Message from the Principal...

Dear Bell Families-

I hope you had a wonderful, restful Winter Break as you welcomed in 2019 in! There is much coming-up and many points of pride to elevate for you this month.

Celebrations:

- **8th grade Orchestra** – On Friday, I had the honor and privilege of introducing Mrs. Casanova, our orchestra teacher, and the 8th grade orchestra as they performed at the Colorado Music Educators Association annual conference in Colorado Springs. Our 8th graders orchestra was one of only two middle school ensembles selected out of 132 other applicants. It is a huge honor. I heard them play at a dress rehearsal on Wednesday night, and it is a much deserved honor! Congratulations to Mrs. Casanova and the 8th grade orchestra students.

- **Robotics Students** – For the first time, we sent students to the Cyber Robotics Coding Competition, and two teams made it to the national competition in Virginia! One team walked away with a 5th place finish out of 32 teams. Our other team earned a 23rd place finish out of approximately 40 teams. I’m so proud of our students, not only for how far they got in the competition (just to make it to nationals on their first time is impressive), but also for their willingness to take the risk and try it out. Thank you to Ms. Klauser-Zimmerman and all the students and parents who made this adventure a big success and for being great ambassadors for Bell!

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

Up & Coming

- **ENROLL JEFFCO is OPEN NOW UNTIL FEB. 8** - By now, you’ve heard it many different times, in many different ways. Jeffco is going completely ONLINE for enrollment for 2019-2020.
  - All students must be registered through Enroll Jeffco, regardless if they are staying at their current school or changing schools.
  - This is also the same place to go if you intend to apply for choice enrollment next year. If you have already choiced in to Bell, you do not need to submit another application to stay at Bell.
  - Go to [http://www.enrolljeffco.org/](http://www.enrolljeffco.org/) to start the process.
  - As a parent, I can tell you that if you’re re-enrolling in your current school AND all your information is correct in Jeffco Connect, then it takes about 2 minutes..

- **Outdoor Lab** – Our 6th graders are about to embark on the rite of passage in Jeffco known as Outdoor Lab. We have three groups going over two weeks, starting next week. Have fun, campers, and soak it in. Outdoor Lab holds a lot of promise to be one of the most memorable experiences of your K-12 school career!

- **BAT & PTA – Feb. 5** – Please join us at the Bell Accountability Team and/or the PTA meeting on Feb. 5. We begin with BAT at 4:00, followed by PTA at 5:00. The BAT meeting will include updates about our progress toward our vision, joining New Tech Network, the 2019-2020 Budget, staffing, and some updates from the District level. PTA will go over grants that the Magazine Sales funded, as well as other PTA business items. We meet in the library, and all are welcome.

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

Finally, some of you may have heard your kids talk about the Community or Proactive Circles that they’ve engaged in at school since starting the new semester. At the beginning of January, our teachers participated in a training at Bell around building a respectful and responsible community, and it begins with a Proactive Circle. Some teachers have been doing these, but it is now a school wide expectation for all classes. Each day for the month of January, your student has been involved in a circle during one of their classes. The goal is that students are engaging in 1-2 circles per day. It’s a brief exercise, and it’s a way for all our students to get their voices in the room, learn about one another, and for the teachers to learn about their students. The topics are simple and intended to be fun (what’s your favorite kind of food, for example). Ultimately, this helps students learn empathy and have a connection with their classroom community. After January, we will adjust the schedule for when the Circles are happening, if needed.

In theory and in practice, if Proactive Circles are a part of the culture in a classroom, then should there ever be a need to process something more serious as a class (a questionable substitute report, for example), then there is a platform for doing so in a familiar and respectful way. We are very excited about this work and the implications it will have on our school culture, as a whole, as well as the social & emotional learning in which our students are engaging.

Enjoy your weekend and have a great February!

Sincerely,

Michele DeAndrea Austin, M.A.
Principal
Bell MS
From the Counseling Office

It is crazy to say, but it is time to think about choosing classes for the 19-20 school year. Bell Counselors will be meeting with 6th and 7th grade students in February to start the elective course selection process. Golden High School Counselors will be coming to Bell to work with 8th graders to get them registered. Here is a message from the Golden High counselor:

Hey, future Golden High School Demons and families,

I'm Rob Gill and I will be your counselor when you come to GHS next fall! It seems like a long way off, but it'll be here before you know it.

Mr. Josh Shellard (Assistant Principal) and I will be coming to Bell twice in the next few weeks.

January 29th - We will be coming to your Social Studies classes to pass out materials to help you figure out what classes you would like to take next year. We will also have a couple of GHS Seniors along to give you advice and answer questions. You should have a good conversation with your parents and have their signature on your registration forms.

February 5th - We will be coming back to have you sit down at a chromebook/tablet/computer to actually register for your courses. That's when you can call yourself a real Demon!!!

If you have questions, contact me at 303-982-4142 or rgill@jeffcoschools.us
From the PTA

Just a reminder that the next Accountability meeting and PTA meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 5th at 4pm and 5pm. Please feel free to join us!

