

## Principal's Points

Dear Bitterroot Families,

It was a **brutal** February so I'm sure we are all looking forward to a beautiful March. March also marks the start of the state-mandated test and the district growth assessment, which will be administered at different points March through May. Your teacher will be providing more specifics as the testing date approaches. It is important that all students are present for the assessments and they do their very best so we have an accurate picture of how we can drive instruction to meet the needs of our clientele.

**Here are some suggestions to help your child perform their best on any test:**

- Be at school and on time
  - Have a good breakfast
  - Get plenty of rest
  - Remind your child that taking tests is a part of life. We take tests to get into college, get jobs, obtain driver's licenses, hunter safety classes, etc.
  - Encourage your child to do their best. We want the tests to reflect their true potential.
- If you have any questions regarding the assessments or the process, please contact me.

**We have noticed a larger number of vehicles** coming into the parking lot to drop off students in the mornings. The reason we discourage this is that it is a narrow area and we have had several near misses with vehicles and people. Now that it is warming up, please drop your kiddo off on Bench and have them use the crosswalk and sidewalks to get to the school.



I'm hoping you can spend some time with me at 8:30am on Thursday, March 28th for **Coffee with Croff**. We will review class placement, upcoming testing preparation, technology purchasing and I would love

your feedback on how the year has gone. Please email me at [croffk@billingssschools.org](mailto:croffk@billingssschools.org) or call 281-6205 to reserve your spot.----*Kevin Croff*

## PTA News

### **BOX TOPS!**

*Mrs. Dimock's class won the box tops contest and will celebrate with pizza and extra recess time! Thank you for supporting our school through box tops!!*

**Classroom Carnival**- The most popular fundraiser/event of the year!!

*If you would like to help out with the classroom carnival please contact the PTA at [bitterrootpta@gmail.com](mailto:bitterrootpta@gmail.com) If you would like to donate either items or money to classroom raffle baskets please do so by the 15<sup>th</sup> if at all possible.*

*March 21<sup>st</sup> is the next PTA meeting – See you there!*



### **Bike Helmets -**

*Take heart Bitterroot Bobcats, spring is coming and you will be able to once again ride your bikes to school. St. Vincent's Healthcare has partnered with the Education Foundation of Billings to provide inexpensive helmets for students - Watch for ordering information to come home soon. Helmets are required attire for students riding bikes, skated boards, etc.*

## **Important Dates This**

### **Month**

**MARCH 8 – REPORT CARDS OUT**

**MARCH 10 – DAYLIGHT SAVINGS SPRING AHEAD 1 HOUR**

**MARCH 11 – ORCHESTRA CONCERT 2PM**

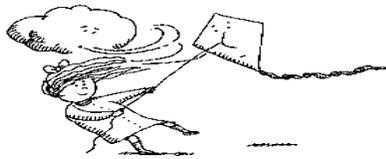
**MARCH 17 - ST PATRICK'S DAY**

**MARCH 18 – CLASS PHOTOS**

**MARCH 28 – COFFEE WITH CROFF 8:30**

**MARCH 29<sup>TH</sup> – CLASSROOM CARNIVAL 6PM**



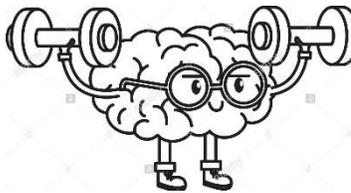


## Counselor's Corner—

*Mrs. Neese will be accepting new or gently used stuffed animals for the Stuffed Animal Rescue at this year's school carnival. Donations can be dropped off at the main office. Thank you!*

### **Nurturing a Growth Mindset**

Over 30 years ago Stanford University Professor, Dr. Carol Dweck, and her colleagues became interested in student attitudes towards learning and failure. They observed that **while some students rebounded** from mistakes and failure **others seemed devastated** by even the smallest setbacks. After studying thousands of children, Dr. Dweck coined the terms "**fixed mindset**" and "**growth mindset**" to describe the underlying beliefs people have about learning and intelligence.



**Fixed mindset** people are inclined to believe that intelligence and talents "are born", therefore, effort in learning is

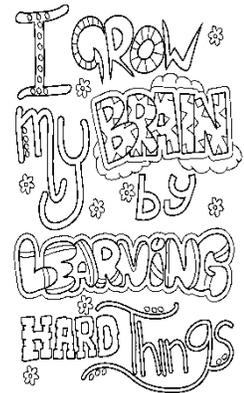
minimal because they believe that their ability is a fixed trait. While students that nurture a **growth mindset** believe that intelligence has a malleable quality and can "be built" through embracing challenges, effort, and learning from mistakes. **When students believe** that they can get smarter, they understand that effort makes them stronger. Therefore, they put in extra time and effort because they know that they can **actually grow** their brains, they gain strength by persevering through the struggle of learning something new that leads to higher achievement.

Recent advances in neuroscience have shown us that the brain is far more malleable than we ever knew. Research on brain plasticity has shown how connectivity

between neurons can change with experience. Studies on different kinds of praise have also shown that

Is this really my best work?  
I'll use a different strategy!  
I will LEARN HOW TO DO THIS!  
Mistakes help me learn.  
**WHAT AM I MISSING?**  
I can ALWAYS IMPROVE  
This may take some time...

parent and teacher feedback can make a difference as well. We can either **encourage** a child to choose a **challenge** and increase achievement or look for an **easy** way out. Research has shown that telling children that "they are smart" encourages a **fixed mindset**, whereas praising hard work and effort cultivates and promotes a **growth mindset**. When students have a **growth mindset** they take on challenges and learn from them. **Growth mindset** learners know that mistakes become our best teachers and are an essential part of **learning**. Viewing making a mistake this way it allows them the freedom to take risks that they might not ordinarily take for fear of not being perfect. A growth mindset emphasizes "**the Power of YET**" in learning. This focuses on the **process** of learning something new that was once hard and promotes persistence until that skill is mastered and becomes easier.



It turns out that if we **believe** our brains can grow, we behave differently. If we can help change a person's mindset from a fixed to a growth mindset it can lead to increased motivation and achievement. As a parent, if you encourage the four key factors that help create a growth mindset which include; **effort**, embracing **challenges**, accepting **mistakes** as part of **learning**, and being open to constructive **feedback** you will be giving your child valuable information and support as they build a **strong foundation** for learning and life.

Submitted By: Maureen Klaboe

### **Sharing is Caring, Except-**

**This flu and cold season has taken a toll. To inhibit the spread of illness, please encourage good hand washing habits and covering coughs and sneezes. Keep in mind students who have been ill remain out of school for a full 24 hours after the last instance of vomiting or diahhrea, Students with fevers are to be fever free for 24 hours without medications. If a student is absent due to illness 3 or more days a doctor's note is requested.**

