

Panther Press

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March 2024

www.bcspanthers.org

This Month We Celebrate our BCS Preschool!



Preschool is Growing in The Fruit of The Spirit!

The BCS Preschool staff has been working hard to implement a new "First Things First" curriculum designed to promote age-appropriate social skills based on the scriptural Fruits of the Spirit. Each month a new "fruit" characteristic is introduced and discussed at chapel and during Bible. The children practice each fruit as they dive into its meaning and what it looks like in connection to living a life like Jesus. Students who display this trait are recognized at chapel with a medal and certificate, and their names are displayed in the hallway on our Fruits of the Spirit tree. Students and staff have also put their dancing and singing skills to work as they have learned a catchy new Fruit of the Spirit song together.

Preschool Director,
Lari Yoder



BCS is always looking for talented, Christ-centered faculty and staff members! Please check out the link if you are interested in opportunities at BCS
<https://www.bcspanthers.org/about-us/employment-opportunities>.

If a loved one of yours wants to receive The Panther Press or you want to feature a story about BCS, please contact Bobbijo Norris at bnorris@bcspanthers.org.

Panther Press Spotlight

Preschool Teacher Spotlight- Reese Hernandez & Gail Dickerson

The Preschool program (ages 3-4 years old) at BCS is all about teaching children to love learning and helping each child grow spiritually, academically and socially. At the heart of the program are the two lead teachers who invest so much of themselves into a job that both view as a higher calling. Gail Dickerson and Reese Hernandez combine diverse backgrounds and a common love for Christian education to create a welcoming learning environment for our youngest Panthers. They aim to prepare students for kindergarten by teaching letters and numbers while also helping to build their faith through Bible stories, songs and character development. "Gail and Reese make an excellent team," said Preschool Director Lori Yoder. "I am always amazed by the creativity they bring to their jobs and the incredible love and patience they have for their students. They know how to inspire children and to infuse learning into everyday things. I love to hear their classrooms filled with singing and the contented hum of children busily engaged in learning."

Gail Dickerson has been a part of the BCS family for five years. Her interest in preschool peaked years ago when she was a volunteer in her own sons' classroom. After earning her certification, she went on to teach preschool for 28 years, including 14 years in VPK. Her enthusiasm for her work is still going strong. "I love the expression on kids' faces when they understand what I'm teaching them - when they have that 'a-ha! moment' and get very excited," she said.

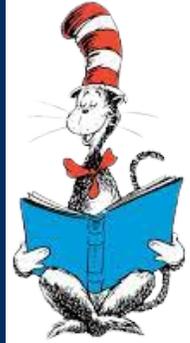
Reese Hernandez is finishing her second year at BCS. Originally from Ohio, she has a Master of Education degree and a bachelor's in Elementary Education K-6. Her 18 years of teaching experience includes kindergarten, second and third grade with nine years in the public education system. "Having been in public schools, I can see how much more we are able to offer to our students here. I notice a big difference even with my own daughters (first and fourth grade BCS students) and I'm so grateful for the school/church/home partnership. I love to be a part of that Christian influence for my students and help them to reach their fullest potential in school and in their walk with Jesus."

Thanks to Gail and Reese and all the staff, our Preschool at BCS is thriving and in high demand. The hallways are perpetually lined with colorful artwork, and the sounds of learning and laughter are everywhere. Children arrive each morning, excited for another day of school, and often can be heard as they leave in the afternoon telling their parents about all the fun things they did that day. And that is when the teachers know it was another day well spent.



Panther Press Spotlight

Volunteer Dr. Arden Post Blesses BCS



Dr. Arden Post was an Education Professor at Calvin University in Grand Rapids Michigan. She still has a home in Holland Michigan, but she winters in Bradenton Florida. Rachel De Haan, our 1st grade teacher, was one of her students at Calvin and invited her many years ago to help students with reading at BCS.

Every year our Media Specialist, Deb Thomas, connects with Dr. Post in order to have her help us celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday for our Kindergarten students. This special event also links with our Cubby Buddy program which connects our Senior class and Kindergarteners for a fun Dr. Seuss time together. A fun fact about the pictured Cat in the Hat costume is that it was a gift that Arden received from her husband many years ago. When asked what she wanted for Christmas, Arden told Jack she wanted a Cat in the Hat costume. This year, the Cat in the Hat costume was worn by her granddaughter Sophia- who did an amazing job acting out pieces of the story while Arden read to the class.

Many of the students that Arden has helped at BCS have continued to share the joy of reading. She is truly a gem! Thank you Dr. Post for your many years of service and we look forward to many years to come.



Campus News



Why fit in when you were born to stand out? -Dr. Seuss



Read Across America Week is one of the craziest weeks of the year...and perhaps one of the most fun! The week of March 4th was all about Dr. Seuss. From silly socks, crazy hair, and hats, to dressing in all green for the famous "Green Eggs and Ham" book, our days were filled with stories, laughter, fun projects and so many rhymes! A highlight of the week was our Monday library special with Mrs. Thomas. The children walked into the room to discover Cat in the Hat sitting in her chair!

