

CONNECTION

From the Principal...

Take A Stand Against Bullying

Old Bonhomme staff and students kicked off this school year with our Big Ol' Rodeo where students had a chance to learn about and practice the rules and routines in every part of the school. This included the District Adopted Olweus Bullying Prevention Program (OBPP), which is a research-based school-wide approach to reducing bullying behaviors in our school and in our community. OBPP is a great fit to our existing Character Education and Positive Behavior Instructional Support programs and we integrate it into our practices.

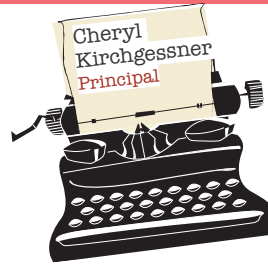
What exactly is bullying? It's aggressive behavior toward another person that is intentional and involves an imbalance of power. Most often, it is repeated over time. It can happen at any age and can be physically or socio-emotionally based. It is estimated that 17% of students nationwide experience bullying - about 1 out of every 5 children.

An important component of OBPP is weekly classroom meetings that help create a cohesive learning community. During the first month of school, teachers built those meetings around the four anti-bullying rules:

1. We will not bully others.
2. We will help students who are bullied.
3. We will include students who are left out.
4. If we know someone is being bullied, we will tell an adult at school and at home.

Encouraging students to speak out against bullying empowers them and takes power away from the person who is bullying. It breaks the social contagion cycle that is central to ongoing bullying behaviors. Breaking this cycle protects the students who are being bullied and gives us the opportunity to help those who engage in bullying behaviors develop more positive social skills (research shows that these students are more likely to engage in risky or illegal behaviors as they grow older). If your child comes home with a story about bullying he or she witnessed at OB, the student is practicing good citizenship and following the rules. We encourage you to call or email your child's teacher, one of our school counselors, or Mrs. Kirchgessner to follow up on these reports.

If you would like any more information, you can learn more about Olweus at Old Bonhomme on the [Counselor's Website](#) or at the official Olweus site: <http://www.violencepreventionworks.org/public/index.page>



January

25 Community Chili Supper,
5-7p.m. @ LHWHS

February

5 School Counseling
Advisory, 6:30 p.m.

13 Walk in the Park (during
PE)

14 Valentine's Day Parties,
2:40-3:40 p.m.

15 NO SCHOOL-PD Day

18 NO SCHOOL-Presidents'
Day

Specialist News

Spanish News



By Señor Martin

Hola!! Es invierno, hay mucha nieve y hace mucho frio!! (It is Winter, there is a lot snow and it is very cold). The year is moving very quickly, I can't believe it is already 2019! All Spanish classes are doing a great job learning and practicing new vocabulary. Kindergarten and first graders have been working very hard on learning new verbs and nouns in order to create short phrases in Spanish. All other grades are learning new vocabulary and practicing basic grammar rules. They are adding new verbs to their vocabulary in order to increase their conversation skills. Kindergarten-third grade are having small role play dialogues using greetings and goodbyes. First -third grade have also completed a small unit on classroom objects. Fourth grade is learning vocabulary related to a city. They are going to use this vocabulary to create their dream city, by drawing a very cool city. After the wonderful winter break all classes went through a week of review. They all practiced old vocabulary with some games, oral activities, and word searches. Please keep asking questions to your kids about what they are doing in Spanish class. The more they practice the better they will get!

Art Studio News



By Mrs. Roth

The art studio has been exploring many different textiles and masks from Africa in the last few weeks. Artists learned about mud cloth from Mali, kente and adinkra cloth from Ghana. Our mask projects vary from cardboard constructions in kindergarten to plaster gauze creations in fourth grade. The third graders are really working on cooperation skills as their masks are huge and we have to work together to make room for the monster works of art. The second graders were inspired to make crowns from the Yoruba in Nigeria and their artwork is amazing! Don't forget you can see all of these masterpieces on our school page on www.Artsonia.com We haven't figured out how to display the crowns but I am excited to show them off!

Our Martin Luther King, Jr. service day was this past Monday. We made more blankets and packed up the magnificent hats the fourth grade artists knit this semester! Yes, the fourth graders learned to knit hats with pom poms! Thanks to a grant from the LEF we were able to purchase round looms and enough yarn for all the fourth graders to try this art form. I am very proud of them. It's a challenge to knit and it requires lots of focus, skill and perseverance!

A special thanks to the PTO for funding our second and third grade field trip to the art museum. We have been inspired to create many beautiful things as a result of that experience. Thank you!!

Artfully Yours, Mrs. Roth

Physical Education



By Coach Jander & Coach Prange

Did you know just being outside improves memory, creativity, and focus, reduces stress and anxiety, and lowers blood pressure? We got to kick off our new year with a chilly Walk in the Park. OB PE tries to be outside as much as possible because of those benefits and because it gives us much more room to move. Make sure your child bundles up so he or she is more comfortable as we play outside. Coach Jander and Coach Prange also get cold on those winter days after being outside for about five hours, but we know it is well worth it.

