

La Center Elementary Bobcat News

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Upcoming Events

- ◆ Jan. 21 No School MLK Day
- ◆ Jan. 24 Parent Project Week 1
- ◆ Jan. 25 No School (Teacher Work Day)
- ◆ Feb. 7 Report Cards
- ◆ Feb. 7 PTO Meeting
- ◆ Feb. 15 No School (Snow make-up day)
- ◆ Feb. No School Presidents Day

Hello Bobcat Families,

Welcome to 2019!

We here at La Center Elementary would like to extend happy New Year wishes to all of our Bobcat community. Our theme for the month of January is *compassion* (putting kindness into action). We have a very compassionate student body here in our school community as students are continuing to lead and serve others through leadership groups. Students work voluntarily in small groups to help support others in many ways such as: Crossing guard duty in the morning and afternoon to keep kids safe, greeting students as they arrive, helping with recycling through the "Save Our Scraps" program, and helping others as Bobcat Ambassadors. It has been exciting to see students get involved in opportunities to show compassion to others and find new ways to show our kindness.

A fourth grade student braves the morning chill to show compassion in helping her fellow students safely cross the parking lot.



Who is That?

You may have noticed an additional administrative personality here at our school from time to time. Many of you may know me as Greg Hall, a 5th grade teacher here at La Center for the past several years. However, this year I am fortunate to complete my Administrative Certificate by working as a principal intern in our district. The primary goal of my intern experience is to get a feel for as many different principal situations and responsibilities as possible. Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Nolan have both been extremely good role models for me to learn from as I have substituted for them both. Additionally, I have appreciated the full support from staff and parents.

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Each day I continue to see the many reasons why La Center is a great place to be. Among other new experiences, I have appreciated observing our skilled teachers in the classroom and getting to know many students at varying grade levels as an acting principal. Whether it be playing basketball at recess with some 2nd graders, flying a drone with some well deserving 5th graders, or having conversations with students at lunch, this aspect of a principal's daily duties has been most rewarding. I look forward to meeting more parents and students as we move forward this year. Thank you all for positively supporting our students' school experience.

Coming Soon to a Classroom Near You... If you have ever participated or heard of an "Escape Room" where small groups of people try to solve puzzles and riddles as a means to "escape" from a themed room, then you have a good idea of the latest learning activity here at La Center Elementary.

In an effort to support our school mission of: *"Empowering students to become life-long learners in an ever changing world,"* our head Librarian, Lynn Cooke, has discovered "Breakout Boxes," and implemented the tremendous resource to our teachers to empower students with problem solving skills, perseverance, and working with others to achieve a common goal. Mrs. Locke's 4th graders and Mrs. Denney's 5th grade students were among other groups who utilized the "Breakout Box" lessons. Each box may contain up to six different types of locks which can only be opened once students work together to identify the correct sequences of symbols, numbers, or patterns. Pressure is added by posting a timer that counts down creating the feel of urgency and efficiency for our young problem solvers. It is exciting to see how motivated students are to problem solve together, learn, and unlock the box before the time runs out!

Teachers appreciate how they can apply almost any learning target to the Breakout Box activities, and the high energy level of students to work together, persevere, and problem solve. Students enjoy the unique learning experience and excitement it provides.

Mr. Nolan's Notes

Character Education Message

As we get in gear for New Year, I encourage "old school" talks with your children. Asking open-ended questions about the school day can help students share their perspective and help parents make connections. So instead of "How was your day?" (The answer is usually a one syllable response...), consider asking "What did you do in: science, reading, etc.?" (If there's a class or grade-level newsletter/website, that's your "cheat sheet" for conversation starters!)

Compassion is our character trait this month. With that in mind, you can also ask how your child included others. Is there someone shy they connected with during class? Is there a new student they played with at recess? Compassion means being friendly, accepting and encouraging of others!

"Intelligence plus character-that is the goal of true education." ~ Martin Luther King Jr.

Art Corner



Hello Bobcats! We have been making music here in the art department. I know that sounds crazy, but the 4th and 5th graders have been focusing on creating musical instruments for the past few weeks. The 5th graders used lines and shapes to design guitars and 4th graders focused on brass instruments for their project. First, the 5th graders designed their shape of their guitars and then they filled those guitars with various lines and shapes. Since it was getting close to the holidays, some students chose to do a Christmas themed guitar. They really turned out fantastic. The 4th graders chose a brass instrument to draw and we talked a lot about how to use our whole paper when drawing, not just a small portion of the paper. They then used gold paint to paint the instrument. Finally, students will use warm and cool chalk colors to create the background for their instrument. Both projects turned out great and I can't wait for you to see them. They will be on display in the cafeteria and primary grades hallway for the next two weeks. Check them out!

Mrs. Lewis

Counselor's Corner

January is our month to learn and practice Compassion: Putting kindness into action! According to the author of *UnSelfie: Why Empathetic Kids Succeed in Our All-About-Me World*, "Kindness can be strengthened like a muscle, but regular workouts are crucial for it to become habitual." And, "Science shows surprising benefits to being nice, including boosting health, reducing anxiety, enhancing self-esteem, increasing gratitude, and even elevating happiness."

From January 28 - February 1, our elementary school will be participating in the annual Great Kindness Challenge. Each student will be given a checklist of ways to put kindness into action. We encourage families to participate, too! You can help instill the valuable message to choose kindness by asking questions like:

"How did you feel when you ...?" or "How do you think they felt when you...?"

Or you could say something like:

"Did you see their smile when you...." or "That made me feel happy when you..."

If you would like to learn more about the Great Kindness Challenge (GKC), please visit: thegreatkindnesschallenge.com. They offer a GKC Family Edition that can be downloaded as an app or to print. A link is also provided on our Counselor website:

<https://sites.google.com/lacenterschools.org/lcesschoolscounseling/home>

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