On Tuesday, Pre-K3 created a yummy snack to follow their read aloud of "One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish." (Books are always more fun with a snack.)

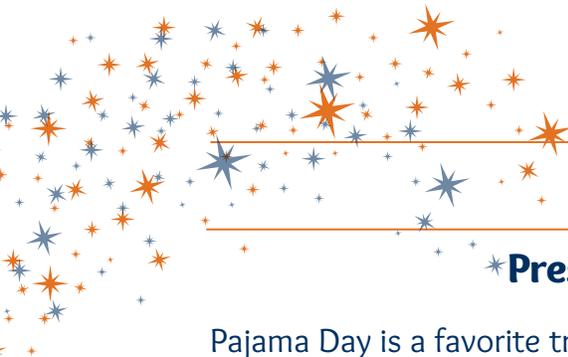
Wacky Wednesday found a lot of upside-down things in our classrooms, and students were even able to enjoy upside down art UNDERNEATH the art table. Teachers got into the spirit of the week too with plenty of dressing up, and everyone had fun laughing and admiring each other's costumes. We are already looking forward to next year's Seuss Week!

Dr. Seuss Week introduces children to his fun and engaging books and allows them time to practice sight words, story time, rhyming and other early literacy skills.

We would like to thank our parent mystery readers who signed up and came to read a favorite book to the class. The mystery readers signed up for a reading time and kept this secret safe until they arrived at their child's classroom door to surprise the class. The students were very excited to have class parents come to read.

Thank you for joining in on the fun of Read Across America Week!





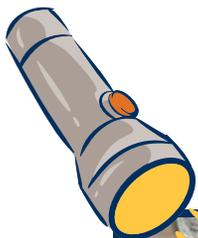
Campus News



*Preschool Celebrates Pajama Day

Pajama Day is a favorite tradition that our Preschool students look forward to all year. During the week of January 29th we learned about night and day, studied the stars and constellations, and practiced opposites.

Our Preschool classes celebrated Pajama Day on Thursday, February 1st and the PreK- 3 classes celebrated on Friday, February 2nd. Everyone wore their best pajamas and brought a favorite stuffie from home. We turned off the lights and brought out flashlights for fun shadow games and story time. The best part of the day was cooking and eating breakfast for lunch, thanks to some help from our Preschool parents.



Campus News

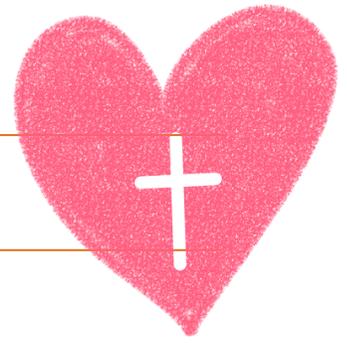
Grandparents Day is Always Extra Special

Grandparents were invited into the classrooms on Friday, February 16th, for a special morning full of gifts, games, and songs! The children were very proud to show their grandparents (or special friends) their school and their favorite areas of the classroom. It was a memorable day for all! We are blessed to have this day to spend special time with our Grandparents and give them a little peek of what we do in preschool. We know the impact Grandparents have on their families and how they pave the way to leave a lasting legacy. We hope that Grandparents Day here at BCS gives you a small glimpse into the generational blessings Grandparents, Parents and Grand-friends have on our school.



**HAPPY
GRAND
PARENTS
DAY**

Get Involved



Interested in Volunteering?

Many hands make light work. The following verse is a famous expression of the need for Christian goodness to be visible in the world. Doing the work given by God is how His disciples distribute His light.

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."
Matthew 5:15-16

Volunteering is far more than signing up for an event or completing a task. You are creating community, connecting with new families, and allowing God to shine through you.

There are many ways you may volunteer at Bradenton Christian School.

- All Pro Dads
- Moms in Prayer
- Check out our events that are coming up <https://www.bcspanthers.org/get-involved>
- To volunteer please contact Bobbijo Norris at bnorris@bcspanthers.org.



Church Connection

Calling all BCS youth! Are you looking for a youth group or local church community to get involved with? We have information for the local youth groups and meeting times.

- **Bradenton CRC:**

Wednesday evenings at 6:45pm - 8:30pm
<https://bradentoncrc.org/ministries>

- **Bayside Community Church:**

Middle School services are during regular weekend times. High School is Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm.
<https://www.mybayside.church/ministries/bayside-youth>

- **West Bradenton Baptist:**

Wednesday evenings at 5:30pm
<https://forthe neighborhood.com/students/>

- **Grace Community Church:**

Middle School services are during regular weekend times. High School meets Sunday nights from 5:30pm - 7:30pm.
<https://www.gracesarasota.com/ministry/high-school>

- **North River:**

"The Swell" takes place on Sunday evenings at 4:30pm - 7:00pm
<https://www.gonorthriver.org/students>

- **The Bridge Church:**

Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm - 8:00pm
<https://www.bridgechurchfl.com/students>

- **First Baptist Church of Bradenton:**

Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm - 7:30pm for Middle school and High school students.
<https://firstbradenton.com/>

If you would like your church featured in Panther Press for youth events, please email Bobbijo Norris at bnorris@bcspanthers.org.

