Message from the Principal...

Dear Bell Families-

We have so much gratitude to express to members of our community! First, I want to thank all of you who participated in our “Budget Priorities Survey” this month. We had 139 responses, which is statistically excellent! I am in the process of going through the data as I’m drafting Bell’s 2018-2019 budget, and it is so helpful to have the parents’ voice in this process. I will be going over the results at the next BAT meeting on Jan. 30 at 4:00. We will also be updating information on staffing and other plans for next year (construction, etc.).

Second, I want to thank all of the families and students who participated in our December Giving Tree program. We had so many students have a brighter holiday than they might have otherwise had because of the generosity of our Bell students and their families. Once again, I find myself so grateful to be a part of this amazing community.

Mornings at Bell

- Breakfast is available every morning for anyone who wants it. The cost is $2.10 unless your student is on free or reduced lunch. Please know that breakfast does not begin until 6:50am. Students will not be allowed inside until that time. Students going to breakfast also must enter through the back door near the cafeteria. Additionally, students must be in the cafeteria by 7:15am to get served. The only exceptions will be if busses are running late. All of our busses are at Bell by 7:10 unless there is inclement weather. Therefore, bus riders should not have any problems getting to breakfast by 7:15. Students will NOT be given passes to excuse a tardy to 1st hour if they are running late from breakfast.

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Message from the Principal, continued...

- **The mornings are always cold this time of year.** If the temperature is below 20 degrees, we will open our doors at 7:00am for students to wait inside. However, if the temperature is above 20 degrees, students will wait outside until the normal entry time of 7:15am. Please make sure your children are prepared for cold weather. We will also follow the same temperature guidelines to determine if it’s an inside or an outside day for recess. These guidelines are consistent with other schools in the area. If you are in need of winter clothing, please contact the office. We absolutely want to ensure that our students have what they need to stay warm throughout the winter months.

- **The parking lot** is always an adventure no matter what school you’re child attends (trust me, I speak from lots of experience as a District-level administrator, principal, and parent). We are working on some plans to improve upon the parking lot process, which may include some improvements over the summer through our District funded construction project. Regardless of future improvements or not, please remember to pack your patience. I saw a car going way too fast in the pass through lane the other day, and I consistently see people on their cell phones. Please eliminate distractions (phones included) and slow down when you’re dropping-off or picking-up students. Nobody’s life is worth that phone call or that meeting you might be running late for. Thanks!

Upcoming Events & Save the Dates

- **School Start Time Changes?** The district is beginning a conversation about possibly changing school start times across the whole system. If you are interested in being part of that conversation, there will be a meeting at 5:30pm on February 12 at the District Education Center in the Board Room.

- **Screenagers** - Bell will be hosting a screening of the documentary Screenagers on March 19 at 6:00pm. This is a very powerful documentary about the effects “screen time” is having on our teenagers. To learn more, please go to [https://www.screenagersmovie.com/](https://www.screenagersmovie.com/)

- **Conferences** – Conferences for the second semester will be on February 15 from 12:00-8:00. There is no regular school for students on that day. Students will join their parents at conferences for the student-led portion of the conference. Parents will also have the opportunity to talk briefly with teachers during that time. For more information about your student’s conferences, please contact his/her the English, social studies, or science teacher, if you have not already heard from someone.

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Message from the Principal, continued...

- **Choice enrollment forms** – The District-wide deadline for choice enrollment forms is **January 31**. If you live outside of the Golden articulation area and are interested in enrolling your 8th grader at Golden High School or a younger sibling who is not already attending Bell MS into Bell, **you must fill-out a choice enrollment form and go through the choice process**. Once you begin attending your school of choice anywhere in the District, you do not have to reapply for that same school. [Please click here](#) for the choice enrollment form and more information about choice enrollment.

- **The next BAT Meeting** is on **January 30 at 4:00** in the Bell library. Everyone is invited to attend!

- **The next PTA Meeting** is on **February 6 at 5:00** in the Bell library. Everyone is invited to attend!

- **PARCC/CMAS testing** will begin **the week of March 19**, which is also the week before Spring Break. This is not ideal, but we don’t have any control over this, as the window is determined by the State. We will publish the testing schedule as soon as it is finalized; however, for now, **it would be a huge help if families avoided making Spring Break travel plans that would require students to be absent from school before or after the Break**. On a related note, once the schedule is published, we ask that parents please plan any foreseeable appointments or otherwise around testing times, as it is crucial that your students are at school on these days. We also definitely understand that students do miss school for unavoidable and unexpected reasons, and we do have a limited amount of time available to do make-up tests in those cases. Thank you for your help with this!

