



WILDCAT NEWS

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

NOVEMBER 2011

PRINCIPAL CORNER—HAPPY THANKSGIVING

The past few weeks have been very busy at Amy Belle Elementary School! Emphasis has been placed on finishing units of study as the first trimester is coming to an end, working on report cards, holding parent-teacher conferences, and completing the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concept Exam (the state test for all 3rd – 5th graders). Furthermore, we have only 18 full school days, one early re-

lease and one late start during the month of November...So much to do and so little time to do it in!

With Thanksgiving approaching, it is an especially good time to focus on the positive things we have in our lives. Personally, I am thankful for each of our 410 students and their supportive families. I am thankful for the caring, competent staff members at our school, and I am thankful for

the health and happiness of my own family and friends. What or who are you thankful for? Go tell them!

~Mrs. Kucharski, Principal



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CALENDAR, EARLEY 2
RELEASE & LATE
START, ABSENT &
TARDY REMINDER

PAWS FOR PRAISE, 3
BLT UPDATE, PBIS

WHAT'S HAPPENING, 4
VACATIONS, NOTES
FOR END OF DAY

DESTINATION IMAGI- 5
NATION

PTA PAGE 6

THE FIRST SNOWFALL

The first snowfall is an exciting event in an elementary school. Along with the new snow fun comes new snow/winter rules for recess time. I will review all the rules with all the students during Tuesday morning announcements after the first snowfall, but I would like you to be aware of these rules as well.



- Students who **DO NOT** have boots and snow pants are required to stay on the blacktop area only.
- Students may not play in the following areas: woods, parking lot, pine trees or tall grass.

- Students must wear snow pants and boots to play in the snow.
- No playing or sliding on the ice.
- No pushing or running on top of snow mounds or playing on snow mounds near the building windows.
- Students may not destroy what has been built.
- No throwing snow.

Please try to make sure your child comes to school with the proper outwear for staying warm and playing in the snow. We **DO** have outdoor recesses all winter long *unless the wind-chill temperature is zero or below at the time of recess.*

School Hours

8:47 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.

Early Release Day

Wednesday, Nov 23—12:20p

No School

Thursday, Nov 24 & Friday, 25

Late Start

Monday, Nov 28—10:47a

NOVEMBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
BLT = Building Leadership Team		1	2	3 School Store, Mark Baden visits 1st, Conference Night #2, Market Day PU 5 to 6 pm	4 Popcorn Friday	5
6	7	8 BLT Mtg, 7:30 am	9	10	11 Reflections Deadline, PTA Family Movie Night	12
13	14	15	16	17 School Store, PTA Mtg, 6:30 pm	18	19
20	21	22	23 Early Release, 12:20 pm	24 No School—Happy Thanksgiving	25 No School	26
27	28 Late Start, 10:47 am	29	30 End of Trimester			

EARLY RELEASE & LATE START

Just a reminder that on Early Release Days, students will be dismissed at 12:20 p.m. Students will **NOT** eat lunch at school prior to dismissal. Buses will transport students to their regular drop off points. The dates are:

November 23rd
December 22nd
June 8th

On Late Start Days, school will begin at 10:47 a.m. Buses will pick up students two hours later than their normal pick up time. Students will eat lunch at school. The dates are:

November 28th
May 29th

AMY BELLE ABSENT & TARDY

If your child is going to be absent, please call the office at 262/253-3470 and report this information directly to the school office. If your child is marked absent by a teacher and the office is not made aware of this absence, it is our obligation to locate the student. We will do this by making several phone calls to parents/guardians. If we still are unable to locate a student, we may need to notify the proper agency or the authorities.

The office does have an answering machine, so you can leave a message at any time. The office officially opens at 7:45 a.m. and closes at 4:15 p.m.

If your student is coming to school tardy, please call the office. This is especially important if your student is planning on taking hot lunch. The reason is that the hot lunch count needs to be turned in to the high school by 9:00 a.m. If your student comes to school after the counts are submitted, we cannot guarantee a lunch. If you do not call school, we will ask that you bring your child a cold lunch. Also, please do not come to school late (around 11:00 a.m.) and expect a hot lunch. You will need to supply a cold lunch.

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 student to a staff member

“I just love this day!”

From a student to a staff member

“Thank you for being there when I needed you the most.
“You are a winner.”



BLT UPDATE

The BLT (Building Leadership Team) met on October 11, 2011. Below is a brief description of the items that were discussed:

- Dr. Borden Visit—Annual Meeting Materials, System Priorities Document, CESA Strategic Compensation Work
- Team Development—discussed Successful School Research from the DPI.
- Vision Work—shared a draft of the vision information collected from the staff the first in-service day. BLT should go through and identify common themes.
- Future Agendas—vision discussion and development of MAP web link

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, November 8th at 7:30 a.m.

