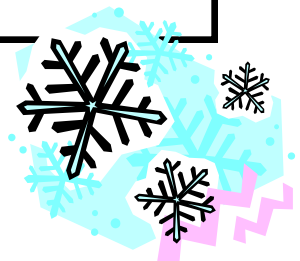
- Vision/Strategic Plan & Amy Belle—discussed district information versus Amy Belle. Shared ideas to create a draft vision document.
- ALERT Now—discussed effectiveness and time/date phone calls are sent.
- MAP Parent Roll-Out—item was tabled until next month due to parent representatives not in attendance.
- Walkie Talkies & Drill Cycles—new walkie talkies purchased, discussed locations and how they will be used for safety of our school. Also discussed the readiness regarding drills at Amy Belle.
- PBIS Link—the link is on the website and available.
- Copies—great job on copy reduction this month.

The purpose of the BLT is to develop strategies for addressing current educational systems or practices in order to produce an improved learning environment. You may contact your parent representatives: Mike Alburg at 414/331-8678 or malburg@dyensol.com or mlalburg@ameritech.net or Tom Becker at 414/640-6589 tom@beckertechnology.com.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, January 10th at 7:30 a.m.

Donations Needed!

The Health Room is in need of various sized sweat pants for boys and girls to help cloth students, especially during this wet, muddy time of the year!



WHAT'S HAPPENING at the BELLE?

Guidance—Mrs. Wolff & Mrs. Nettlesheim

We will be ringing in the New Year by discussing problem solving in guidance. The most important thing to do before problem solving is to calm down. You can do this by taking deep breaths, counting backwards from 10, self-talk, and other ways. Once you have calmed down, you can start solving the problem: 1. What is the problem? 2. What are some solutions? 3. For each solution, ask yourself: Is it safe? Is it fair? How will people feel? Will it work? 4. Choose a solution and use it. 5. Is it working? If not, what can I do now? These steps should help everyone solve problems for themselves. 5th Grade G-Talks will be starting in February. If you have not signed up, please do so as soon as possible! Confirmation letters will be sent home during January with the date/time of your G-Talk. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns regarding problems that might be affecting your student's learning. Mrs. Wolff is at Amy Belle on Tuesdays and Mrs. Nettlesheim is at Amy Belle on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.

Music Notes—Mrs. Grosse

We have been enjoying many seasonal songs in the music room while practicing our music skills. In kindergarten and 1st grade we continue to practice the steady beat and best singing voices. The 2nd graders did a fabulous job at their concert in December! They sounded and looked outstanding! The 3rd grade students created their own words to the song "Aiken Drum." They had to come up with the correct number of syllables in their words to fit with the rhythm of the song. The 4th graders continue to work on playing recorders. Everyone is sounding great and is working on earning either their orange or green belt in "Recorder Karate." The 5th grade students did a wonderful job performing and mingling with the seniors at The Germantown Senior Center in December. I am very proud of our students for all their hard work and fantastic representation of Amy Belle Elementary in our community!

Physical Education —Mr. Osieczanek & Mrs. Redies

Happy New Year! In gym class this month, we will be working on fitness activities, hockey, and volleyball.

Art —Mrs. Cheung

Hello again Amy Belle students! I'm glad to be back! For those of you who haven't heard, I had another boy on October 12th. His name is Ryan. Big brother Owen is excited to help out with his new little brother! A big thank you to Mrs. Judy Braggs, the wonderful art teacher who filled in for me! The kids created some beautiful projects in my absence. Some of these projects will be coming home soon after break. In January we will be starting a new school wide unit on Pablo Picasso!

SKYWARD STUDENT INFORMATION UPDATE/CHANGES

The office needs your help to ensure that we have the most accurate and up-to-date family information in Skyward. We are asking that you login to Skyward to review your records. If you find any information that is inaccurate, find the blue highlighted button that says "request change(s) to my child's information" in the student information tab and click on it. In this area, you will have the ability to request changes in the following areas: student, family, alert/emergency, emergency contacts, and health. Once you make the change, a request will be sent to the office for approval. Upon approval, the changes will be made in our Skyward database. Thank you for your help to ensure Amy Belle School has all the tools necessary to keep our students safe.

SKYWARD LOGINS/PASSWORDS

We hope that everyone is finding Skyward to be very helpful in monitoring your student's information. The office has received calls requesting login/password information because it is lost or forgotten. We do not have the ability anymore to see your password information. Here are the steps to follow to retrieve your password information. Go to <http://www.germantownschoools.org/schools/amybelle/>, click on Skyward Family Access. Under the "sign in" button is another button that says "Forgot your Login/Password?", click on that button and you will be directed to the page for forgotten password assistance. Enter the information and select submit. Your password will be emailed to you. If we can assist you any other way, please call the office at 262/253-3470.