Thank you for all of your support and input as we continue to work toward meeting all of our goals and maintain a tradition of excellence at Bell! Have a great weekend!

Truly,
Michele DeAndrea-Austin
Principal
Bell Middle School
Computer Applications and Science Projects

We started the year off with studying, discussing, observing, and practicing proper keyboarding form. Keyboarding is the most important physical skill we teach in computer classes. Students will be typing for many years and proper form, accuracy, and speed is important to their success. Students type ten minutes to start class each day using the program Typing.com. **Anyone can use this free program anywhere and anytime.** Students need to reach at least 40 words per minute (WPM) to get their picture on the classroom WPM Hall of fame!

Students are now starting to create their class introductions using the GoAnimate application. GoAnimate is a cloud-based platform for making animated business videos. It allows users to develop both narrative videos, in which characters speak with lip-sync and move around, and video presentations, in which a voice-over narrator speaks over images and props, which may also move around.

Computer Science will be soon working on 8-bit Pixel “works of art” and creating sprites (characters) for video games the will create in the future. Computer Applications will create Paint animations and are learn about the stock market. They also will choose their favorite Country of the World and complete PowerPoints during February showing the history, make travel arrangements, and schedule activities among many other things.

*Remember….Every application we use in class is available for free from any internet connection!*
Assessment News

State assessments are right around the corner. Please refer to the below information regarding this years’ testing schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>CMAS Content Area</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6,7,8</td>
<td>Math &amp; English/Language Arts</td>
<td>March 19, 20, 21 Students will take two tests per day and complete the testing cycle in three days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Week of April 9th (exact dates to be determined)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Please make sure that students are at school all day during testing dates. If students are absent or miss tests due to an appointment or vacation plans, they will need to be pulled from core classes after Spring Break for test make-up.

- If students have ear buds, please have them bring them to school on testing dates (portions of the test have listening components).

- If you have any questions regarding state assessments, please contact:
  Allison Johnson
  Instructional Coach
  Bell Middle School
  alajohns@jeffco.k12.co.us
Girls in STEM

The Girls in STEM club is competing in the Golden Library’s Girls in STEM Competition! Students are encouraged to make the world a better place or solve an everyday problem with an original design or concept: an engineering or a science project. Creations can be related to energy and environment, health and nutrition, biomedical or any topic that is of interest to you! Participants may work individually or in groups of four or less.

DECTech Students, Colorado School of Mines outreach program designed for girls, will serve as judges for the competition on February 4, 2018 at a before hours open house at the Golden Library. Winners will be honored at the International Women's Day Luncheon on March 8, 2018. All contestants will receive a certificate of participation.

Save the Date: On April 6th, Girls in STEM will be hosting it’s very first overnight HACKATHON!!! More details are to follow!

Upcoming events:
January 25th, February 1st: Girls in STEM club meeting to work on projects.
February 4th: Girls in STEM competition at Golden Public Library
Break in meetings in February and March

7th Grade iSTEM Family Meetings

The 7th grade iSTEM students have a new structure to their Bobcat Time. Twice a month, during Monday Bobcat Time, Team IncREDible, (otherwise known as 7th Grade iSTEM Team Red) meets in the gym for some celebrations and team building. We had our first few family meetings before winter break to get the kids familiar with the structure and are hitting the ground running with our first few family meetings of 2018.

One of the things we do during our family meeting time is celebrate our Core Value award recipients for the previous two weeks. These awards are based on our five iSTEM Core Values: collaboration, critical thinking, respect, responsibility, and self-awareness. We look for a few students each two weeks who show strength or growth with these Core Values. Students can also nominate their peers for a Core Values award. Students and teachers also have time during the family meeting to celebrate the good works of one another in more informal way. These celebrations are shout-outs for a job well-done, a kind word or action, or a congratulation. Family meetings are also a time for team announcements and reminders.

We are excited for the semester of family meetings as it will give the whole team an opportunity to celebrate our hard work and successes. Go Team IncREDible!!!
Team IncREDible Meeting
ESL Corner

ACCESS for ELLs 2.0

January is a busy month for the ESL Department across Jefferson County. ESL students K through 12 take the annual language proficiency test. ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 is a secure large-scale English language proficiency assessment administered to Kindergarten through 12th grade students who have been identified as English language learners (ELLs). It is given annually in WIDA Consortium member states to monitor students' progress in acquiring academic English. ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 is aligned with the WIDA English Language Development Standards and assesses each of the four language domains of Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing. The assessment is available in both paper-based and online formats for Grades 1-12, while Kindergarten and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs are paper-based tests. At Bell M.S. 23 students will take this assessment.

