Parents and Families,

I hope everyone enjoyed the break over the district basketball tournaments. Good luck to our Colts who will be traveling to the divisional tournament in Billings March 3-5.

We have been so blessed with warm weather this month it would almost seem like winter is over; however, we all know that in Montana the weather can change in an instant. Please continue to have your children dress in appropriate attire. We have several students who have been coming to school in shorts and flip-flops. While this is allowed, we would encourage you to pack warm clothes and shoes as a backup if the weather should change suddenly. Your child’s safety is always a primary concern.

This time of year seems to get even busier than the fall. Please remember to let us know before 2:00 if you have a bus change for your student. The office is busier than usual this time of year and we want to make sure your children are safe and accounted for!

The Science Fair will be April 6th and we have registrations in the office. Once students have brought back their registrations we will give them a packet.

“I love to read” month continues in March. This will be a tournament of Dr. Seuss books just like the NCAA tournament for March Madness. Student Council has added the calendar to the newsletter along with sending it home with your child! Here are some great tips on why reading is so important for children and adults! [http://www.best-books-for-kids.com/benefits-of-reading.html](http://www.best-books-for-kids.com/benefits-of-reading.html).

We invite you to come up to the main foyer of the building and look through our lost and found. We seem to accumulate more things with each passing day...coats, snow pants, boots, mittens, hats, shirts, pants etc. If you think your child is missing an item of clothing please take time to stop by our lost and found.

*Shay Grinsell*
Last month, the 5th graders were all treated to a special guest as former Colstrip student Justin Olmstead came in to speak about his experiences of touring and writing music for his band Righteous Vendetta. His message to the class was to explore many options and opportunities and find what works well for you, whether that be something musical, sports, or whatever it is that you are passionate about. Then, go for it and keep working hard at it. Justin shared that he didn’t start playing guitar until 8th grade and fell in love with it, but started out just like the students. He asked how many were in the Friends of the Library Talent Show and said he started there with a group of buddies in town forming a band. He also stressed that although he is fortunate now to have a career in music, it was also important to continue with school and get his college degree and that if he hadn’t done that, he never would’ve been able to form his band.

Justin is one of two guitarists for the band, the other also being a Colstrip native Carl Heiman. It took many years and lots of dedication and practice but through all that hard work he and his band Righteous Vendetta have had a hit in the billboard top 40 for heavy metal, produced numerous CDs and music videos and now play at many of the larger musical festivals throughout the world. He added that by pursuing his dream he has been able to see much of the USA and even met his fiancé while on tour!

Justin has been busy writing new music for the band and even explained that process to the class as well as playing several of his songs on his acoustic guitar, and sharing a bit of their newest music video. The entire 5th grade was captivated by his exceptional guitar skills. What a great message and role model for our students!
Noteworthy News for March

The 4th grade classes are gearing up for a wonderful program entitled Recorder Karate. Through this program students are challenged to earn colorful belts for their recorders as they complete progressively harder songs. Some parts of the program are completed as whole class instruction, while the other is a self-paced program. There is also an outstanding website which allows students to practice with accompaniment. It can be found by going to www.musick8.com, then clicking on the Recorder Karate link. Once on the Recorder Karate site, you will need to enter a user name and password. All 4th grade students were given this information in class. If you need help please feel free to contact me. By using this site, students are able to practice with background music at various tempos.

The 5th grade students are ready to begin learning how to play guitar. They will soon be on their way to mastering the notes that can be played on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd strings. It is a very difficult instrument to learn and we are very fortunate to have enough guitars for all the kids to have exposure to another musical instrument. They will be working on a variety of folk songs to perform at a later date.

The primary grades have been working on rhythm patterns. Ask them to teach you what the musical terms presto, moderato, largo, piano and forte mean. Many musical terms stem from Italian! Once again clips of many of the songs we sing to learn our musical terms may be found in the form of fun videos on www.musick8.com. We have also begun to sing some of the songs they will be performing later this spring for their “in-house” musicals as well as many seasonally appropriate songs!

March is an exciting time in the music room as it is designated Music in Our Schools Month (MIOSM) by the National Association for Music Education. MIOSM began in 1973 and has grown from a single statewide celebration to a month long celebration around the world. Here are a few easy suggestions to celebrate music at home.

- Listen to music with your child.
- Share and perhaps even sing some of your favorite songs with them.
- Watch a concert on television or if you are able to, attend one in person!
- Encourage your child to be involved in music, through school/church or private lessons.
- Attend your child’s music programs.
- Check out some of the many free musical activities available on the internet or through various apps for your tablet or Ipad.

