

January 2024 Newsletter

Greetings, Bear Creek families,

I'd like to begin by wishing you all a very Happy New Year! I hope the winter break was a great time for you and your children to connect and make long lasting memories. As we enter the new year, I'm reminded of the many things I am grateful for. Certainly, one of them is the opportunity to work with such an amazing school community. Each day on campus, in classrooms (in-person and online) meeting and connecting with students, staff and families, is a reminder of the power of working together for the betterment of our amazing students. Thank you, as always, for the high level of support you have shown our school, your student(s), and each other. It matters tremendously.

We are kicking the year off with a busy and fun month of teaching and learning at Bear Creek! Please see below for a few updates, reminders of upcoming events and dates:

Winter i-Ready Assessments:

January serves as an important academic milestone as we look to inform and enhance how we support our students in the continuum of growth and progress. Across NSD, students in grades K-8 will participate in the i-Ready diagnostic during the three checkpoints of fall, winter, and spring. The diagnostic provides staff with timely and relevant data to inform instruction throughout the year, informs students and parents of student progress toward grade level standards, and informs district staff as they develop relevant professional development and curricular decisions. A key difference between the fall and winter diagnostic is the inclusion of Kindergarten students in this testing cycle. As always, the unique schedule and instructional nature of our programs present an added challenge to developing an aligned calendar for this assessment! That said, in the coming days, we will provide information regarding opportunities for students to engage in this important assessment process. As always, if you have questions or would like to talk about how the i-Ready diagnostic can benefit you and your student, please do not hesitate to reach out!

Coffee With the Principal Dates:

I very much enjoyed the opportunity to connect with families during the first round of "coffee with the principal" here on campus. The intent of hosting these informal meetings is to provide a forum to make connections, build community and establish relationships with our families. It's a time to ask questions, share feedback and thoughts and/or discuss whatever might be on the minds of our wonderful community partners. The next "coffee with the principal" will be hosted in the Bear Creek library from 11:30am-12:30pm on

Tuesday, January 23rd. We will host a virtual forum on the same day from 5pm-6pm. As the same suggests, this will be an open forum to snag some coffee and a pastry while digging into questions, sharing thoughts or chatting about any and all things Bear Creek/NLO. While the forum itself will be conversational in nature, I'll be sure to bring my notes to capture questions or thoughts folks may have for further follow up. Looking forward to connecting!

- Coffee with the principal: 1/23/24 Bear Creek library from 11:30am-12:30pm
- Coffee with the principal: 1/23/24 via Zoom from 5pm-6pm
 - link: <https://nsd.zoom.us/j/6142270703>

Preparing for cold weather:

Cooler temperatures are on the way! As we navigate the colder months, it is crucial to ensure students are dressed appropriately for the weather. For the well-being and comfort of your student, please have your students dress in layers, including gloves, hats, closed-toe shoes, and warm coats. This will help them stay warm and comfortable during the chilly days ahead.

It's going to be a great month of teaching and learning at Bear Creek! As always, thank you for your continued support and partnership.

In partnership,

Brian Matthias

Principal

Northshore Networks/Northshore Family Partnership/Northshore Online Academy

bmatthias@nsd.org

Student Council K-6

Join NLO's new Student Body Council starting this January!

The Student Body Council is a group of students who care about making a positive difference in our community at Northshore Learning Options. All are welcome to join. As I'm sure you are aware, the nature of our three programs here on the Bear Creek Campus and in Northshore Learning Options allows for three unique schedules and groups of students to complete their education. As we create this new Student Body Council (SBC) we are going to try to use the uniqueness of our programs to our advantage. We hope that the SBC can become a place where students can get involved with their school community.

Our overall goal is to create a sense of belonging at school through leadership, service, voice, and engagement. All Student Body Council members work together to plan activities, confront and resolve problems, and gain leadership skills through the implementation of beneficial activities during the school year. Students involved build beneficial leadership skills, make new friends, and have fun while working in teams.

On the logistical side of things, we have created a system that we think will work to keep all of our programs working together to help our K-12 community. This student council will consist of 3 main groups - an elementary council (Leadership Club) with an advisor

(grades K-6th), a secondary council with an advisor (grades 7th-12th), and an elected executive leadership board (which includes a President, Vice President, Secretary, 2 representatives from both the Elementary and Secondary Council).

We are still looking for participation for the elementary council. Complete the [interest form](#) to let us know when you are available to meet.

Elementary Council (Leadership Club) will meet with advisor Leslie Harwood in Room 113.

Meeting dates and times = 1st Wednesday of each month from 9-10a

- Jan. 3 (1st Meeting)
- Feb. 7
- Mar. 6
- April 3
- May 1
- June 5

Feel free to reach out with any questions!

SBC Contacts:

President, Amalie Landry at 1082673@apps.nsd.org

Vice President, Norah Cherry at 2007351@nsd.org

Leslie Harwood, K-6 advisor at lhawood@apps.nsd.org

Mary Mendenall, 7-12 advisor at mmendenall@nsd.org

BCC Kids Who Code

We are excited to offer an introductory coding club to students attending Bear Creek Campus. The club will meet weekly on Wednesdays and will follow a curriculum from Girls Who Code, a non-profit that strives to get kids from underrepresented groups interested in the world of computer science and engineering. Each week students will learn a concept that can be completed as an offline activity. Additional online activities will be introduced to complete at home.

An information night will be held on January 16th at 4:00 in Room 121. Please [submit your questions](#) in advance of the meeting.

Sign up for [BCC Kids Who Code](#)

Photo Release

We are currently working on a few projects and may be collecting photos of students actively working on class projects and tasks, or photos of their creations. Most photos will be angled from the back of student heads, but some may include faces. If you **would NOT like your child's image** or work visible publicly, please complete [the Permission to Withhold Student Directory Information form](#) and return it to the front office before January 12th

PTSA Events

Cozy Read-in and Book Swap

This event has been rescheduled for Thursday, February 29th from 5-7pm in the gym.

Austina De Bonte

Please join us for our first BCC PTSA sponsored Community Education Night on Monday, January 22, 2024 7pm-8:30pm with special guest speaker Austina De Bonte. This will be a hybrid event in the BCC Library and on Zoom.

One of the most challenging academic areas for twice exceptional students is writing. Learn the five root causes of writing challenges, how to identify what's going on, and how to support each one. This session synthesizes methods used by Bridges Academy as well as private tutors, and is full of practical tips and techniques that can be used at home or in the classroom.

Sign Up [Here](#)

Nordic Heritage Museum

Come join us on Friday, February 9th 11am-12:30pm for an [excursion at the Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle](#). We will tour the museum and students will create some Nordic art of their own to bring home with them.

To learn about more upcoming excursions, please visit the BCC PTSA [website](#).