



Ayers Happenings-January 2010

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Sue Charochak, Principal
scharochak@beverlyschools.org

News From Mrs. Charochak:

Wishing everyone a Happy and healthy New Year!

- Our Holiday show was a great success! Congratulations to all who participated. Once again, many thanks to Ms. Sherburne, Mrs. Chapman, Mr. Hewitt, and Mrs. Glasser for their tremendous efforts.
 - Many thanks to the PTO for the wonderful teacher luncheon that was held for the staff on December 16th. The lunchroom was beautifully decorated and it was a great way to kick off the holiday season.
 - The Second Annual Science Fair will be held on March 4th for students grades 3 - 5. Student packets were distributed before vacation. You will be hearing more through the Connect Ed message system later this week. We are looking forward to another great turnout!
 - The long awaited return of Ayers Idol is here. Student Auditions will be held the week of January 11th with the finals scheduled for February! In the past, Ayers Idol has led to the discovery of a multitude of unknown talents in our students (and staff as well)!
 - There will be a School Council meeting on Tuesday, January 19th at 7:00 pm in the library. There will be a PTO meeting on Wednesday, January 13th at 7:00 pm in the library. All are welcome!
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Winter Clothing

During the winter months, students should come to school with hats, mittens, and coats prepared for the cold. All clothing should be marked with the student's name. We have several items that are collected every month in the lost and found. We will donate these items on the first of each month. Items that are marked will be returned to the student. Please check the lost and found boxes for any lost items.

Pennies for Fuel

Beverly Bootstraps is a local organization that works to meet the needs of families in trying economic situations. They offer a food pantry and a thrift store. Ayers families have been generous in the past by donating to the food pantry. This year, Bootstraps is requesting assistance in raising money for their fuel assistance program. Families in need are 'adopted' by Bootstraps, who in turn helps provide funds for heating oil. Collection boxes will be available in each classroom and we are asking families to donate loose change that you may have lying around to this program called, "Pennies for Fuel." Little by little, the change adds up to a respectable donation. So, if you have change in the sofa, or in the car, or on top of your dresser, please consider sending it in with your child to help a family stay warm this winter. Thank you.

Polar Plunge

Ayers is currently forming a team to take part in the annual Polar Plunge to help raise funds for Beverly Affordable Housing Coalition and River House Shelter. The plunge will take place on Superbowl Sunday - February 7, 2010 at 12:30pm at Lynch Park. Please consider joining us in this exciting community event by becoming a plunger, a sponsor, and/or a friendly face to come cheer on and support the plungers. It should be a fun day for a good cause and a chance at winning the Polar Plunge Traveling Trophy awarded to the school that raises the most funds. Please contact Katie Keve at keve@comcast.net or 921-5429 if you have questions or would like to take the plunge or be a sponsor. Please be on the lookout for more information being sent home soon. Hope to see you at the beach!

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten Registration will be held January 25-29 at Memorial. Packets will be available for parents to pick up at their home schools on January 11th. To be eligible for enrollment in kindergarten, a child must be 5 years old on or before August 31, 2010.



Morning Meeting

Every Monday morning, the whole school is meeting in the gym to start the week together. This new initiative follows a “Responsive Classroom” style format. “Responsive Classroom” strategies are used in many schools and are based on values we share: Caring, Assertion, Responsibility, Empathy, and Self-Control. In a Responsive Classroom morning meeting, students begin by greeting one another by name. This makes them feel welcome. The meetings generally follow a similar format with news and announcements and an activity designed to be both fun and a positive shared experience that builds the sense of group or community.

While it seems a pleasant way to start the day, it is really so much more. Research tells us that in order for children to learn, they must first have basic needs satisfied. Most folks think of basic needs as food, drink, and sleep. In actuality, we humans need more. We need to feel cared for and valued as people. We need to feel safe and comfortable. We need to feel we are part of a group. If we don’t have those needs met, we can feel disenfranchised, unhappy, and unmotivated. When children start their day in a positive way and interact with their teachers and peers, it sets the tone for the learning that is yet to come.

Most classrooms begin their day with a morning meeting. In a classroom setting, students often have the opportunity for sharing as well. At the school level, we have decided to begin each Monday with a shared morning meeting experience. We hope it is a fun and engaging way to start the week and that both students and staff will be energized about our time together as learners.

Mission Statement

The Ayers Ryal Side School Community embraces a shared responsibility among students, faculty, parents, and administration to provide each member of its’ diverse student body the opportunity to achieve academic excellence. We are dedicated to the development of the full intellectual, social, emotional, and physical potential of every student. We will provide a safe, respectful environment for all individuals. In partnership with all members of the Ayers community, our students will have the opportunity to develop acceptance of themselves and others, to become creative problem-solvers, skilled communicators, and life-long learners. It is our hope that upon leaving the Ayers Ryal Side School, each person will find him or herself better for having been there.

Notice of Non-Discrimination

All educational and non-academic programs, activities and employment opportunities at Beverly Public Schools are offered without regard to race, color, sex, religion, ancestry, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, and any other class or characteristic protected by law.