PBIS—Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support

While students’ academic performance is a highest priority in schools, at Amy Belle we also place a high priority on the social-emotional needs of our students and the climate of the school. All Germantown Elementary Schools are beginning to implement Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support (PBIS). Staff is completing training throughout this school year, and it is being taught little by little to our students. Consistent expectations for student behaviors has been shown to have a positive impact on student achievement. This positive approach is teaching children how to be responsible and respectful students in our school. The PBIS system has 4 components:

- A guide of behavior expectations (which are listed below)
- School wide lessons plans and videos used to teach student behavioral expectations
- Rewards and individual acknowledgement of positive behaviors
- Office documentation of negative behaviors

We call the behavior expectations the “Wildcat Way!” The Wildcat Way consists of four main behavior expectations that help students to manage their behaviors and create a positive school climate. They are:

Be Safe
Be Kind
Be Responsible
Be Respectful

Areas of the school where we have started using PBIS components are in the hallways and lunchroom by controlling our voice levels. Additional information is located on our website under the PBIS link. I thought I would simply share a quote I read recently that seems quite poignant for parents and educators who deal with children.

Responsibility by Lillian Katz

“Each of us must come to care about everyone else’s children.

We must recognize that the welfare of our children and grandchildren is intimately linked to the welfare of all other people’s children. After all, when one of our children needs lifesaving surgery, someone else’s child will perform it. If one of our children is threatened or harmed by violence, some else’s child will be responsible for the violent act. The good life for your own children can be secured only if a good life is also secured for all other people’s children.”

Schools cannot do this alone! We appreciate the help and teamwork our Amy Belle parents provide in educating our youth. THANK YOU!

WHAT'S HAPPENING at the BELLE?

Guidance—Mrs. Wolff & Mrs. Nettesheim

We have spent a lot of time discussing empathy during our classroom guidance lessons so far. This was to lay the foundation for bullying prevention: if we can empathize with other people and understand their feelings, it is less likely that we will bully them. Now we are ready to discuss behavior. The students will be labeling acceptable and unacceptable behavior and learning how to help each other out, so no one is feeling bullied. 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. Nettesheim is at Amy Belle on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.

Music—Mrs. Grosse:

We have been enjoying many different seasonal songs in the music room while working on our music skills. In kindergarten, we discovered all the different sounds of our classroom instruments and played them to dramatize an autumn story. Ask your kindergartener to sing "Jump That Jody" or perform "5 Little Pumpkins." In 1st grade, we have been working on using our best singing voices, and practicing the steady beat with our classroom instruments. We will soon be learning ta and ti-ti rhythms. Ask your 1st grade student to sing "A Tisket, A Tasket" or "My Pumpkin." In 2nd grade, we have been working on reading and performing ta, ti-ti and rest rhythms. We have also been talking about sound effects. We listened and did movements to a "Haunted House" story with a lot of different sound effects. Ask your 2nd grader to perform "I Like the Colors of the Fall." In November, we will begin preparing for our December concert! Just a reminder, the 2nd grade Holiday Play & Concert is on Wed, Dec 14 at 2:30pm in the Amy Belle Elementary Gym. In 3rd grade, we have been talking about the difference between rhythm and beat, and also put words with rhythms to create a Halloween speech piece. We performed a bell accompaniment with one of our songs, and also sang it as a round. Ask your 3rd grader to sing "Round About Autumn." In 4th grade, we have been practicing reading the letter names of the notes on the staff. We played the Boomwhackers and bells to practice reading the letter names and to help us become familiar with the notation in written music. We will be starting recorder in November! In 5th grade, we have been working on playing recorder duets. The students worked in partners or small groups to learn, practice and then perform a recorder duet. The 5th grade students will be going to the Germantown Senior Center on Fri, Dec 9 to do a holiday performance for the seniors. More information coming soon!

Physical Education —Mr. Osieczanek & Mrs. Redies

In the month of November, students in grades 3-5, will be working on bowling and physical fitness. Students in grades K-2, will be working on bowling, jump rope, and physical fitness.

STUDENT VACATIONS

If you know that your child will be gone for any reason (vacation, funeral, etc.), **please notify the Office IN WRITING.** The Office will then communicate to the teacher this information. This will help alleviate any miscommunication between parent/teacher/office about your child's absence.

NOTES FOR END OF DAY DISMISSAL CHANGES

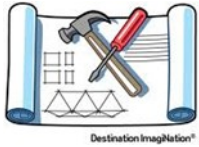
End of day dismissal change notes are part of our day at Amy Belle. These *NOTES* are a very important communication tool between parents and school to let us know your child needs to be dismissed in a way different than their "norm".

Notes should be sent with your child in the morning to be given to the teacher. The teacher then sends the note to the office. The office records the information and sends it back to the teacher. If you forget to send a note with your child, please call the office before 3:15pm. Due to limited office staffing after 3:15pm, we cannot guarantee the delivery of a note to the teacher. We thank you in advance for your help in this matter!



