

March, 2010

Q&A!

BARTONVILLE GRADE SCHOOL



Where GREAT things happen!

B

H

S

O

N

B

H

T

S

“What is ISAT and why is it so important?”

ISAT stands for the Illinois Standards Achievement Test. All students in grades 3 through 8 take ISAT. The assessment is very important in that it assesses student learning in Reading and Math (3rd-8th), Science (4th & 7th), and Writing (3rd, 5th, 6th & 8th). This state and federally mandated test is used to identify students in those grades who meet the state standards for that subject. Teachers can then use the results to assist in teaching your children.

Here’s how you can help!

- Make sure your child has breakfast.
- Make sure your child has a good night’s sleep.
- Don’t make any appointments that would take your child out of school for the testing weeks. Your child should only miss school during testing time if **ABSOLUTELY** necessary and students must **BE ON TIME**.
- Encourage your child to do the best he/she can!

Testing starts March 1st and goes through March 12th (that starts next week)! Please be sure to talk with your child about ISAT and encourage them to do their best. It is every student’s goal to do their best! ☺

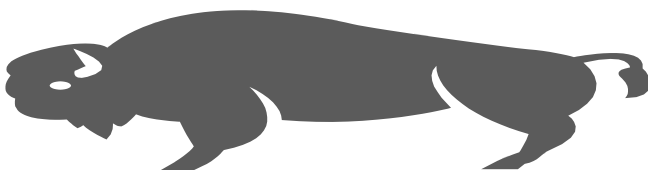
“I have heard rumors that the school will be cutting some teaching positions next year. Are the rumors true?”

The District is very concerned with the financial “picture” for next year. Due to the condition of the State’s finances, we are estimating that there will likely be significant decreases in General State Aid (GSA) and Personal Property Replacement Tax (PPRT). In fact, we could reach deficits well over \$100K.

This year, the State has relied on Federal Stimulus funds to pay GSA. Next year, there will likely be no more Federal Stimulus money. Without the Stimulus funds, there will be a large “hole” in revenue that the State will likely not be able to fill, at least not without generating more revenue.

Due to the predicted shortfall in State revenue, the District must “tighten its belt” even more so than in previous years. So, yes, it is true that the District will likely need to cut some teaching positions. We really have no other choice.

What can you do to help? Between February 24th – March 10th, the public can view and comment on the State Budget. Go to <http://www2.illinois.gov/budget/> and make your voice heard! Hopefully, the State will find a way to generate more revenue to help us restore some of those teaching positions.



Sincerely,

Shannon Duling (Mr. D)
Superintendent/Principal

Bison Bits



March Calendar

Mar 1 thru 12 ISAT Testing
 Mar 12 End of Third Nine Weeks
 Mar 15 Board Meeting 6:30 pm
 Mar 17 Report Cards
 Mar 19 NO SCHOOL - Teachers Institute



Boys Track

Try-outs for boys track are Monday, March 15th at BGS, 3:30 to 5. All 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th graders may try out. You must have a current physical to run track. Please dress appropriately as we may go outside depending on the weather. Shorts t-shirt with sweat top and sweat bottoms should be worn by all. Any questions please contact Coach Westerdahl @ 697-3253



Student Council Blood Drive

Be sure to keep Wednesday, March 17th, open on your calendar for the student council blood drive. The need is always great and you can contribute so much by giving your own blood. Registration forms will be sent out soon. Be sure to give!!!

STATE TESTING: March 1-March 12

Students in grades 4 and 7 will be tested in reading, math, and science. Students in grades 3, 5, 6, and 8 will be tested in reading, math, and writing. We will be giving your students state-required achievements tests from March 1st - 12th.

These tests are a part of the Illinois Standards Achievement Test program and are being given to all eligible students. The results of reading, math, and science state tests will be reported to you on the School Report card in the fall. We will review state test results along with other information about your student's performance on the state tests he or she took.

You can help your child do his or her best on the test by

- Making sure that your student **attends school** on the days of testing (unless ill)
- Making sure you do **NOT schedule appointments** during these weeks so that your student will need to leave school early or arrive late
- Making sure your student is at school **ON TIME**
- Making sure your student gets a **good night's sleep** the night before testing
- **Provide breakfast** or send to school for breakfast (7:30-7:45 AM) on the mornings of testing
- Reminding your student to **ask the teacher questions** if he or she does not understand the test directions.
- Letting your student know **that you have confidence in his or her ability** to do his or her best.
- Advising your student not to worry about the test-just **do the best he or she can!**

Bison Bits



Notes from our nurse.....

