

# Bethlehem Elementary School



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It's January; a whole semester has passed us by and we've had our first snowfall of the 2016-2017 school year! I hope you had an opportunity to enjoy some time with your family during the snowy weekend in early January. Snow always brings a smile to my face, especially if it happens on the weekend, as I enjoy the time spent with family and the slower pace that accompanies the weather. I would like to say a public thank you to **Wayne Hildebrand, Tim Reid, and Randall Williams** who worked tirelessly to make certain our parking lots, car line and bus drop off areas, and sidewalks were clear of snow and safe for our students and staff. Clearing snow is cold, physical work when most others are enjoying playing in the snow or making snow cream. These guys are an awesome team and I thank them for their hard work! You guys ROCK! In thinking of snow and cold weather, it is a good time to ask your help in keeping our students healthy. We have already had several confirmed cases of Influenza, strep throat, and many cases of viruses. Please remind students to keep their hands away from their eyes, nose, and mouth and to wash hands frequently. Remind them how to sneeze or cough into the bend of their arm and please help me in regularly reminding our students to dress appropriately for the weather. Sometimes it is hard to think of a building evacuation or a bus breakdown/delay, in relation to the extreme weather conditions outside when we enjoy the warmth of a car or bus ride on the way to school. Please make certain your child is dressed warmly in the event we have an emergency situation that removes us from our normal indoor activities and moves us outside for any length of time. Before we can blink an eye, spring will be upon us and we will be able to return back to short sleeves and shorts. I would also like to remind you of our well child policy. Any student who has had fever, vomiting, or diarrhea within 24 hours should not be sent to school. Students should not attend school until they have been fever, vomit, and/or diarrhea free WITHOUT medication for these symptoms for at least 24 hours. Thank you for your help in keeping our school environment for students and staff healthy.

**Congratulations to Brianna Jimison, Justin Lee, and Connor Winger!** These students competed in our school spelling bee with many other students earlier in the month. **Brianna Jimison** spelled her way to secure the honor of first place at the school level and **Justin Lee** is the 1<sup>st</sup> Runner Up. Both **Brianna** and **Justin** will advance to the County Bee on February 23<sup>rd</sup> representing Bethlehem Elementary. In the event one of these students is unable to attend, **Connor Winger** will serve as an alternate representative. I am proud of you three and the hard work you put into studying those spelling lists!

**Emerson Horn** was recognized at a recent Alexander County School Board meeting as the 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner from the county for her submission to the Veteran's Day Poetry contest. **Emerson** is a 4<sup>th</sup> grade student and has always enjoyed writing and composing a variety of different types of works including poems, videos, and stories based on her passions. **Emerson's** poem highlighted the pride Americans should have for all Veterans and the many brave sacrifices Veterans make so we all can stand tall as proud Americans.

## Thank You Veterans

Peace and honor standing tall  
Protecting our country like a wall  
They fought for us so we can  
All be Americans standing proud and free  
We will never feel the pain they have felt  
We will never have to suffer from the scars they suffer from  
But to this day we say thank you in each and every way  
It's not whether they win the war  
But when they come home to their loved ones  
It's not about how hard they fought  
Or if they fought at all  
But if they served they knew the chance they were going to take  
And they knew what could happen  
But they still would fight  
They still would serve  
They would still protect us in each and every way  
Because they cared they fought  
Because we cared we sent them away  
With our love we could go on hours and hours talking  
About the great and have nothing bad but many sad things to say  
About the ones who fought  
Some were injured some had died  
But we remember them all with lots of pride  
The big bang of the guns  
The sharp pierce of the swords  
How frightening it was to be in those wars  
But they still fought  
They still served in each and every way  
So don't be scared  
Don't be sad  
They served for you and they served for me too

**Emerson** was also recognized when she was in first grade for a written piece that was published nationally entitled "The Big Eyed Wolf" through Green Screen Adventures. It is great to see Emerson carry on with her passion for writing.

We recently had the school level competition for the Elk's Hoop Shoot. The next competition will be held at Lenoir-Rhyne University on Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>. Students from BES who will be advancing to the next level of competition are: **Karlee Starnes, Koa Mikeal, Aniston Chapman, and Maddox Jack**. Please join me in congratulating these students on their hoop shooting abilities!

**More congratulations! Laney Greene** was recognized for her artwork through the 2016 Alexander County Schools Holiday Card contest. **Laney's** card detailed an old pickup truck hauling an evergreen tree destined certainly to serve as a Christmas tree for a family. The red pickup truck was complete with an evergreen wreath on the front grill. **Laney's** card was given top county honors in her age range. She is a second grade student in Mrs. Williams class. **Laney** was recognized at the December BOE meeting where

she was presented with a framed print of her drawing and reproductions of her art work in the form of holiday cards. **Laney** had no idea her artwork had been chosen until the presentation was made at the meeting. Her smile lit up the whole room when her name was called. I was the lucky recipient of one of her cards and I will cherish it for many more years as I use it as one of my most cherished decorations each year. Thank you, **Laney**, for sharing your artistic talents with the citizens of Alexander County.

**Jennifer Patterson** has been selected to present at the State Board of Education meeting on February 1<sup>st</sup>. She and other selected expert teachers from across North Carolina will be presenting on how to teach reading to young children. **Congratulations, Mrs. Patterson.** We think you ROCK!

