

Parents as Partners:

A Small Habit That Makes a Big Difference

At school we are always thinking about ways to help students grow as readers. One thing that researchers and educators agree on is surprisingly simple: **the more children read, the stronger their reading becomes**. Just like practicing a sport or learning an instrument, reading improves with time and repetition.

If you're able, one of the most powerful things you can do is simply **make space for reading at home, in the car, or at a break between afterschool activities**. This might look like:

- Setting aside a few quiet minutes for reading each evening
- Listening while your child reads or reading together
- Asking your child to tell you something interesting about the story
- Talking about favorite characters or surprising moments

These conversations don't need to be long or formal. Often the most powerful thing is simply showing your child that **reading matters and stories are worth talking about**.

Of course, we know that family schedules are busy and every household looks different. Please know that **this is an invitation, not an assignment**. Our goal is simply to encourage opportunities for reading wherever they fit naturally into family life.

Thank you for the many ways you support your children and our school community. Small habits, built over time, make a big difference for our young readers.

Interesting Facts: Large literacy studies consistently show:

Students who read **20 minutes per day** encounter roughly **1.8 million words per year**.

Students who read **1 minute per day** encounter about **8,000 words per year**.

Vocabulary exposure gaps become enormous by middle school.

Encouraging reading is one of the **most impactful supports possible**. **Read and talk. That's it!**

March Character Trait of the Month:

Self-Control

Self-Control is the quality of moderating your behavior, being reasonable, rational and thinking of consequences before acting.

Important Dates:

3/2,3/9,3/16 & 3/23: Late Arrival

3/8: Popcorn & Dress Like a Teacher Day

3/11: Early Dismissal @ 11:15am

3/13: Snow Make-Up Day-We DO have school

3/27: Play Performance

03/30-04/03: Early Dismissal @ 11:15am

[Bethel School District Calendar](#)

Stay Lucky, Stay Healthy!

We are seeing common illnesses like colds, flu, and stomach bugs this time of year. Help keep your student healthy by encouraging frequent handwashing, covering coughs, getting plenty of rest, and staying home if they have a fever, vomiting, or diarrhea. Students should be fever-free for 24 hours without medication before returning to school.

Please contact the health room if you have any questions or need support.

School Nurse and Health Clerk

PTA Updates:

We need volunteers for the Book Fair during conference week!

If we don't have enough volunteers, the Book Fair will NOT be open!

Bethel volunteer link:

<https://bethelvolunteers.myschooldata.net/>

Lunch Menu:

<https://www.bethelsd.org/programs-departments/meals>

Office Hours: 8:15am-3:45pm

Breakfast door: 8:30am

Late Start: 9:30am

Main Doors: 8:35am

Late Start: 9:35am

Early Release: 11:15am

Students are to not be left unattended before the doors are open & school staff is present.

From the Office:

During conference week the office will have parent input for student placement forms for the 2026-2027 school year. These are to be returned no later than April 13, 2026.

Comprehensive Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS curriculum will be presented to students starting March 23rd. If you are requesting to opt your student out of receiving this curriculum follow the link below.

Comprehensive Sexual Health (all grades):

<https://www.bethelsd.org/resources/sexual-health-curriculum>

HIV/AIDS (5th grade)

<https://www.bethelsd.org/resources/hivaids-parent-preview>

District News:

Thank you, voters!

The February 10 Special Election is now certified and both of our replacement levies have passed! Thank you, voters! Our Educational Programs & Operations Levy passed with 56.39% of the vote, and our Technology Capital Levy passed with 56.83% of the vote. Levies require 50%+1 vote to pass, unlike bonds which require 60%. You can see the results for yourself, as well as the Final Certification Report at <https://www.piercecountywa.gov/7959/Current-Election>.

Transportation Hiring Event: March 12

We are looking for bus drivers and bus assistants to join our amazing Transportation team! Our next hiring event will be on March 12, from 2 to 6 p.m. at our Transportation Service Center (5625 192nd St E, Puyallup, WA 98375). At these events there are opportunities for on-the-spot interviews and potential day-of job offers. We hope to see you there!

Spanish Dual Language Immersion Parent Interest nights: March 17 and 19

Are you interested in our Spanish Dual Language Immersion program? Join us on March 17 or 19 from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Thompson Elementary Library to learn more! In order to be eligible for the program, parents need to attend one of the informational nights. If you have questions, please call 253-800-5800.

Paraeducator Hiring Event: March 26

We're hosting a hiring event geared towards Special Education Paraeducators, including 1:1 Instructional Paras! Come join our team to support teachers and students in special education classrooms. Responsibilities include assisting with classroom activities, working one-on-one or in small groups with students, and supervising student activities. These part-time roles are perfect for parents, grandparents and community members looking for work that aligns with school schedules. Enjoy working the same days students attend school, with the same breaks off, and make a difference in students' lives. The next hiring event will be on March 26 from 2 to 6 p.m. at the Educational Service Center (516 176th Street East, Spanaway, WA 98387).

Interpretation and Translation

All families have the right to information about their child's education in a language they understand. We can provide an interpreter or translated documents, free of charge, when you need them. For information on accessing interpretation services, please contact Special Services at 253-800-2300, or contact your school office.

Community & Crisis Resources

When challenges feel overwhelming, knowing where to turn for help can make all the difference. Our Community & Crisis Resources page has contact information for trusted crisis support services, including mental health counseling, suicide prevention, substance abuse resources, and specialized assistance for youth and families in Pierce County and beyond.

<https://www.bethelsd.org/resources/community-crisis-resources>