Buy your YEARBOOK now and save those middle school memories! Yearbooks are $25 and available to buy online on JeffcoConnect or bring money into the Bell office.

We Need Your Pictures!

We would love to have your help with yearbook photos. Yearbook is always looking for photos from any and all of Bell’s awesome events. If you have pictures of after school sports, the talent show, bike club, or any of the great things going on at Bell, please send them our way! Just attach your photo to this google doc and submit. Thank you for do!

Jeffco Public Schools Food & Nutrition Services is Currently Hiring!

Apply Online:
• Visit www.JeffcoK12Jobs.org
• Select “External Applicants”
• Search Keyword: “Food”

Why Work With Us? • No nights, weekends or holidays • Benefits available • Management opportunities available • Fun, fast-paced environment • Elementary, middle and high school openings • Support Jeffco students with healthy meals!

Questions? Contact Dianna Garcia
303-982-6747 dianna.garcia@jeffco.k12.co.us
Student Drop-off and Pick-up Procedures

- Our students’ and staff’s safety is of the utmost importance at Bell. For this reason, it is imperative that parents and other friends or family members who are dropping-off or picking-up students are following the parking lot expectations. Following the expectations also leads to a more efficient process, which helps get everyone through the line more efficiently and quickly. There are four simple, but vital expectations:
  1. Please do NOT stop in the painted crosswalks to drop your student off.
  2. Please form ONLY TWO LANES. The right lane (adjacent to the sidewalk) is used for stopping and dropping students off; the left lane is as a drive-through.
  3. Please PULL all the way FORWARD until you are directly behind another car along the drop-off sidewalk. This may mean you’re dropping your student off on the west side of the parking lot.
  4. Please DO NOT park on the left (outside) lane to drop-students off. This is dangerous and inefficient. This should be a non-stop lane in order to allow cars to drive-through the lot once their students’ have been dropped-off.

Thank you!
From the District Nurse

We send information out to parents twice a year in regards to lice. There is no lice outbreak going on at Bell at this time. This is simply FYI: Head lice infestation is not a dangerous condition, but it causes high anxiety among parents, children and in schools. School aged children are at greatest risk to contract head lice. Managing head lice in schools is very important because it is in the school setting that head lice is most likely to be transferred. To effectively manage head lice in schools, it is important that the school and parents work together as a team where each take responsibility for certain tasks. Please read this to find out more information on this subject. Head Lice FAQ
On Friday, January 25th, Bell Middle School students performed at the Colorado Music Educators Association annual conference at the Broadmoor in Colorado Springs. They were one of only two middle school orchestras and three high school orchestras chosen from 132 orchestras that auditioned in Colorado. It’s a huge honor, and we couldn’t be more proud of Ms. Casanova and her fantastic students. Congratulations to the following Bobcats:

**Chamber Orchestra**

**Vivaldi Violin**
Natalie Phillips: Concertmaster *
Sam Ryan 
Desiray Glasmann 
Maddie Bromfield 
Owen Wiser 
Nola Stewart 
Laisha Colin 
Isabelle Rutar 
Pavel Zdon

**Mozart Violin**
Annika Waples: Concertmaster *
Izzi Kimble 
Ani Napuli 
Teegan Meyers 
Tanner Vodicka 
Penelope Jones 
Calvin Mathews

**Viola**
Sophie Anderson *
Miranda Dove 
Chase Reed 
Alicia Crespin 
Briana Wells

**Cello**
Caroline Stoltenberg *
Nadija Rutar 
Jady Sharp 
Sophia Wosk 
Josiah Branham 
Sophie Justus

**Bass**
Isabel Anderson *
Vaughn Tingley

*Section Leader
^Denotes Jefferson County All County Orchestra
Milk Caps for Moola

This year we will again be collecting bottle lids from products that come from the Longmont Dairy! Over the past five years we have been able to collect over 32,000 bottle lids (and save them from the landfills!) and in turn raise over $1600 for Bell Middle School! Longmont Dairy recycles the lids (a win for them!) and pays us 5-cents for every lid we turn in to them (a win for us!). So, please save and bring in any Longmont Dairy lids (includes milk, lemonade, creamer, half-and-half, tea, and/or eggnog lids that you have throughout the year). The recycle box is located in the front office of the school.

For questions please contact Gwen Stroup at gwenstroup@yahoo.com. Thanks for your support!

Outdoor Lab

Do you have a 6th grader who is headed to Outdoor Lab? Have you been using the King Soopers card to earn money towards their tuition? If you have and keep using the card the funds you earn go towards the Outdoor Lab Foundation. You can keep doing this or you can get a new card that donates the profits to Bell for students needing scholarships and other Outdoor Lab needs.

Amazon Smile

While you are doing your shopping this holiday season if you use Amazon don’t forget to shop through Amazon Smile. Same prices but when you buy part of your money goes towards the charity of your choice. By the way did you know that Bell PTA is one of the charities you can choose?