



BRYN MAWR NEWS

school

NOVEMBER
2024

From the Principal



Dear Students and Families,

As we start to see the vibrant colors of autumn, let's pause and reflect on the things that connect us to one another. The falling leaves and cooling air reflect the changes in our classrooms and communities - we can dedicate our thoughts and actions to weathering these changes in our daily lives with open minds and a spirit of learning.

Our indigenous neighbors teach us in their traditions to recognize and respect the rhythms of the natural world. November is Native American Heritage month, and we can learn from the culture of those who originally lived on this land. In Native culture, autumn is a time of harvest where communities assemble to share in the

physical labor of gathering crops, and the mental pursuit of intellectual and emotional growth.

In this tradition, let's continue to concentrate on strengthening the bonds between students, teachers, and caregivers, honoring the unique contribution every individual makes to enriching our diverse community.

In the spirit of autumn, let's cultivate a sense of sincere gratitude and belonging, recognizing that just like the trees shed their leaves to make room for new growth, we can embrace change and nurture the relationships that sustain us all.

Sincerely,
Kevin Oldenburg
Principal

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NOVEMBER 2024

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NOVEMBER IS

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

- 1 - 1st Grade Field Trip
- 5 - Teacher Workday- **NO STUDENTS**
- 19 - Native Am. Heritage Art Showcase
- 21 - Picture Retakes
- 27-29 - Thanksgiving Break



HELP EVERYONE RESPECT OTHERS

Counseling Corner by Kim Cook

The Word of the Month for November is **GRATITUDE**. We will be practicing this with a school-wide activity of writing down or drawing what we are thankful for on a paper leaf and then adding those leaves to our **Bryn Mawr Grateful Grove**. The Grateful Grove will appear very soon in the main hall near the Media Center. We will also be doing classroom lessons on Gratitude and recognizing students that are practicing this.

Families can practice gratitude at home:

Everyday verbal prompts. This can be as simple: “Thank you for putting your socks in the laundry basket. You are helping by keeping things off the floor so no one slips.” Or: “Thank you for [helping me clean up](#). It keeps our home clean.”

- **Positive reinforcement.** This includes expressing genuine gratitude through a hug and an explanation of why you are thankful for a child’s behavior. For example, to acknowledge a child’s ability to self-regulate in a moment of



FELLOWSHIP
MINNEAPOLIS

REGISTER FOR YOUR

Thanksgiving BASKETS

OCTOBER 13 - NOVEMBER 15
**Call 612-767-9428
or visit online**

frustration and anger, you could say “I saw that you wanted to raise your hand to swat at me, but you didn’t, and I’m so thankful that you took the time just to stop and think about it. I’m really proud of you.”



Playtime scenarios. Children learn through play, so modeling gratitude in pretend situations. For example, if you are playing “birthday party,” make sure that each stuffie says thank you for the piece of cake or a gift — and discuss how it feels when someone thinks of them.

Feel free to contact me with any issues or concerns.
Kimberly.Cook@mpls.k12.mn.us
or call 612.668.2509.

2nd Grade Update

Second Grade has really been working on listening skills and following the directions the first time they are given. We have been working to get our communities ready for learning all school year and being kind. Second grade has begun our UFLI Phonics groups and students go to classrooms for lessons at their level. We have been mastering even and odd numbers as well as doubles, friends of ten and sums up to twenty and differences from twenty. We have begun working on measurement and place value of ones, tens and hundreds. We went on our First Field trip to the Children's Theatre through a grant. All second grade students also received a free bike through an incredible program. We are using Benchmark Unit one Government at Work Why do we need a government?

In this unit, students read and compare selections about the government to understand what the government does and why it is important.

“There is something so special in the early leaves drifting from the trees – as if we are all to be allowed a chance to peel, to refresh, to start again.”

~ Ruth Ahmed





NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE ART SHOWCASE

**November 19th
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm.**



**Winner of the
Parent Teacher Conference -
Volunteer Sign Up Drive is...**



The Debbins - Williams Family

The Seven Teachings

are values that guide us in how
we treat ourselves and others



**These teachings help us to be
happy, healthy, and safe.
Following The Seven Teachings
leads to the
“Good Way of Life.”**

As we enter the month of November, it's important to remember that it's **Native American Heritage Month**. Minneapolis Public Schools has designated the week of **November 18-22** to celebrate **“American Indian Awareness and Family Involvement Week.”** Our school will participate in interactive lessons that look at the Seven Grandfathers Teachings. Each grade level will create a poster or visual to display their learning. We invite caregivers, friends and community to come and view the showcase on November 19th between 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm.

~ Ms. Regina, Family Coordinator

ATTENDANCE UPDATE FOR PARENTS:

- ◆ Students are **NOT** to be dropped off before 7:15. Front doors will not unlock before then. You must use the parent drop off. The front lane is for buses and cabs only from 7:15 to 7:30 am.
- ◆ School starts at 7:30 a.m. sharp. Students arriving after 7:30 are considered late and marked as such. Students arriving after **8:30 are marked absent for half the day**. Attendance matters, please be sure to have your students here on time every day!
- ◆ All students must be called in absent, 612-668-2500. You can call any-time and leave a message. If you are calling your student in as going to the doctor, they must present a doctor's note for the absence to be excused.
- ◆ Students who are signed out periodically throughout the day, will have that charged against their attendance. Please try to make appointments after school.

STUDENT DISMISSAL UPDATE FOR PARENTS:

- ◆ **STUDENTS WILL NOT BE DISMISSED FROM THE OFFICE AFTER 1:30. NO EXCEPTIONS. PLEASE PLAN ACCORDINGLY.**
- ◆ If you are changing your child's mode of transportation afterschool, **YOU MUST CALL THE OFFICE BY 1:00 pm**, this will give the office time to get things changed properly (bus passes made, teachers called, etc.)

GENERAL INFORMATION UPDATE FOR PARENTS:

- ◆ **STUDENTS ARE NOT TO USE THEIR CELL PHONES AT SCHOOL.** If you send a phone with them, they **MUST** drop it off in the office for safe-keeping until the end of the day. Please make sure your child **KNOWS AND FOLLOWS** this rule. We will not be responsible for phones not checked in at the office.
- ◆ If you receive a call from school, please check to see if they have left a voicemail before calling school. So many times, people will call and say you called . . . although we have no idea who **HAS** called.
- ◆ If you need to contact your child's teacher during the day, email is best! The general rule for email addresses is first-name.lastname@mpls.k12.mn.us Please remember they are busy teaching during the day!

BRYN MAWR TALENT SHOWCASE

December 19th

Mark your calendars!

Open to all Bryn Mawr students

Sign Up!



**SHARE YOUR
TALENT!**

More information
coming soon!



NEW STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Jessi Wightman, has worked with English Language Learners for a number of years. She likes to read, do puzzles, and experiment with baking sweet breads. **Welcome, Jessi!**



LUNCH MENUS

NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE



brynmawr.mpschools.org/families-community/menus