

A photograph of Washington Elementary School, a single-story building with a stone and brick facade. The building has a sign that reads "WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL" and "MAIN ENTRANCE" and "BUS ENTRANCE". The sky is blue with some clouds. The text "Washington Elementary School News" is overlaid in black, and "January 2025" is overlaid in yellow.

# Washington Elementary School News

## January 2025

### **Greetings from Mrs. Borger**

Happy New Year! I hope everyone has been enjoying a relaxing and refreshing winter break. I am excited to see our students back in school on Thursday, January 2nd. I wish all of our Washington families a joyful and healthy new year and am looking forward to all of the great things our students will achieve in 2025!

### **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

Schools will be **CLOSED** on **Monday, January 20th** in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

### **Grade 3 Happenings**

Great things are happening in third grade! We closed out the month of December strong with a successful Grinch Day! Our students worked hard demonstrating STAR behaviors to earn this reward. It was such a fun day!

We are continuing to learn and grow our math skills by examining various strategies for adding, subtracting, and rounding. We are also working on solving two step word problems dealing with addition and subtraction. In Language Arts, we are expanding our knowledge of numerous reading comprehension techniques, as well as various grammar skills.

We are looking forward to our upcoming middle-of-the-year Benchmark assessment to see how our students have grown since the beginning of the year!

### **Grade 4 Happenings**

Fourth graders will be busy adding and subtracting fractions in Math. They will also be learning and studying the five regions of Pennsylvania. In Reading we will be starting a non-fiction unit on Hurricanes, Technology and Antarctica.

Look out for the monthly positive behavior school reward- we heard it might be a fun one the kids will not want to miss!!

### **Related Arts Happenings**

In the **Library**, students have started to learn the online cataloging system. They are learning the different ways to search for books and determine if they are available. Students have also enjoyed a variety of seasonal books

and discussed the elements that make them great. We will continue in the new year building on their library skills and introduce award winners.

In **Art**, fourth grade students just completed their peppermint candy paintings where they learned how to layer tempera paint to show shadows, texture, and light. Students will be starting a new project after the holidays in which they will learn about positive and negative space and the art style called "Notan."

Third grade Art students just completed their snowman drawings, where they drew a snowman and learned how to show shadows using chalk pastels and blending them. Students will be starting a new project after the holidays where they will be learning about Northern Lights and how to paint reflections.

In **Phys. Ed.**, to start the new year, we will review the responsibilities & expectations for Physical Education class. We will work on our throwing skills during the first two cycles, then we will start the "Kids Heart Challenge" where we will be jumping rope in class to raise money for the American Heart Association. Look for your student to bring home information during the third or fourth week of January. In Health, we will learn about the Circulatory System to coincide with American Heart Association event, Mid-Year.

In **Technology**, this past month we have been learning ways to code. We will continue to practice coding and problem solving in the month of January.

### **End of the Second Trimester/Report Cards**

The second trimester will end on February 28, 2025; however, if there are snow days, the date may change. The second trimester elementary report cards will be available to view through the Sapphire Community Web Portal after that date.

We no longer send paper copies of your student's report card home. Community Web Portal access is necessary to receive and review your student's report card. If you still have not created a Sapphire Portal account, you can do so through the following link: <https://bangorsd-sapphire.k12system.com/CommunityWebPortal/Welcome.cfm>

### **Benchmark Assessments**

We will be administering mid-year DIBELS and STAR assessments during the month of January. Please support us by talking with your student(s) about always giving their best effort. The DIBELS and STAR assessments guide our instruction in helping our students learn best.

### **PSSA**

The Pennsylvania System of State Assessment (PSSA) is expected to be administered in April and May. Third and fourth grade teachers have been preparing students in reading and math to help them achieve proficient levels. Classes will be picking up the pace in these areas with specific activities to sharpen student's skills. I urge all parents to work at home reviewing reading and math homework to help repeat and practice those basic skills.

### **Parent Reminder**

Please LABEL your student's coats, hats, backpacks, lunch boxes, eyeglass cases and other belongings so that if they are lost, we can return them to their rightful owners! There are several items waiting to be claimed in the lost and found. Encourage your child to seek out his/her lost belongings.

## Elementary Principal's Candy Sale

We are currently in the process of planning our annual candy sale! Once again, we will be working with Chocolates on Broadway in Bangor to supply us with a wide selection of items from which to choose. Candy sale information will be provided in February!

### Notes from the Nurse

Happy New Year! I hope the holidays were good and you enjoyed family time together! We are now fully into flu season, please remind your student(s) that the best way to avoid the flu is to wash their hands frequently. Keeping their hands out of their mouths and away from their faces is also a good way to prevent illness. If your student(s) vomits or has a temperature the night before or the morning before school, please keep them home. As we are in the flu season this is even more important!

Reminder: Head Lice Prevention: \*Avoid head-to-head contact during play and activities \* Do not share clothing – hats, scarves, hair accessories, etc. \*Do not share combs, brushes, or towels. Let us all work together to control the spread of head lice.

Even if it is cold outside, classes still go out for recess when possible. Your student(s) should have a warm coat, hat, and gloves. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather.

### PTO News and Events

Cheers to 2025! We hope you all had a great Holiday break!

**Paint Night: January 17th & 24<sup>th</sup>** - We are kicking off January with our annual Paint Night! Due to the wonderful turnout in the past few years, we have extended this event into two nights. We will need volunteers for this event. If you would like to volunteer, please go to our website [www.bangorelempto.ptboard.com](http://www.bangorelempto.ptboard.com) to sign up!

**Weis Receipts:** We are still collecting Weis receipts for 2024, please get them in as soon as possible.

**PTO Membership:** If you have not yet joined our PTO by signing up for the annual membership, there is still time. The cost is \$10 per family, and it can be done directly on our website.

**Monthly PTO Facebook Page Raffle:** Please check out our Facebook page for our monthly raffle prize and how to enter.

**PTO Meeting:** Next meeting will be held Monday, January 6th @ 7pm in the Five Points Cafeteria. We are looking forward to seeing new faces!

### COMING ATTRACTIONS

- 1/02 – School Resumes – Welcome Back!
- 1/15 – Bangor Women's Club Student Creative Arts Contest Submissions Due
- 1/20 – No School/Martin Luther King, Jr. Day/Offices Closed
- 2/07 – No School/Act 80 Day/Offices Open
- 2/17 – No School/President's Day/Offices Closed

Visit the Washington Elementary Website (<https://wa.bangor.k12.pa.us/>) for up-to-date information, such as a calendar of events, building announcements, monthly newsletters, and classroom supply lists. It will also give you access to district forms, student links and any information you may be looking for.