January 4, was National Missouri Day. We celebrated by talking about some Missouri facts and did some extra jumping jacks. Did you know jumping jacks are our state exercise? General John "Black Jack" Pershing invented the movement to help his troops stay in good shape. A few years later, some students from Pershing Elementary school named this movement in honor of General Pershing.

January 11, was National Milk Day. Our PE classes talked about how important it is to try and incorporate milk into our diets. We also played a game with farmers and cows. Calcium and vitamin D help give us strong bones and teeth, while the protein in milk is good for our muscles. If white milk is not for you, try some flavored milk so you can get all of those important benefits.

If your third or fourth grader is interested in signing up for the archery team, please do so ASAP.

Follow us on Instagram at o.b.pe.

Be kind and be well!

Library in the Limelight



By Mrs. Kelley

Does this cold weather have your kids feeling a little stir crazy? Do the last 30 minutes before bedtime seem like the longest 30 minutes of your day? Consider paying a visit to the Cosmic Kids channel on YouTube for yoga adventures based on well-known stories such as *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, *Alice in Wonderland* and *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. These engaging videos run between 15-30 minutes and are a great way for your child to start winding down before bed while listening to familiar stories. To make it even more fun for your child, get down on the floor and do it with him/her!

On another note, the always popular Scholastic Book Fair will be held in the Old Bonhomme Library April 15-19. Look for more information in the coming weeks about how you can help out during that fun week!

Music Notes



By Ms. Ladue

OB students have been ringing in the New Year with new songs, skills, and concepts in the music room! Here are a few highlights from each grade level:

Kindergarten has been exploring movement by ice skating on paper plates to songs in $\frac{3}{4}$ time signature. They have also been practicing a call and response song called, "Who Had a Dream?" for the Martin Luther King Assembly.

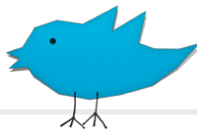
First grade has been practicing reading and notating rhythmic patterns including quarter note (ta), quarter rest, and double eighth notes (ta-di). We recently began pitch notation by introducing sol and mi and their placement on a five-line music staff. First and second graders sang a reflective song about the work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the Martin Luther King assembly.

Second grade has been reading, notating, and creating complex rhythms in 4/4 time. They are also expanding their skills with pitch notation by adding "do" and "re" onto the five-line staff.

Third grade has been practicing mallet improvisation and playing five note melodies by ear. They are independently transferring melodies and rhythms to pitches on the instruments. Third and fourth graders sang an upbeat, gospel style song called "Martin Luther King" at the Martin Luther King assembly.

Fourth grade has begun playing the recorder in music class. We have practiced proper hand position, air flow, and articulation in addition to learning the first three notes: G, A, and B. We are also practicing identifying these notes on the music staff as we play.

Counseling News



By Mrs. Arnold & Ms. Carey

Click [here](#) to RSVP for the How to Help Children Deal With Trauma presentation.



HOW TO HELP CHILDREN DEAL WITH TRAUMA

Monday, January 28
7:00-8:00 P.M.

NCADA Building
9355 Olive Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63132

This presentation is for caregivers and educators to learn how to help our children deal with trauma whether it is seeing what is going on in our world, nation, region, or in their personal lives.

PRESENTER
GAIL KNIPSHILD FROM FAMILYFORWARD

Technology News



By Mrs. Brown

Students at OB are using technology to transform their learning by exploring, collaborating, connecting, evaluating, creating, communicating, and becoming lifelong learners. Several classes are participating in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) experiences. Second and fourth grade classrooms completed the Robotics unit where they explored STEM through Lego WeDo Robots.

OB is improving teaching & learning through the use of digital learning! Our entire school joined in on the largest learning event in history: The Hour of Code, during Computer Science Education Week in December. This was a great success, and it got our students interested in learning to code. Mark your calendars, we will be celebrating OB Science & Innovation Night on April 5. You are invited to come and enjoy special activities with your student.

Classroom News

Kindergarten News

Wow! We cannot believe we are halfway through the year! It has been a busy few months in Kindergarten! In Social Studies, Kindergarten learned about Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. In December, each class completed a holiday unit learning about different traditions celebrated by friends in our class, as well as, people around the world. Some of the holidays we learned about were Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, and Diwali. Some classes also had guest speakers share about their holiday traditions. In January, we have begun a Science unit learning about animals and how they survive in the winter.

In reading, students are increasing their skills through learning a variety of decoding and comprehension strategies. It is great to see their confidence growing and their increased ability to read more independently! Guided reading groups are happening daily to support the wide variety of readers in Kindergarten.

