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ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Regular school attendance
is the key to success.

Tardies and absences will
greatly affect your child's
ability to achieve at grade
level and a good rule of
thumb to remember is

"The key is only 3."

As a family, we encourage
you to commit to no more
than 3 absences or tardies
per trimester.

ABSENCES AND TARDIES

Research shows us that absences add up. That's as true for kindergartners as it is for 12th graders. It's as true for excused absences as it is for skipping school. We know there will be days when your child will miss school, especially when ill, but we know that nationwide, as many as 7.5 million students miss 10 percent of the school year. That's 135 million days of missed school – and missed opportunities. Research shows us it also marks the point when students start to fall behind academically because they have missed too many days.

So starting this new year of 2019, let's make a resolution to focus on Attendance Awareness every month for the rest of the school year. Let's work together with our community, school and business leaders, parents, students, teachers, doctors, and neighbors. Our kids should be in school on time, every day.

Thank you for making a difference in our students' lives by having your student at school on time, every day!



We know that the traffic flow at Big Sky during peak times can be frustrating. We ask for your patience and diligence to keep our kids safe. When you drop your kids off, please be aware of bus lanes, handicap parking, and the driveways & mailbox areas of

our school neighbors.

At our morning drop off area just south of the playground, please pull forward as far as possible, make sure kiddos are ready to hop out quickly, and have children exit on the passenger side of your vehicle if possible. Do not allow children to exit vehicles by the short black fencing at the entrance of the drop off area. If we all work together, we can help the traffic flow and keep our kids safe. Thank you!!

BIG SKY SCHOOL-WIDE GLOBAL OUTREACH

During December, we had the unique opportunity to help our students turn their focus outward and look for ways to help those who are less fortunate in the world around us. Big Sky Elementary has traditionally done a number of civic collections or fundraisers in the past, all which have benefitted our community. This year, we expanded our efforts a bit and offered our students the opportunity to experience first-hand the joy of giving, while at the same time, understanding just how fortunate we are.

Each classroom chose items, such as purchasing livestock, helping fund educational efforts, and feeding needy families overseas.

The total raised by Big Sky students was \$423.00.

This helped purchase \$250 worth of life-saving medicines, 8 chickens, 3 rabbits, 1 goat, \$300 worth of emergency food, and educational opportunities for children in poverty.



Setting New Year “Goals” with Your Family

For many of us, the New Year means a time to take stock of our lives and work on things we'd like to change. Whether it's our diet, exercise routine, or tendency to procrastinate, there is always room for improvement! We not only benefit from New Year's goals; our children can also learn a lot about self-discipline and the value of setting goals. Here are some tips on how to help your kids benefit from making goals.

Keep it in the Family

The best way to teach your children the importance of New Year's resolutions is by making it part of the family tradition. Sit down and reflect on the past year, discussing your accomplishments and goals, as individuals and as a family. In your resolution conversation you can each talk about what worked last year and what didn't.

Each family member gets a turn sharing something they are proud of and something they want to improve. It may help for parents to go first, to give children a model. If your child is old enough to write, he or she should write down their accomplishments and goals, and you can help your younger child by writing theirs down.

Resolutions for the entire family might include taking a monthly hike, playing board games twice a month, or committing to more volunteering activities. Try to limit the number, so they are more doable and more meaningful. You can make a master list to hang in a public spot, like a bulletin board in the kitchen.

Make it Age Appropriate

What your child needs to work on depends on your child. If you are concerned about his diet, then encourage healthier eating habits for him as well as the whole family. If your daughter's room is a mess, try to help her commit 10 minutes a day to cleaning it. As your child ages, he can be more active in coming up with goals, which will mean more to him when he achieves them.

Serve as a Role Model

No matter what age your child is, he or she is more likely to understand the value of goal setting if you take the lead. Just as with everything else you do, your child is watching. Think of how you can include your child in your resolution.

"I'm going to drink more water this year, because water is good for me. Do you want to join me?" If you are finding yourself checking your e-mail when you should be spending time as a family, you might say, "I'm going to turn off my phone when I get home. Can you remind me and also remember to keep your computer in your room until after dinnertime?"

Rewards Are Long Lasting

We all know the feeling of meeting a goal, whether it be losing five pounds, quitting smoking, or putting in extra hours to earn a promotion. Children also relish that thrill of accomplishment, especially when their parents are acknowledging it. As you go over the family list of resolutions each month or quarter, take time to acknowledge the successes, along with reinforcing the resolutions. When you sit down to review resolutions, this is not time for punishment, however, it's important to be flexible and understanding, especially if the child is making the effort. However your family arrives at resolutions, the best part is that you're doing it together and learning how to manage your role, not only in the family, but also in the larger world.

PTA Happenings

- PTA Meeting Tuesday, February 12th @ 6:00 PM
- Big Sky School Carnival from 5-8 p.m. on Friday March 22nd
- Spirit wear available at the office

WINTER WEATHER

The cold weather is a reality for Montana. This time of year, we'd like to remind you to observe the following winter safety tips with your students:

- * Dress appropriately for cold weather: Sweaters, snow pants, winter coats, hats, scarves, socks, & boots are all suggested.
- * Allow extra travel time to get to the school.
- * Do not walk or play on snow mounds or ice within 10 feet of the roadway - you can fall & slip in to the roadway and be at risk of being struck by a vehicle.
- * Do not cross the street until all traffic has come to a stop. With slick streets, it is harder for drivers to come to a complete stop.

We will be going out for recess, if the temperature and wind chill are above 0 degrees. It is good for the kids to get outside, but they need to have appropriate apparel. Thank you!



Root for our COMMUNITY
Any sport. Any team. Wear your true colors.
February 1

Support the Backpack Program by making a donation today

Send to
Education Foundation for Billings Public School
415 N 30th St
Billings, MT 59101

or online at www.efbps.org
Contact (406) 245-4133 or
foundation@billingschools.org

mfn Montana Food Network

BACKPACK MEALS FUNDRAISER

~ **Friday February 1st** ~

Kids may bring \$2.00 and can wear jerseys or sports gear for any team . . . or any sport to raise money to support the Backpack Meals Program.