Dear Bell Families-

Well, we made it through first semester with lots to celebrate!

Celebrations -

- After earning 2nd place in 2017, I am so proud to announce that Bell MS WON the Reunion Energy Conservation Competition in 2018! It was a tight competition, but we made that final push and won! This only could have happened through a huge team effort, led by Ms. Mandi Leigh and her 8th grade science students. A huge thank you also goes to Mr. Castro, our facilities manager; our entire custodial staff; and all of our staff members who made changes to our facility to reduce significantly our energy consumption! The awards this year are not monetary, but rather we get bragging rights! This is a huge accomplishment, so congratulations to our whole community!

- Congratulations to the Bell Middle School Robotics students who earned a 5th place out of 32 teams at the Cyper Robotics Coding Competition (CRCC). With that, they qualified for the national competition in Virginia in January. Thank you to Ms. Jessica Klauzer Zimmerman, who took a risk and entered this competition despite this being her first year sponsoring the club and teaching the class! Not bad for the first time! Also, a huge thank you to the parents who are supporting this program and their journey to Virginia. Good luck Bobcats!

- Congratulations to Ms. Casanova and our orchestra students who were selected to perform at the Colorado Music Educators’ Association conference next month. They were one of two middle school ensembles selected out of 133 submissions. Wow

continued...
Wondering what to do with your kids over break?

Teenagers get bored easily, and their immediate default is something involving a screen or device. Here are a few ideas to shift the tide to get their brains exercising in different ways!

- Food always speaks to teenagers:
  - Have them create a dinner out of what you have in the house
  - Try some food they’ve never tried before
  - Bake for a local nursing home
- Write a song
- Do a puzzle together
- Go to the library
- Read (books, magazines, comics…)
- Walk the dog
- Take a hike (weather permitting)
- Play board or card games
- Research summer jobs for teenagers
- Have a Rubics Cube competition with friends
- Get a book of Sudoku and do that
- Mad Libs
  - Have them create a list of the following and talk about it:
  - Their favorite movies
  - Their favorite books
  - Charities they think are important
  - Questions they would like to ask someone famous (dead or alive and who would it be)

Most importantly, keep them active. It’s difficult at the holidays, especially if the weather is cold. However, it’s important that students’ brains keep active during breaks.

Finally, please remember that Jeffco is going to an entirely online enrollment system called Enroll Jeffco. We have posted everything you need to know on the Bell Website. Please take some time to make sure you’re updated on what you need to do. The enrollment window for ALL students and schools is Jan. 22- Feb. 8, 2019.

I want to wish all of our students, families, and community happy holidays! Please have a safe and restful Winter Break. See you back in 2019.

Truly,

Michele DeAndrea Austin, M.A.
Principal
Bell Middle School
Grades & Schedules

Semester 1 grades will be posted by 3pm on Jan. 8th, 2019. Term Final grades are averaged 50% from Q1 & 50% from Q2. Term Final is your final grade for the whole semester.

SCHEDULES for second semester will be released on Tuesday, January 8th. Check your Infinite Campus on the 8th to see your schedule for the upcoming semester that starts after winter break. Please print your schedule and have it with you when you return to school on Wednesday, January 9th, 2019.
From the Counselors

Tis the season for self-help! There are a ton of free Mental Health Apps out there and we wanted to share some of our favorites:

"Mind Shift is one of the best mental health apps designed specifically for teens and young adults with anxiety. Rather than trying to avoid anxious feelings, Mind Shift stresses the importance of changing how you think about anxiety. Think of this app as the cheerleader in your pocket, encouraging you to take charge of your life, ride out intense emotions, and face challenging situations."

"SAM might be perfect for you if you’re interested in self-help, but meditation isn’t your thing. Users are prompted to build their own 24-hour anxiety toolkit that allows you to track anxious thoughts and behavior over time, and learn 25 different self-help techniques. You can also use SAM’s “Social Cloud” feature to confidentially connect with other users in an online community for additional support."
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!
Giving Tree

Thank you so much to all of our community angels who donated items for our Giving Tree. Thanks to your generosity, we collected items for more than 100 Bell students. None of it would have been possible without those of you who chose to share your time and money to help those less fortunate. We are so grateful to be a part of such a caring community!
New Enrollment Process for all Jeffco Students!

Jeffco is implementing a new enrollment procedure. **ALL STUDENTS** will be using EnrollJeffco, whether they are re-enrolling at the same school, changing schools, or just starting in Jeffco.

**Enrollment window for the 2019-20 School year is January 22 – Feb 8, 2019**

Please see the attached flyer for important information on how to enroll your student(s) for the upcoming school year. [EnrollJeffco flyer](#)
The *Golden Gallop and Golden Schools Foundation* need your HELP!!!

**Golden Gallop Open Positions:**
Shadow in 2019 - Take over 2020
- Volunteer Director
- Kids Fun Run Director
- Hospitality Director

**Golden Schools Foundation Open Position**
Social Media/Website Coordinator
- Immediate need
- Job can be broken apart depending on skillset

**Welchester Elementary School Representative**
- Immediate need

Contact Kim Brock at Chair@GoldenSchoolsFoundation.org for details.

Please consider volunteering to help your 7 local Golden Schools – *our students and teachers are worth your time!*
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?