TEACHER WORK & IN-SERVICE DAYS

What great things are happening at Amy Belle during teacher work and in-service days?

During our late starts and in-service time, school staff are required to engage in many learning events, curriculum development, and other district strategic plan initiatives. Every minute of that time is focused on student achievement. High impact professional learning has three essential characteristics. (1) a focus on student learning, (2) rigorous measurement of adult decisions, and (3) a focus on people and practices, not programs. If we expect teachers and school leaders to improve professional practices and decision making, then we need to give them different knowledge and skills than they have received in the past. During the 2011-2012 school year, the Amy Belle community has focused this common learning time in the following areas:

- Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS)- I wrote an article in our November newsletter on our work to date in this area. This is an important effort to have common student expectations as well as actively teaching those to our students. Please visit our school website for additional information. We have a wonderful video for you to see created by our students.
- Common Core State Standards - The state of Wisconsin adopted these “national standards” in June 2010. Germantown continues to spend time aligning our curriculum and resources to meet the rigor found in these standards. We are aligned well for the new state assessment system targeted to begin in 2014.
- CREATE- Staff is beginning to look at more current research aligned to diversity and culturally responsive practices in the classroom.
- The Germantown School District is in the process of adopting new reading materials aligned to current research and the Common Core State Standards. The staff is busy familiarizing themselves to a balanced literacy approach in reading and writing instruction.
- Mission, Beliefs, Vision, and Strategic Planning- With new leadership here at Amy Belle, we are spending time to update our own Mission and Vision to align to our district’s as well as our overall strategic plan. The last time that this was discussed at Amy Belle was in 1998. Many faces have changed over these years.
- Response to Intervention (RtI)- As we continue to strive to meet our district’s mission of “empowering and inspiring every student to success,” the staff is implementing instructional strategies to help meet every student’s needs.
- Emergency Response Planning- Being ready to handle medical and other emergencies is a very important job. Student safety is a top priority. We work through scenarios, study revisions from FEMA, medication training, and update our CPR trained staff.
- All of the Amy Belle teaching staff are currently involved in a study team of choice. These teams are formed around current research and allow them to dialogue together about their learning. Topics being studied are RtI, Professional Learning Community, Grading and Reporting, and transformation initiatives in education.
- Assessment for Learning-With the implementation of the MAP assessment and other screening tools, teachers are spending time analyzing student data to make more informed instructional decisions.

Professional learning is about undertaking the challenge of professional work with a deep meaning and lifelong impact. The journey is not easy, but the rewards of increasing student achievement and position social development are incomparable! I invite you to ask your child’s teacher what they are learning! Indeed Amy Belle is a life-long learning community for everyone who is within these walls.



AMY BELLE SCHOOL

3294 Willow Creek Road
Colgate WI 53017
Phone: 262/253-3470
Fax: 262/253-3490
E-mail: aboffice@germantown.k12.wi.us

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[HTTP://
WWW.GERMANTOWNSCHOOLS.ORG](http://www.germantownschoools.org)



PTA SCRIP

Thank you to all the families that used the Amy Belle PTA scrip program. We were able to net a profit of over \$200.00 during the holiday season alone. As we head into the new 2012 year, I look forward to continuing towards the goal of adding another Smartboard to the school. Look for a revised order form and order delivery schedule on the PTA portion of the school website.

~De Anna Ayer, PTA Scrip Program

HAPPY 2012!

Remember to keep looking for the Campbell's UPCs and milk caps to turn into our collection programs. Each time you turn these easy to collect items in; you are helping the PTA provide playground equipment and supplies to the children of Amy Belle School. Please note that we take ink cartridges from printers too! Collections can be turned in to the bins at the front of the school.

~De Anna Ayer and Patti Claas, PTA Collections

January PTA Meeting
Thursday, January 19th
6:30 p.m.
Childcare Available

Save the Date!
Dinner with the Arts
Thursday, February 2nd
Remember to shop for
classroom basket themes!

BUS DRIVER BREAKFAST

The Amy Belle PTA hosted a breakfast for our wonderful bus drivers on Tuesday, December 20th. The drivers were able to relax for a while and dine to several home-made dishes brought in by a few PTA volunteers.

A **BIG** thank you to Cara Gierach, Amy Lerch, and Paula Homa for helping with the great food! Events like this can only happen when people volunteer ...your hard work is greatly appreciated!

~De Anna Ayer

