Message from the Principal...

Dear Bell Families-

February is a month of reflection. With Black History Month and President’s Day, we are offered opportunity to reflect upon our history as Americans. With Valentine’s Day, we have the opportunity to reflect upon the love, all the relationships, and the meaning we have in our personal lives. We are also doing a lot of reflection on the past, our current state, and making plans for the future at Bell.

Community Partnerships

- First, a HUGE thank you to all of your who helped PTA raise $25,000 at last semester’s direct giving drive that will go directly to benefit our students and staff this year. We are in the process of determining where and how to spend that money. Additionally, a huge thank you to PTA’s organizing restaurant nights at Wendy’s and Basic Kneads on February 12 to raise funds in support of our students going to Outdoor Lab.

continued...
Message from the Principal, continued...

- We are so lucky to have a very strong partnership with the Golden Police Department, as well as Jeffco Safety & Security. In the last month, we have met with Jeffco Safety & Security and GPD to further process the best ways to lead our students to safety in the event of an off-site evacuation. We have also had GPD support individual students needing services beyond our school’s abilities. Sometimes, however, people jump to inaccurate and often negative conclusions if they see an increased presence of police or security at Bell. In nearly every case, these partners are present at Bell in a proactive capacity to provide education and support to our students. If there ever is a genuine emergency, here is some helpful guidance for families that our safety & security department has put together. In the case of a true emergency, Jeffco will communicate with families as soon as they are able to provide accurate information.

- All the neighborhood schools in Golden are also so lucky to have partnerships with the Golden Civic Foundation, Golden Rotary, the Golden Schools Foundation, and Golden City leadership. Not only has Bell received financial support from these organizations, we are also the humble recipients of human support from these organizations to which one cannot put a dollar value. These organizations have provided mentors for our students; workshops for our parents; professional learning for our teachers; scholarships for our families in need… and the list goes on. Thank you just does not seem adequate to express our gratitude.

- In the last few weeks, my team has met with our Social Emotional Learning Specialist, Mr. Hahn, as well as other parents and members of our community to consider critically our students’ social development for the future. We are looking at different social curriculums & structures for next year, and we are looking at community partnerships to further this mission. Ultimately, our mission is to positively empower our students, school, and community and make the world a better place than we found it. We will continue to keep you updated on this as we make decisions for next year.

Bell Updates

- CMAS Testing is tentatively scheduled for the two weeks after Spring Break, mainly in the mornings. Furthermore, April 14 is a flex testing day for 7th & 8th graders to take the social studies (7th only) and science (8th only) CMAS tests. Therefore, there will be NO SCHOOL for 6th graders on this date. More information about the overall schedule will be forthcoming. In the meantime, please do your best to schedule appointments around the testing times and make sure your students are at school during this time, unless they are ill. CMAS plays a critical role for our school’s academic programming and status, so thank you in advance for your help.

continued...
Message from the Principal, continued...

- Upon further investigation, we have learned that the **anticipated enrollment for 6th grade in 2020-2021 is down from previous years**. This is across Jeffco and has been attributed to the “Recession Years”, and a decline in birth rates during those years (those kids are now in their upper-elementary grades). Therefore, we are expecting a smaller 6th grade class next year. This, coupled with a tightened budget (as mentioned in last month’s newsletter), is requiring us to look more critically at our budget, scheduling, and programming. While some adjustments may be necessary, I am confident that we will be able to continue maintaining our priorities around our iSTEM and Humanities pathways in 7th & 8th grades, our experiential learning in 6th grade (aka: the “wheel”), increasing the academic rigor for all students, and our social/emotional lessons.

- In a recent message I sent, I brought to your attention a concern about **some of our students demonstrating discriminatory actions toward others** who are different from them. I am happy to report that I am seeing a positive shift in how our students are talking to one another. The epiphany for many of us at Bell is simply that students are unaware and uneducated about the offensive nature of some of the things they are saying/doing, and we are combating this through education. One of the biggest discoveries we have made is that students think that it is OK to say offensive things, or act offensively, to their friends… because they are friends. In turn, because they are friends, the recipients of the offenses are afraid to say anything; they value their friendships more than they value themselves at this age. However, any acceptance or perpetration of this kind of treatment toward a fellow human, friend or not, will propagate a more deeply divided culture. Therefore, our efforts to educate students about these issues and about empathy will continue. At the risk of sounding “old”, I believe that much of the problem lies in kids, who lack developmental maturity (because of their age), using/abusing social media. As mentioned before, we encourage you to talk openly with your teens about this topic, as well as to monitor your teens’ social media. Together, as partners, we can make a long-lasting positive impact that goes beyond the walls of Bell MS and into our community at large.