DESTINATION IMAGINATION (DI)

I want to thank everyone for participating in the Destination ImagiNation tryouts this year. Amy Belle has a long and proud tradition of excellence with Destination ImagiNation because of the quality of the children that try out each year. We had a tremendous turnout and many memorable performances. The depth of the talent this year made the selection process even more difficult than usual for the Team Managers. I want to congratulate the following students on making a DI Team:



**assembly
required**
technical

Team A-Technical: Assembly Required
Coached by Mrs. Langley and Mrs. Zinda
Ashley Puccini, Carmon Flasch, Elly Purdy, Shea Zinda,
Tyler Hess, Zach Feldbruegge, Zander Langley

Team B-Scientific: The Solar Stage
Coached by Mrs. Sass and Mrs. Ramstack
Cori Sass, Hannah Brown, Jack Ramstack, Kayla Ramstack,
Mackenzie Nuss, Payton Nuss, Trevor Bowerman



**the solar
stage**
scientific



**coming
attractions**
fine arts

Team C-Fine Arts: Coming Attractions
Coached by Mrs. Gerek and Mrs. Ward
Dee Ward, Ethan White, Lindsey Gerek, Makayla Verburt,
Marissa Block, Max Granados, Olivia Lillegard

Team D-Improvisational: News to Me
Coached by Mrs. Abel and Mrs. Timmerman
Anika Pawlak, Eric Abel, Ethan Nimmer, Grace Quella,
Kiran Bajwa, Lindsey Hessler, Rockwell Timmerman



**news
to me**
improvisational



hold it!
structural

Team E-Structural: Hold It!
Coached by Mrs. Stanisch and Mrs. Becker
Andrew Becker, Ashley Stanisch, Riana Garivay,
Sami Perry, Shane Crowley, Tyler Stanisch, Zachary Camden

Rising Stars: Noncompetitive: Built to Last
Coached by Mrs. Stanisch and Mrs. Gierach
Aubrey Losik, Austin MacIntyre, Chloe Voss, Delaney Becker,
Gabby Klubertanz, Jonae' Foulks-Simmons, Preston Bowerman,
Trevor Stanisch, Tori Gierach



**built
to last**
Rising Stars!®

Rising Stars: Noncompetitive: Built to Last
Coached by Mrs. Bajwa, Mr. Pentek and Mrs. Pentek
Abby Pentek, Avery Salb, Ben Jakusz, Jerome Pawlak, Karlie Stormoen,
Khushi Tanna, Nicole Ramstack, Puja Bajwa

A parent/student information meeting will be held on Monday, November 7th at 6:30pm in the Amy Belle Library.

---Melissa Timmerman, Amy Belle DI Site Manager



AMY BELLE SCHOOL

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Colgate WI 53017
Phone: 262/253-3470
Fax: 262/253-3490

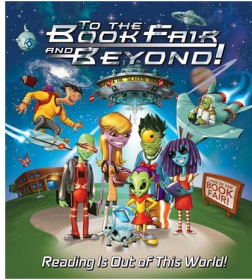
E-mail: aboffice@germantown.k12.wi.us

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

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



READING IS OUT OF THIS WORLD!



Thank you to everyone that helped with the Fall Book Fair. The Book Fair was another GREAT success! We raised \$1500 in cash and almost 150 in books for classroom libraries.

Thank you again for the support. See you in spring! If you have any questions, please contact Patti Claas at (262) 628-9207 or iammot@charter.net

OCTOBER BOX TOP CONTEST

Congratulations to Mrs. Kielsing's First Grade Class! They won the class challenge, bringing in more than 635 Box Tops. Great job to all the students of Amy Belle! Between the 5 Box Tops for a popsicle (September) and the pumpkin decorating class contest (October), Amy Belle earned \$876.30 (the average Wisconsin school earns \$904 per year). Amy Belle is #71 out of the 3098 elementary schools in Wisconsin, let's try to break into the top 50!

Don't forget, on November 18, turn in 5 Box Tops and receive a caramel apple (or for students with braces/appliances, apple slices and caramel dip). The next class challenge is in January, so be sure to save your Box Tops throughout December! Thanks for all your support!

HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL

Wow!!! What a turnout for the Halloween Carnival. We hope everyone had fun. Thank you to all the volunteers. It takes a ton of volunteers to make this event a success, so your donation of time was very much appreciated. Also, thank you for candy donations and baked goods. It was so much fun to see all the families in their Halloween Costumes. ~Patti Claas, Chairperson



PTA CORNER

Our next PTA meeting of the 2011-2012 school year will be held on Thursday, November 17th at 6:30 p.m. in the Library. Please remember that childcare is provided for your children.

PTA meetings are a great way to get involved in your child's education and a way to meet new people. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting! If you have any questions or concerns, please contact a board member listed below.

2011-2012 Executive Board

President—Laurette Alburg 262/251-7094 or mlalburg@ameritech.net
1st Vice President—Janice Slawny 262/628-9128 or jslawny@charter.net
2nd Vice President—Patti Claas 262/628-9207 or iammot@charter.net
Secretary—Lori Herden 262/253-3470 or lherden@germantown.k12.wi.us
Treasurer—De Anna Ayer 262/628-9173 or ayerforce3@aol.com

PTA Meeting
Thursday, November 17th
6:30 p.m. ~ Library
Child Care Available