In writing, we have an Informational Unit. Students are exploring how to sequence information through How To Books. It is fun to see the progress they are making as writers. Sentences have more words, illustrations include more detail, and stories are becoming longer!

In math, students have spent time solidifying their number sense with numbers 0-20. We have explored how to make numbers in different ways, count on from a given number, and understand the concepts of more, less, fewer, and the same. We have completed our unit on shapes. Students explored 3D and 2D (flat shapes). We spent time identifying shape properties, finding them in real life situations, and using them to create objects. We are now looking at larger numbers and learning how to use the strategy of skip counting.

Believe it or not we are quickly approaching the 100th Day of School! Students are excited to spend the day celebrating through a variety of cross-curricular activities. The Kindergarten teachers continue to enjoy watching your children grow each and every day and are excited to see where the next quarter will take us!

First Grade News

It has been quite an adventure here in first grade these last couple of months! We went on a journey across the United States where we learned, explored, read, and wrote about the Native American Regions. After reading and discussing how Native Americans earned their names, the students all selected a name that suited them well. Don't forget to ask your child what his/her name was and why they chose it. We also learned how they communicated through sign language, smoke signals, and stories. We made up some of our own stories using Native American symbols. Then, the students all chose one symbol to paint on our class teepee. I think reading and working in the teepee was their favorite part of the unit! Our studies also taught us how they lived, celebrated, traveled, cooked, built homes, and worked as a tribe. We often combined our studies with our writing unit: nonfiction text. The students wrote several "How-To" and "All About" books on a variety of topics. Some students even researched their topic before writing an Informational Text which fit in well with our Nonfiction unit in reading. We used books, nonfiction text features, magazines, websites, and Google to find out all we could on the selected topic before we began writing. During reading, the students were marking and discussing the nonfiction text features, information read, and how it made them feel. Finally, the new year brings new units of study. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday brings discussions of peace and what fairness means to each of us. This led nicely into our new genre, opinion writing. The students are becoming quite persuasive as they begin to elaborate on their opinions. We may have a few lawyers in this bunch!

In science, we spent time exploring materials with magnets. Students identified the North and South poles and identified objects that repel and attract to magnets. We made objects move through other objects! It was quite exciting learning about the force of magnitude!

Our mathematicians have been hard at work breaking apart numbers to build ten in a means to build our addition and subtraction skills. We will soon be measuring objects with several different tools: paper clips, tiles, and popsicle sticks. We are looking forward to another semester of fun with our "Firsties!"

Second Grade News

Second-graders are doing some amazing work! In writing, we are learning all about poetry. Students are learning about the rhythm of poetry, how to make precise word choices, and stick with one poem to add the special details to make the reader picture their words. Our next writing unit will be integrated into our science unit, force and motion. In this unit of study, we will learn how to report on our science experiments, including how to show data, pose questions, and write conclusions. This science unit has a lot of hands-on experiments and gives the students the opportunity to create their own experiment concerning force and motion.

Math time will be spent working with money, money and more money! From identifying pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters, to knowing their values, and adding the coins and their values up to and over one dollar. Then we will move on to working on fractions, time, then customary measurement. It is so amazing to walk into any of our classrooms during reading time and see how well the students have built their reading stamina. They can pose questions about their stories, both fiction and informational, and make connections to the text.

The second half of the year is always the most exciting part of second grade so stayed tuned for many great adventures!

Third Grade News

Third-graders came back after winter break and jumped right into learning! In math, we are continuing our exploration of multiplication and division. We have learned to multiply 3-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers and 2-digit by 1-digit long division. We'll also be exploring how bar models, which we learned about in our addition and subtraction units, are used in multiplication and division word problems. After that, we'll apply our computational knowledge to a variety of tasks such as measurement, data, and fractions. We have been impressed with how well our third graders have risen to these challenges! Don't forget to keep practicing those multiplication and division facts!

During third quarter, we will be tackling both social studies and science units. We started off the year learning about Martin Luther King, Jr. and his importance in the Civil Rights Movement. We had an ACTivisor presenter from the History Museum do a presentation about the civil rights movement in St. Louis. Next up is geography! We will be learning how to read and construct different types of maps, how to identify the 7 continents and 5 oceans, and how to find and use lines of latitude and longitude. After our geography unit, we will be growing our ideas about plants! The students will observe the life cycles of plants and what living things need in order to grow and survive.

Fourth Grade News

Wagons Ho! The fourth-graders have stepped off the map and headed west to Oregon Country. We have brought "history to life" by turning our desks into covered wagons and we will be participating in an Oregon Trail simulation game. Not only are we heading west, we are also learning about decimals and angles this quarter, writing a literary essay and participating in book clubs! In February, the students will switch classes again for Science.

Mark your calendars for the Jefferson City Field Trip! It will take place on Thursday, April 4. Look for more details soon.

