



## The Hyalite Highlights—March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015

### **Dates to Remember:**

March 26<sup>th</sup>—Steam Club—After school til 4:40pm

April 9&10<sup>th</sup>—No School

April 14<sup>th</sup>—PAC meeting from 6-7:30—Childcare and pizza provided for the kids

April 24<sup>th</sup>—Class pictures—8:30-10:30am

April 30<sup>th</sup>—Steam Club—After school til 4:40pm

May 25<sup>th</sup>—Memorial Day—No School

May 29<sup>th</sup>—5<sup>th</sup> grade Shadow Day at the Middle Schools—more information to follow later

June 11<sup>th</sup>—The last day of school—**students dismissed at 12:45 pm**



**Saturday Morning Cartoons**—Feel like taking in some good old weekend cartoons? Well if you do, bring the whole family to Hyalite this Saturday morning, March 21, from 8:30 - 10 a.m. Come in jammies and select from a wide variety of Saturday morning cereals to eat and watch some cartoons.

### **NEW STUDENT/KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR 2015-2016**

**The 1<sup>st</sup> round enrollment for new student and kindergarten registration for grades K-5 will be from Monday, March 9, through Monday, April 13.** Beginning March 9, enrollment forms may be downloaded off the district website or enrollment packets may be picked up at the enrollment office at Willson School.

**All students NEW to the Bozeman School District, including all KINDERGARTEN students must complete and return a registration form along with current immunization records and birth certificate to the Enrollment Office at 404 West Main during the registration period.**

Have you ever considered being a part of our PAC organization? If so, we are in need of PAC board members for next year. We are expecting a turnover in board members and would love to have some new faces added to our parent group. We can not run a PAC without volunteers! If you are interested, please contact Jodi Murray at 579-8307 or at [aboutfamilies@yahoo.com](mailto:aboutfamilies@yahoo.com).

### **Foundations Corner:**

#### **Common Area Review for March is:**

#### **Restrooms**

- Voice level 1
- Wash hands
- Only one student per stall

#### **Skill Builder for March:**

#### **Making a Request**

1. Get within an arm's length of the person to whom you are talking.
2. Say "Excuse me" with a smile.
3. Wait for eye contact from the person to whom you are speaking.
4. Make your request or statement.
5. Say "Thank you".

Dear Parent or Guardian:

In our continuing efforts to ensure that your child and all students in the Bozeman School District are prepared for success, I'm excited to share our efforts to reach challenging academic goals and to put in place improved assessments.

In 2011, the Montana Board of Public Education approved the Montana Common Core Standards, and implementation began in our state. Developed with input by teachers, parents, and education experts, the standards provide clear and consistent grade-by-grade expectations in English and math of the knowledge and skills students need to be successful in school and after graduation. In order to ensure our students are on track for success, new assessments have been developed to measure where students are succeeding and where they need help.

This school year, the online Smarter Balanced assessments will replace our previous paper-and-pencil CRT Reading and Math assessments. The new assessments offer significant improvements over tests of the past. They include writing at every grade level, more interactive questions, and performance tasks that ask students to demonstrate a range of critical thinking and problem solving skills. We believe this assessment will be a better tool for parents and teachers, providing a much clearer picture of where students are and what we need to do to move them forward.

This first year of the Smarter Balanced test will be a new starting point for student achievement in Montana. Because the new assessments measure higher standards, the definition of grade-level performance is also higher than it was with our old tests. For the first few years, fewer students are likely to meet grade-level standards. It's important to note that this does not mean that students are doing worse than previous years. Our students are being assessed by more challenging academic standards than before, and it may take some time for students to catch up.

We are committed to working with teachers and parents to provide support for all students to succeed. As we approach the testing window, we are excited about implementing new assessments that will better prepare students for success throughout their education and after high school graduation.

For more information about the Smarter Balanced assessments, please visit Smarter Balanced at <http://www.smarterbalanced.org> or contact your child's principal.