

December, 2018

"Work Hard Every Day...Every Day Work Hard"

## Upcoming Events

12/3—12/14

### Canned Food Drive



12/8

### Middleton Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade 4:30 pm



12/21

### All School Holiday Sing Along 9 am

12/24/18—  
1/4/19

### No School— Holiday Break



# Coyote Courier



## From the Desk of Mr. Hopkins

Purple Sage Elementary was very proud to have had the opportunity to honor our nation's veterans with an assembly and a celebration of their service. This was a fantastic opportunity to teach our children the importance of serving your country in a variety of ways. We created a wall of honor where students had the chance to share pictures and stories of family members who have served in the military. It was wonderful to walk out of the office every day and to see students and visitors looking at this wall of honor and I could see appreciation in their eyes and hear gratitude in their voices. Thank you to the many veterans who attended this celebration, it was an honor to be able to thank you in person and to share the gift of song with you.



## Counselor's Den—by Mrs. Fogg

### What Bullying is... and ISN'T

I wrote this article for our newsletter last year and feel it's worth a rerun. I remind students and parents on a regular basis that being mean isn't bullying. I did several lessons this fall in the 4th and 5th grades about Rude, Mean and Bullying behavior. I feel confident that they understand the difference. But still need to be reminded now and again.

It's a common occurrence for a student to come to me and report they're being bullied, or a parent calls and says they're child is being bullied in some fashion. My initial response is always, "Tell me exactly what's happening." More often than not, the story they tell me is not bullying behavior. The second question I ask when someone is reporting being bullied is, "Did you ask them to stop?" The answer is usually "no." This usually leads to a quick lesson on what exactly bullying is and is not.

It's easy for children to confuse mean behavior for bullying. They hear the word and believe that anytime another child is mean to them they're being bullied. Most of the time, they just want the behavior to stop and know that the word "bully" is usually followed by action. They've learned that if they drop the word "bully" people tend to listen.

So when IS it bullying? When someone is being hurt either by words or actions, feels bad because of it, and has a hard time stopping what's happening to them. Bullying can be physical such as hitting, pushing and shoving, fighting, tripping, yelling at someone, making rude gestures, or taking or breaking another person's things. It can also be emotional such as name calling, making fun of someone, laughing at someone, leaving someone out on purpose, starting rumors or telling lies about someone, sending mean messages on a computer or cell phone, trying to make someone feel bad about who they are. And there's cyber bullying which can involve texting, emails, and social media. ([www.pacerkidsagainstbullying.org](http://www.pacerkidsagainstbullying.org))

I have a sign in my office that reads, "Is it Bullying? When someone says or does something *unintentionally* hurtful and they do it once, it's rude. When someone says or does something *intentionally* hurtful and they do it once, it's mean. When someone does something *intentionally* hurtful AND they *keep doing it* even when you tell them to stop or show them you're upset, that's bullying."

It's important to remember that mean or rude behaviors are never okay, but also don't qualify as bullying behavior because they happen once. In order to be classified as bullying the behavior must be deliberate, repeated, and involves a real or perceived power imbalance.



## Fifth Grade Field Trip—

Our fifth grade classes have been given the unique opportunity to travel once a week to Gowen Field for the STARBASE Idaho program during November and December.

*STARBASE Idaho* is an innovative science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) outreach program funded by the Department of Defense. Sponsored and supported by the Idaho National Guard, the program provides 25 hours of STEM instruction to 5th grade students. The goal of STARBASE is to raise the interest and improve the knowledge and skills of youth traditionally under-represented in STEM careers, providing a highly educated and skilled American workforce that can meet the advanced technology requirements of America.



*STARBASE* is the only national program focused on introducing STEM to elementary students. The intensive 25 hours of hands on STEM curriculum introduced to *STARBASE* students is aligned with National Science Standards. The program targets upper elementary age students because during this time period in children's lives, they are developing an image of their capabilities. By the time most STEM programs are available for youth in middle and high school, *STARBASE* has already introduced youth to the idea that a future in STEM is possible.

A visiting class explores new technologies such as computer aided design (CAD) and robotics, as well as concepts of physics and chemistry while relating them to math, inquiry and the engineering process. The goal is to offer STEM equipment, expertise and resources that may not be currently available in elementary schools. With the help of local STEM businesses, industry, educational institutions and professionals, as well as the military resources on Base, *STARBASE* can introduce students to STEM careers.



## Holiday Canned Food & Personal Necessities Drive

Purple Sage will be doing their annual Holiday Canned Food Drive, from December 3<sup>rd</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>. Students are encouraged to bring in canned or non-perishable food as well as dish/laundry soap, toiletries and other household items. Collected items will go to the Middleton Food Pantry.

There will be a school-wide competition. If we reach our goal we will have a school-wide pajama day. Also, for each item a student brings in they will be given a ticket to enter into a drawing. Winners of the drawing will be invited to a hot chocolate and donut party.

### Please Donate:

- \* Canned fruits & veggies
- \* Cereal
- \* Paper towels/tissues
- \* Peanut Butter/Jelly
- \* Canned meats & beans
- \* Toothpaste & toothbrushes
- \* Soaps & deodorant
- \* Laundry/dish soap
- \* Diapers
- \* Shampoo & toiletries



Let's make a positive impact on our community and help families in need!