In March, the National Poison Prevention Week occurs March 14-20th. In honor of that, I thought I would address some poison risk and preventative measures to take. Most of the time we think of household poisons as cleaning products or medicine, but unfortunately there are many more poisons in the average household. Common household plants can be toxic to children such as Philodendrons, Mums, Aloe Vera, Amaryllis, and poinsettia to name a few. Also, pesticides can pose a risk to children. You do not need to ingest a pesticide for it to be toxic. Pesticides can be inhaled or they may come in contact with our skin to cause damage. Carbon Monoxide poisoning is another household poison. It kills nearly 300 people yearly in the United States and many of those are children. Lead poisoning continues to be an issue in our country, despite all our efforts otherwise. Nearly one million children in the United States show signs of lead poisoning from ingesting old lead based paint.

Now that we discussed the risks, here are some prevention tips...

Storage tips:

- Store medicine/cleaning products in their original container
- Lock medicine/cleaning products where they can't be seen or reached by children
- Use child-proof packaging and make sure to keep caps on tightly
- Store cleaning products in a different place from food or medicine

Medicine tips...

- Read medicine by its proper name, not "candy"
- Take medicine by yourself, not where your children are watching because they learn by imitation

Products/plants tips...

- Use household products as directed on the label
- Do not mix household products because they may cause dangerous gases to form

- Keep household plants out of reach. Non-poisonous plants pose a choking threat as well

Carbon Monoxide tips: (Carbon Monoxide is an invisible, odorless gas that builds up around fuel-burning appliances and cars in garages. Children will become seriously ill on much smaller concentrations than it would take for an adult.)

- Keep all appliances, furnaces, fireplaces and wood-burning stoves in good condition and well-ventilated areas
- Don't run a car engine in the garage, even to warm it up; move the car outside first
- Install a carbon monoxide alarm outside every sleeping area and on every level of your home

Lead tips: (Children inhale dust from lead-based paint causing blood lead levels to increase. Lead can affect a child's intelligence, growth and development.)

- Homes built before 1978 need tested for lead based paint
- Get your child tested for lead exposure

General Tips:

- When answering the phone or the door, take open products and your children with you
- Be sure that every home where your child spends time is poison-proofed
- Discuss the above precautions with grandparents/caregivers
- **Remember...a child can be poisoned in a matter of seconds**

Poison control center number 1-800-222-1222. Keep it near every phone in your home and program it into your cell phone. It will connect you to your local poison control center from anywhere in the United States.

Student Council - Easter Seals Coins For Kids

BGS Student Council would like to thank everyone who has donated so generously to Easter Seals through the coins for kids program. In February alone, BGS students and staff have donated \$1,231.80!!! Donations will be accepted through February 28th. Please keep filling those white boxes with coins and help make this a great success!!

Mr. Ingram and Coach Westerdahl, BGS Student Council Advisors

Bison Bits

Teaching American History-Traveling Teacher

Jr. High History Teacher, Mr. Ingram, gave a presentation at the board meeting on Monday night about his participation in the "Teaching American History" grant, a department of education program designed to increase teacher content knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the subject, to help engage students and to raise their academic achievement.

Mr. Ingram travelled through the Deep South last July, visiting Civil War and Civil Rights sites from Memphis, TN to New Orleans, LA. Participants in the grant prepare teaching strategies from their experience and teach to history classe during the first two weeks of school. Throughout the year, teachers attend two workshops at Western Illinois University and create teaching strategies for a resource disk to be distributed to history teachers in 21 counties in Central Illinois. Thirty teachers are selected to travel from 400 invited to participate in the grant. Mr. Ingram will be travelling to Boston, Philadelphia and Cape Cod this June to study Colonial America and the Kennedys. The grant is available to Jr. High and high school teachers.



8th Grade Science:

Currently in 8th grade science we are working on an Olympic medal project. For each medal we are naming the medalist, the country, the sport, and a few sentences about the science of the sport. For example, in Cross Country a harder running surface will produce greater elasticity in the return of energy from the ground into the runners' legs. Another example is in Alpine Skiing they use special clothes that are wind resistant and keep them warm, called under armor. These are going to go on the bulletin board outside the classroom. Every day the class gets a medal for their behavior, 3 points for gold, two points for silver, and 1 point for bronze. If someone misbehaves, the class loses a point. We're seeing which class can get the most points.
Avery Duling

News from 3rd Grade...

Parent conferences were February 10 and 11. Miss Hohstadt's class did student led conferences. The students collected work samples and data to show their parents. The third graders were very proud of their work, and more than thrilled to show their progress. It was a success. Thanks to all of the third grade parents that attended. Miss Hohstadt's class had perfect attendance.

8TH Grade Parents.....

8th grade parents need be watching for information about the cap and gown orders. The orders need to be turned in with the payment by April 15. It is very important that these orders are turned in on time.