While we are not perfect (who is?), I know I am very lucky to be part of this loving, hard-working community. Take a moment to reflect on the positive in your life and **pay it forward**.

Truly,

Michele DeAndrea Austin, M.A.
Principal
Bell Middle School
FROM THE COUNSELORS OFFICE

By now, Counselors have visited all Social Studies classrooms to help students input their elective choices for next year. If you feel your student has not participated in this, please have them contact their grade-level counselor.

ATTENTION 6th GRADE FAMILIES

Outdoor lab is right around the corner. Please see this Outdoor Lab Medication Information form to find out what is allowed at Outdoor Lab, what the procedure is for sending medications with your student, and what dates medications are due. Thank you!
New BOOKS!
Thanks to families who contributed to our school Book Fair in November, 140 new books are about to hit the shelves in Bell’s library. All new titles can be found on the shelf by the front door to the library.

February’s Tech Focus: Relationships and Communication

Students in Jeffco are learning about and discussing media balance this month and how our access to technology changes how we might view the world. Click here for the family letter about online friendships.

Device Care

Please speak to your students, especially those in 6th grade and those carrying devices, about caring for their Chromebooks and laptops. First of all, students are to bring devices to school with a charge each day or they will have to complete the classwork on paper or as homework. Also, we have MANY lost, stolen and broken Chromebooks this year so far, and all these issues can easily be avoided. Chromebooks are to be charged every night, and left in lockers during lunch. Students are NOT to carry Chromebooks by their screens. Students are not to engage in horseplay with devices that belong to them or to another student.
Damages incurred to district devices are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part</th>
<th>Touch Device</th>
<th>Non-Touch Device</th>
<th>Labor Charge</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lower case</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCD cover with antenna</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hinge Set</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper case with keyboard</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motherboard Replacement</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screen Replacement</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audio/Power sub-board</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCD Bezel</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battery Replacement</td>
<td>$45.00</td>
<td>$45.00</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6th Grade Purchased Devices Offered Lenovo Damage Protection through 8/2020:

Students with district Chromebooks who would like to purchase an accidental damage protection can do so by following this link: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-6LmDu3zDoD6AYTnDAoIW0W8Vp9VnEmLDuzxmsI2Efl/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-6LmDu3zDoD6AYTnDAoIW0W8Vp9VnEmLDuzxmsI2Efl/edit)
ATTENTION BELL 8th GRADERS

Your 8th Grade Class Panoramic Pictures will be taken on Wednesday, March 11th at 9:15 AM in the gym. Remember - this is the ONLY time pictures will be taken of your whole 8th grade class, so DON’T MISS OUT! You only have one chance to be a part of this special event, so do your best to be at school on March 11th!

Golden High School has rescheduled our Restorative Practices family engagement night that was originally scheduled last November. The event is now scheduled on Wednesday, March 4th, 5pm-8:30pm

Who can come: all and any families attending Golden area schools
What is it: an introduction to restorative practices in schools, breakout sessions addressing a variety of topics, and a screening of Healing Justice. Dinner will be provided- you must RSVP for the event.

Where: Golden High School, 701 24th St, Golden
Please visit this link for more information and to RSVP: Connecting With Your Teens: The Restorative Practices Approach.

Sponsor This School

Your Business Here!
contact
(970) 239-1641
info@tscaschools.com

Sponsorship space in this newsletter is extremely affordable! Reach parents in your local community & support schools!
Businesses that want to sponsor this school, please contact TSCA at info@tscaschools.com or 970-239-1641.
REGISTER FOR FALL CLASSES
MON - THURS 4:30 - 5:30 (AGES 6 - 12)
MON - FRI 5:30 - 6:30 AND 6:30 - 7:30 (AGES 13+)

Kickboxing, Jiu Jitsu, and Kali

TEN GU HOUSE
MARTIAL ARTS

INFO@TENGUHOUSE.COM
WWW.TENGUHOUSE.COM

Sponsor This School!
YOUR NAME HERE

Click HERE
Contact Us
Today!

Rob Mangelson
(720) 878-4107
Rob@tscaolorado.com

The School Communications Agency
Supporting Schools & Local Businesses