Next month we will be continuing our celebration of Music in our Schools by inviting you to join your child during music class for their spring program. All classes will be performing their spring program twice throughout the week during their regularly scheduled music class. You are invited to come to school and watch during this time or join in watching on the cube at your convenience.

The spring programs will be taking place the week of April 18th-22nd. There will be reminders coming out in early April concerning what day and time each classroom will be presenting their spring programs.

Thanks for your support of music education in our schools. I am looking forward to seeing you at the spring programs!

Noelle Dahle
February was National Children's Dental Health Month, and our students here at Pine Butte all participated in learning all about dental health. Torrey Darkenwald, a dental hygienist, spent a day here and talked with the students about the structure and function of their teeth, how to brush and floss well without causing trauma to their gums, and about how plaque and cavities form. The students learned about preventing cavities, and even when to get a new toothbrush. All students had a visual dental screening also. The results of those screenings should reach your mailboxes soon. They all got a new toothbrush, toothpaste, and floss to take home. Thank you Torrey for coming and helping our students learn all about good oral hygiene!

Mr. Decock’s Robotic students are collaborating with the 4th grade students to create a walking robot. 4th graders are having input into how many legs the robot will have and the functions that it can do. The high school students showed the PBES students the various parts that are available and showed them how to create an initial sketch and plan. They will work with them until completion of the robot!
February was I Love To Read month and this year’s theme was “Camp Out With A Good Book”. Students really got into the spirit as they camped in tents, made S’mores, and of course read lots of books. A recipe for a great camping and reading experience.

Google Chromebooks make their way to PBES as we pilot 1:1 in the classroom for web-based learning.
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<td><strong>Dr. Seuss Birthday</strong> wear red &amp; white</td>
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<td><strong>I Can Read w/ My Eyes Shut Day</strong> wear T-Shirt with words</td>
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<td><strong>Heavenly Hat Day</strong>*</td>
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<td><strong>National Nap Day</strong>- Wear PJ’s or Sweats</td>
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<td><strong>Grinch Day</strong>- Wear Green from head to toe.</td>
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<td><strong>Fox in Sox Day</strong>- Wear Crazy Socks</td>
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<td><strong>Wacky Wednesday</strong>- Wear Mismatched and inside out clothes</td>
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<td><strong>NO SCHOOL</strong></td>
<td><strong>College Team Day</strong>- wear college gear (shirts, pants scarves etc.)</td>
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<td><strong>Tournament of Dr. Seuss Winner Announced</strong></td>
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*IHeavenly Hat Day- Grab a hat and read with the cat. (We are donating a dollar to wear a hat that will be donated to the Heavenly Hat Foundation to provide hats for cancer patients.)*
STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

Wow! We are off to a great start for “I Love to Read” month. We have many students who have already met their reading goal for the month of February and many more that are close. Please remember to continue reading with your child or allow them to read to you, a sibling, or pet every night. “March Reading Madness” starts March 1st. The students will have a new goal that is set by his/her teacher. The goal may be different or the same. Please look at your child’s teacher newsletter for expectations. Each student who meets the goal receives a prize each month. If your child meets the goal both months, they will earn a special celebration which has yet to be revealed.

5th grade student Emily Hecker winner of the PBES geography bee scored high enough on the on-line geography test to earn a spot at the State geography bee to be held in Billings. Great job Emily. We are proud of you and good luck at State!

PBES Library News

Calling all Dr. Seuss fans!

Dr. Seuss was born on March 2, 1904, so it is fitting that we recognize his huge contribution to children’s literature this month. We have a great selection of Dr. Seuss books in our library and will be reading some during class. A fun website for kids to try out at home is the official Dr. Seuss site: www.seussville.com.

Irish Folk Tales

In honor of St. Patrick’s Day on March 17, and all things Irish, we will be reading a few wee tales about the leprechauns and other blarney in the Library this month. Characters such as Jamie O’Rourke and Traveling Tom will make appearances during story time.
Kicking It With Karen

There are many reasons kids should play outside, from expressing creativity to running freely to making messes without worrying about dirtying the house. In addition to these fun reasons, there are also many health benefits that make outdoor play great for children.

Improves Vision
A study reported by Optometry and Vision Science found that children who spend time outside have better distance vision than those who primarily play indoors.