If you would like to speak at Middle or High School chapel services for BCS please contact Calvin Morley at CMorley@bcspanthers.org.



Announcements

Important Dates

- April 1- No School
- April 3-5- 5th Grade Tallahassee Trip
- April 4 - Tri-M Honor Society Induction
- April 8-11- 8th Grade Class Trip
- April 9-10 - Community Foundation Giving Challenge
- April 12- No School
- April 12-14- Spiritual Retreat
- April 15- 8th Grade Parent Workshop
- April 16-19- Spiritual Emphasis Week
- April 16- 5th Grade Parent Meeting
- April 19- Junior/Senior Banquet
- April 23- Choral Concert (Grade 6-12)
- April 25- MS/JV Sports Banquet
- April 30- Band Concert (Grade 5-12)

For up to date school calendar information and to see the calendar for the 2024-2025 school year click here:

<https://www.bcspanthers.org/about-us/school-calendar>



BE THE ONE - Community Foundation Giving Challenge

Save the Date: April 9-10, 2024

Noon to Noon



We are gearing up to go BANANAS this year during the 2024 Community Foundation Giving Challenge! The Community Foundation Giving Challenge is a 24-hour event supported by The Patterson Foundation where every gift from \$25-\$100 is matched during this giving time and then matched again by our BCS TRIPLE MATCH FUND!

BE THE ONE to support Christian Education! We are asking for your participation to help us as we train up Christian leaders for our community and world. Please come together and give to Bradenton Christian School!

To learn more about how you can GO BANANAS for BCS on April 9-10, visit our website:

<https://www.bcspanthers.org/get-involved/giving-challenge>



Announcements

Celebrating BCS Artists



Professional artists from across the United States gathered in Holmes Beach on March 16-17, 2024 for the 36th Annual Anna Maria Island Springfest Festival of Fine Arts and Fine Crafts. This event exhibited community organizations that included various historical and environmental groups with information about the worthwhile causes and “Young at Art” students from K to 12 grades displaying their art and competing for prizes. Launa Derosia, 12th grade BCS student, won second place at the Springfest Art Show for her Still Life! What a beautiful way to bless our community with your God given talents. Congratulations Launa!



Congratulations to BCS middle school student, Ana Socas who was recognized by the Ellenton post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars as “An Outstanding Young Spokesperson of the Future.”

Ana entered this year’s Patriot Pen contest by writing an essay on the theme “How are you inspired by America?” She received a certificate and financial prize from Post 9226. Congratulations Ana!

Did You Know?

Part of our mission statement here at BCS is to partner with the home and church. We believe in partnership and realize God blesses BCS often through various ways of partnering with you, our families.

Recently a BCS grandfather asked his grandkids, “What is something you would like to improve about BCS?” After some thought the grandkids shared how they would like the drinking water on campus to be improved in taste and cooler and the outside fountain to have a water bottle refilling option for Elementary.

The grandfather then called the school to share how he wanted to help the entire campus improve the drinking water. We are so grateful for his heart to see a need on campus and fill that need.

We are happy to report, that because of this generous donation, all water fountains have had

- filters replaced
- cooling temperatures checked and adjusted where needed
- the elementary school now has a cooling water bottle refill station outside
- there is 1 new water station that will go behind the PAC building for outdoor activities
- a new water station will go inside our weight room



Thank you!



Sports



Signing Day at BCS!



Exciting News from our talented athletes here at BCS! Several students this month celebrated their signing day as they prepare to open the next chapter of their lives. Teagan Stermer will be diving into her next chapter as she signed with Ohio Northern University's Swim team.

Natalie Griffith scores big with a commitment to LEE University's Girls Lacrosse team.



Touchdown for Josh Langborgh as he signed with Southeastern University for football.



BCS is immensely proud of your dedication and hard work. Congratulations to these talented seniors on their college journey. Go Panthers!

To stay up to date on BCS sports, click the link below

<https://www.bcspanthers.org/athletics/teamschedules>



Sports



Senior Night for Boys Weightlifting



Our BCS Boys Weightlifting Team had the privilege of honoring the seniors. "Your dedication and hard work have been truly inspiring. As you embark on this new chapter, know that you will be dearly missed, but we are excited for all the amazing things that lie ahead for you. Thank you for leaving your mark on our team and for being shining examples of commitment and perseverance. We pray for you and all your future endeavors!" By Coach Riley



Picture Credit: Akiko Campbell

To stay up to date on BCS sports, click the link below

<https://www.bcspanthers.org/athletics/teamschedules>

Thank you Sponsors

Market Your Business to the Community Through BCS!

We invite you to take the opportunity to sponsor the Panther Press. The Panther Press is a monthly publication during the school year that showcases our BCS community and all the amazing events, happenings, students and faculty. These newsletters are sent electronically which means timely delivery and accurate information. Additionally, all publications will be uploaded to our website. Imagine the exposure for your business throughout the school year for a minimal cost of \$200.

For more information contact Bobbijo Norris at bnorris@bcspanthers.org.

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