Purpose and Use of ACCESS for ELLs 2.0

- Helps students and families understand students’ current level of English language proficiency along the developmental continuum.
- Serves as one of multiple measures used to determine whether students are prepared to exit English language support programs.
- Generates information that assists in determining whether ELLs have attained the language proficiency needed to participate meaningfully in content area classrooms without program support.
- Provides teachers with information they can subsequently use to enhance instruction and learning in programs for their English language learners.
- Provides districts with information that will help them evaluate the effectiveness of their ESL/bilingual programs.
- Meets, and exceeds, federal requirements for the monitoring and reporting of ELLs’ progress toward English language proficiency.

Features

The tasks on the new summative assessment will continue to assess the language students need to process or produce in various school contexts. Each assessment item and task will target at least one of the five WIDA ELD Standards: Social and Instructional Language, Language of Language Arts, Language of Mathematics, Language of Science, Language of Social Studies.

(Additional information about ACCESS you can find on www.wida.us or from Elena Crim, the ESL Teacher at Bell.)
Counseling Department

Course Registration for 2018-19:

Current 6th and 7th Graders:
Elective course forms will be sent home with students January 30th to be signed by parent/guardian and returned to Social Studies classroom teachers by February 12th. Counselors will visit Social Studies classrooms on February 13th to help students enter their 2018-19 elective course selections electronically.

Current 8th graders:
Golden High School will visit Bell the week of January 22nd where GHS counselors will hand out course forms in Social Studies classrooms for students to bring home. Students are asked to return completed course forms to their Social Studies teachers by February 2nd. GHS counselors will return to Social Studies classrooms February 7th and 8th to help students enter their 2018-19 course selections electronically.

ALPs progress monitoring Survey #2:
Students with Advanced Learning Plans (ALPs) will be asked to complete their ALP #2 Survey in February from home. In this survey students are asked to reflect on their progress in attaining their ALP goal for the school year. Specific communication to families with students on ALPs was sent out this month (January).

Linda Jelinek
Bell Middle School
Counselor
303-982-8116

Screenagers

Bell Middle this year went to a no cell phone policy during the school day in order to keep our students focused on school work, and to diminish the disruptions that cell phones can cause at school. Our PTA has supported our efforts in finding ways to educate our community about the need to limit screen time, and we are thrilled to partner with our PTA to provide this amazing opportunity to our community!

Bell Middle School is thrilled to present SCREENAGERS: Growing Up in the Digital Age, a documentary about the biggest parenting issue of our time.

Are you watching kids scroll through life, with their rapid-fire thumbs and a six-second attention span? Well, it's not unique to just Bell Students! Physician and filmmaker Delaney Ruston saw that happening with her own kids and began a quest to uncover how it might impact their development. As with her other two award-winning documentaries on mental health, Ruston takes a deeply personal approach as she probes into the vulnerable corners of family life, including her own, to explore struggles over social media, video games, academics and internet addiction. Through poignant, and unexpectedly funny stories, along with surprising insights from authors, psychologists, and brain scientists, SCREENAGERS reveals how tech time impacts kids’ development and also offers solutions on how adults can empower their kids to best navigate the digital world to find balance.

SCREENAGERS addresses the most pervasive parenting issue of our time head on—depicting teen struggles over social media, video games and internet addiction. The film empowers kids to best navigate the digital world and provides practical resources to help them do it.

Watch the trailer here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LQx2X0BXgZg

Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased at this link: https://impactflow.com/event/presented-by-bell-middle-school-pta-6951

Thank you PTA for helping us learn and grow and support our kids!
Jeffco All County Honor Band and Orchestra
January 20th at West Bowles Community Church.
From the Visual Arts Department

**Art Club** will start on January 30th. Please see Miss Rettberg in the art room for a permission slip. Art club starts on January 30th and is limited to 20 participants.

**Class supplies** - Students should bring a pencil, Sharpie (thin and thick), and a glue stick to class each day.

**Amazing Zentangles from Intro. Class**

![Zentangle Examples]

*continued...*
**Visual Art 1** students are learning about value and using artists pencil to work on their shading. They also did these drawing puzzles!

**Visual Art 2** students have been working on Zentangle Aquariums, they’re exquisite!