Promotes Social Skills
Getting kids outside and having unstructured play promotes a wide range of skills. On a playground not everyone gets to go down the slide first. Going to a playground with your kids is not just about running around and being active, but it’s also about learning social skills, executive functions and behavioral skills as well through play.

Increases Attention Span
Studies have also shown that green outdoor settings appear to reduce ADHD symptoms in children. Exposure to natural settings through after-school and weekend activities may be widely effective in reducing attention deficit symptoms in children.

Reduces Stress
When it comes to stress, spending time outside playing is such a huge outlet for stress. It's relaxing; it is healing. There is even research showing that seeing green spaces can help decrease kids' stress levels.

Provides Vitamin D
According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, lots of kids are suffering from vitamin D deficiencies. This vitamin has several health benefits, including preventing kids from future bone problems, diabetes and even heart disease.

Vitamin D can be received by supplement, but you can also get it through its free and natural version: sunlight. Have your kids play outside for a few minutes without sun screen (which blocks cancer-causing rays, but also vitamin D). Then slather on the lotion. Of course, if your child burns easily, use the sunscreen and increase the vitamin D-heavy foods and supplements.

Submitted by Karen Larson
The PBES Mini Bank is happy to announce that our bank will open up to 2nd graders on March 15th! The Mini Bank offers your child a unique opportunity to learn about money and savings through real-life experience. We currently have over 100 student accounts. Students can use this Mini Bank account all the way through High School. We are fortunate to be among a select few schools in the state to be part of the Mini Bank program.

Your child will receive a passbook from the bank to record their deposits and interest earned. We like to keep the passbooks here to help students keep track of their transactions. All transactions are done at the school and the students receive a deposit receipt to take home. Teachers and the Mini Bank Student Board directors help students write transactions in their passbooks and keep a running balance of their accounts. All of the money and transactions are then taken to First Interstate Bank of Colstrip.

We encourage you to let your child participate in this worthwhile venture. If you would like to have your child open up an account – please let us know! Each new account receives a PBES Mini Bank piggy bank. Minimum balance for the savings account is $3.00. Application forms will be sent home with the 2nd grade students during the 1st week of March.

Our bank is open for business on Tuesday from 8:00 – 8:15.

Sincerely,
Jodi Crippen, Laurie Neumiller, Lynn Wilkins

PBES Honors CHS Student Athletes

CHS football players Jake Sessions, Thayne Hage and Lane Torgerson were honored at PBES while surrounded by parents, students and staff from both CHS and PBES as they signed their letters of intent to play football. Jake will play at MSU, Lane at Minot State and Thayne will be playing at the South Dakota School of Mines. Congratulations boys! All your hard work has paid off.
100th Day of School

On February 6th, we celebrated our 100th day of school. Hallways were decorated, students and staff wore clothes with 100 items attached to them and activities filled the day surrounded around the 100 day theme including a look into the future at how students would look when they are 100.
Events for March
Smarter Balanced assessment grades 3-5
CRT science assessment Grade 4
March 2– Dr. Seuss’ Birthday
March 3– EARLY OUT
March 10– EARLY OUT
March 13– Daylight Savings-Clock Ahead 1 hour
March 14– School Board 6pm
March 17– EARLY OUT
March 17– St. Patrick’s Day—Wear Green
March 19– First Day of Spring
March 22– End of 3rd Qtr.
March 24– EARLY OUT
March 25-28– Spring Break NO SCHOOL
March 31– EARLY OUT

Upcoming Events for April
April 5– Lifetouch Spring Pictures
April 6– Science Fair
April 7– EARLY OUT
April 11– NO SCHOOL
April 11– School Board 6pm
April 13– Child Find Screening at FBMS
April 14– EARLY OUT
April 21– Kindergarten Registration
April 21– EARLY OUT
April 26– 4th Qtr. Mid-term
April 27– Secretaries Day
April 28–EARLY OUT

BUCKET-FILLERS
For February

Trypp Schindler
Rylee Sims
Mrs. Dahle
Dakota Harris
Morgan Robertson
Timothy Ingles (twice)
Blue Mendoza
Rodney Limberhand
Cameron Martinez
Mrs. Charette’s First Grade Class
Mrs. Parry’s First Grade Class
Kaelyn Scott
Mario Stotler
Zayne Jensen
Zach Cox

This month’s featured artists are the Heck brothers, Kai and Zaden. These young men are certainly talented little artists.