Mrs. Hanks National Award Winner

Mrs. Hanks, Bartonville's Assistant Principal has been selected as one of seven of the nation's outstanding graduate students in educational administration by the American Association of School Administrators (AASA). During AASA's 2010 National Conference on Education in Phoenix, Arizona in February, Mrs. Hanks was awarded \$2500 in scholarship money and additional travel money.

AASA, which sponsors the yearly scholarship awards, selects recipients on the basis of their experience and excellence in school administration, personal essays about their qualifications and recommendations from university faculty, including the dean of the graduate school in which they are enrolled. Western Illinois University professors nominated Mrs. Hanks and she received recommendations from Mr. Duling and the Mayor of West Peoria where she lives.

For more information, go to <http://www.aasa.org/content.aspx?id=11556>.

Bison Bits

2010 United States Census

The Constitution requires a count every 10 years of everyone living in the United States regardless of their nationality, citizenship status, race, age, or gender. This count is called a census, and it's happening again this spring!

We want to make sure that every child and household member in our community is counted in the 2010 Census. Census data are used to determine the distribution of more than \$ 400 billion in public funds, so an accurate count of our community is important.

The 2010 Census questionnaire is short, takes 10 minutes to complete, and is 100 percent confidential. Watch your mailbox in March and remember to return your questionnaire.

Who Counts?

Households include:

- Babies, foster children, or roommates
- People living with you who have no other place to stay
- People living in your home most of the time, even if they have another place to stay

Households do not include:

- People who live or stay at another place most of time
- Students living away from home while attending college or boarding school
- People in the military living somewhere else

For more information, visit www.2010census.gov.

Junior High Field Trips

I will meet all criteria to participate in class field trips.

Field trips are an important part of the educational program. Completion of the parental permission slips (which are to be signed and returned) is a requirement. Failure to return these may result in the student having to remain at school.

7th and 8th grade students must meet the following criteria to participate in any field trips:

- Passing all core subject areas at the time of the field trip.
- Regular attendance (missing not more than 10% of accumulated days of attendance, unless absences are approved by administration)
- Accumulated less than 5 principal detentions
- Received no suspensions within the grading period that the field trip occurs
- Paid all fees and obligations to the school (damages, lunch, books, library books, etc)

The Reading Corner

Reading tips for parents and students

Encouraging great readers is a job for both teachers and parents. Teachers build skills, but parents foster a love of books and words. Here are some ways to help your child become a great reader:

If your child is just learning how to read...

- **Point to letter sounds or words that your child is learning in class** on labels, boxes, newspapers, magazines, and signs.
- **Listening to your child read words and books from school.** Be patient and listen as your child practices. Let them know you are proud of his/her reading.

If your child is reading...

- **Reread familiar books.** Children need practice in reading comfortably and with expression using books they know.
- **Build reading accuracy.** As your child is reading aloud, point out words he/she missed and help them read the words correctly.
- **Build reading comprehension.** Talk with your child about reading. You can even make it fun by acting like a reporter and asking questions like: Who is the author? Who are characters? What happened in the beginning,

Bison Bits

middle, and the end of the story? Ask about the setting, events that took place and their opinion on the book.

- **Let your kids be in charge of what they read.** Allow your kids to select their own books, even if they are too easy. IT is okay if they want to read "junk" every once in a while, as long as they are reading a variety of things.

In order to help your child become a better reader, he/she should read an average of **twenty minutes** every night.

For more information to www.scholastic.com.

3. For each possible solution, ask: Is it fair? How might people feel about it?
4. Choose a solution and use it.
5. Ask: Is it working? IF not, what can I do now?

For more information, check out www.cfchildren.org or www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov.

Help Us Stop Cyber Bullying

Bullying Prevention Classes: 4th and 5th grades

Mrs. Hanks has been visiting the 4th and 5th grade classes for the last several weeks to teach bullying prevention. She is using the research based curriculum *Steps to Respect: A Bullying Prevention Program*. This curriculum helps adults and students decrease bullying in their school and establish a safe, caring and respectful school climate. The learning targets for these classes include:

- I can recognize bullying behaviors.
- I can use bullying refusal skills.
- I can reach out to someone who is being bullied.
- I can report bullying

Mrs. Hanks focused on practicing assertiveness skills which is crucial for students to learn and practice so that the student can refuse a bully by speaking out assertively. Students are taught to stand straight and tall, look at the person they are speaking to, and say what they mean in a strong, clear, respectful voice.

Students are also taught how to manage strong emotions like anger or fear, but calming down strategies. Students practice a combination of slow, deep breaths and self talk to calm down.

Students also practice the problem solving model.

1. What is the problem?
2. What are some possible solutions?

Please join us for a Cyber Bullying presentation by the Illinois Attorney General's office in cooperation with the Bartonville Police Department.

- Where: Bartonville Grade School's Cafeteria
- When: Tuesday, March 25 from 6:00 - 7:00pm