I will be meeting with our **Parent Advisory Committee/School Advisory** on February 1<sup>st</sup>. Committee Members are: **Sharon Brumley, Crystal Buchanan, Shannon Cook, Kendra Fox, Angel Holland, Becky Mikeal, and Dale Sharpe.** Please feel free to contact these members to voice a concern or praise on your behalf.

Reminders:

- Your parent elected School Improvement Team representatives are **Heather Duckworth and Jax Norris.**
- Alexander County School Board members are **Mrs. Caryn Brzykcy, Mr. Scott Bowman, Mrs. Sallie Hartis, Mr. David Odom, Mr. Marty Pennell, Mrs. Brigitte Rhyne, and Mr. Harry Schrum**

It is time to preorder yearbooks. Order forms will be included in your child's weekly folder this week. Yearbooks are reserved only for students who preorder and prepay. If you would like to reserve a **2016-2017 yearbook** for your student(s), please complete the order form and send it to your child's teacher by Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> with a deposit of \$12.00, or the full amount of \$24.00 per book. Please do not send multiple orders for siblings with one child. It helps to make certain enough yearbooks are ordered and distributed to individual students if the ordering is done on a student by student basis. Our yearbooks are printed by Carolina Photography and make great keepsakes. Please get your preorder in if you would like for us to reserve a copy for your child. We do not order extra copies. Order forms have been sent home with students.

**Registration and Screening for BES 2017-2018 Kindergarten Students** will be held this year on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. If you know a child who meets the age requirement for attending kindergarten, please let their parent know to be looking for information about registration soon. Children must be five years of age or older by August 31, 2017 to enroll in kindergarten. Registration packets will be available on Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup> and may be obtained by turning in a completed enrollment form to our school office. Enrollment forms will be available at Lowe's Foods in Bethlehem, the Bethlehem Post Office, the Bethlehem Branch Library or may be picked up in our school office. You may also request an enrollment form be sent home by contacting the teacher of a currently enrolled BES student. This screening is for students who live in the Bethlehem School district and registration will require proof of residence.

Thanks to all who have supported the **Jump Rope for Heart** campaign. If your child is participating in this fundraiser and has contributions to turn in, please make sure to turn those in to Mr. Mays or Mr. McKee no later than Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Thank you for your help in raising money for this worthy cause.

**Morning traffic** seems to be running a little more smoothly lately. Thanks for your patience with each other during the early hours. We want to make sure every child is safe. Thank you for watching closely and progressing slowly as you work through the alternate merge pattern entering our drop off area. Please do not block the left hand merge lane prior to traffic moving through beginning at 7:30. If the left lane is blocked to traffic, our teachers and assistants can't get inside to supervise our students. PLEASE LEAVE THE ENTIRE FAR LEFT LANE OPEN COMPLETELY PRIOR TO THE 7:30 PROGRESSION OF TRAFFIC. The alternate merge begins when traffic starts to move through at the ringing of the 7:30 bell. Please remember to pull all the way forward when dropping off students in the car line. THANK YOU!

**Afternoon Traffic** – Please remember cars may not enter the car rider pick up lanes until 3:10. We also ask your help in not blocking the left hand turn lane that turns left onto Highway 127 from Bethlehem School Road. Our buses cannot proceed through the turn lane to turn left onto 127 if cars block the lane. Blocking the left turn lane slows down the entire car pickup progression. Please be considerate of our bus drivers, who have a huge responsibility of keeping our students safe during transportation to and from school, and considerate of other car pickup drivers. Thank you!

**Valentine's Day** is creeping closer and closer. Please be advised we do not accept deliveries to students for Valentine's celebrations. Parents, grandparents, etc. should refrain from delivering or making arrangements for gifts to be delivered to the school. Although a personal delivery is exciting, delivery of items such as glass vases, balloons, stuffed animals, etc. do present safety hazards on buses, ASC waiting, and in the car riding waiting area. Please save these special gifts for celebrations at home.

**PTO News**-Our next PTO fundraising event will be here before we know it. The annual **cookie dough fundraiser** will begin on Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>- March 1<sup>st</sup>. More information will be coming soon.

The PTO will be posting a budget update on our school website by Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please take time to review it so you can be reminded of how profits from fundraisers benefit our school.

Please continue to send in **General Mills Box Tops and Campbell's Soup Labels**. The class turning in the most labels and box tops through November was Mrs. Williams 2nd grade class. They will be treated to a cookie cake treat soon. Our next collection period will run through March. The GRADE LEVEL that collects the most box tops and labels will earn extra recess time in early April complete with ice pops to enjoy. Keep clipping!! (Don't forget to include student name and homeroom teacher on the Ziploc or envelope when you turn in the labels/boxtops.)

Our next BINGO for BOOKS afternoon will be held soon! BINGO for BOOKS afternoon are always well attended and enjoyed by many BES families. Look for an invitation coming home in your students' daily folder or agenda and reminders on bi-weekly classroom newsletters.

Please continue to **refer to classroom newsletters and our school website** for dates and information of upcoming events. You may access our website through: alexander.k12.nc.us or visit directly at [www.alexander.k12.nc.us/bes](http://www.alexander.k12.nc.us/bes) .

**Thank you** for your continued support of our students and staff. You are a part of why BES is the BEST!