Memorandum

To: Carol Costello, Superintendent of Schools
From: John Campbell, Principal, Berlin Memorial School
Date: April 4, 2024
Re: Report to School Committee

Berlin Memorial Highlights – March, 2024

2024 Celebration of Learning

Berlin Memorial School joined the other schools in the District to host our first "Celebration of Learning" on Wednesday, March 20th. As this was our first event of this nature, staff were not sure what to expect. We were all very pleasantly surprised at the high turn-out, the number of students who came to show parents what they were learning, and the very positive feedback we got from participants. We are already looking forward to improvements for next year!

State Senator Kennedy Visits BMS

State Senator Robyn Kennedy visited Berlin Memorial School as part of her tour of the Berlin-Boylston School District. The BMS Student Council met with her, learned a lot about her role, and then gave her a very entertaining tour. We look forward to future visits from Senator Kennedy.

Nature's Classroom

A quick update on this event. Currently 27 of 29 BMS fifth grade students have made the commitment to join us at Nature's Classroom. Parents and supporters have been actively fundraising, collecting over $3,000 to date with a couple of activities left.

MCAS Testing, 2024

MCAS testing starts at Berlin Memorial next week. We will be testing grades 3-5 on Tuesday and Wednesday. As always, we try to avoid making a "production" out of this event, reminding students that our only expectation is that they do their very best. A special shout-out to Joey Flournoy, our Math Coach, who took on planning this event as a way to broaden his skill base – he's done an outstanding job!

The mission of Berlin Memorial School is to empower each student to achieve personal excellence by fostering respect, responsibility, and resourcefulness with the support of the entire community.

Berlin Memorial School Climate Survey

In March we completed a School Climate Survey for Berlin Memorial. The report for the results of that effort will come separately. Overall the report was very positive, with parents expressing broad approval for what we are doing here at Berlin Memorial School. There were only a couple of items where we did not receive an "agree/strongly agree" result above 90%, and we will be following up on those items for more clarity.

Upcoming events

Solar Eclipse, 2024

As you know, there will be a solar eclipse on Monday, April 8th. While the timing of this event is a bit unfortunate – the period of peak obscurity will be after school dismissal – we have been spending time talking about this phenomenon with students. The biggest student misconception? The moon and the sun are the same size! Our friends in LINK have purchased eclipse glasses for everyone – we'll see how this goes.

Spring Break, 2024

Just a reminder – Spring break runs from Monday, April 15 through Friday, April 19!