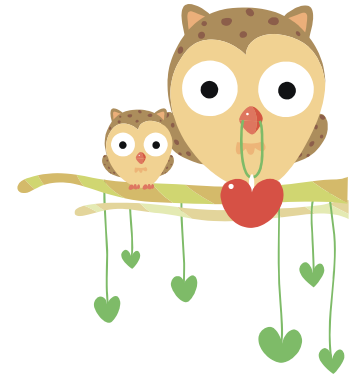


# BESTimes



## Message from the Principal

Happy Valentines students and parents! I want you to know that every staff member and I have chosen to work with children because we truly care about helping kids become lifelong learners! It is our sincere hope that each student will be successful and happy in life.

Our in-classroom breakfast is off to an excellent start! Teachers report that students are eating well, and are not complaining of being hungry mid-morning. As a part of the "Fuel Up to Play 60" initiative, B.E.S. is emphasizing the importance of good nutrition, coupled with physical activity, and how they work together to maximize our student's ability to learn.

Parent-teacher conferences are once again in mid-February (the week of February 13<sup>th</sup>), so that adjustments can be made, if necessary, prior to the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter report cards. Conferences facilitate valuable communication between parents and teachers, so please plan to attend at your scheduled time.

The Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP) is one measure we utilize to measure whether students are learning what we are teaching. Third graders will soon be taking the CSAP Reading assessment. Staff has planned a number of activities to encourage students to do their best! If you have a third grader, please make sure they get a good night's sleep prior to taking the assessment on February 29<sup>th</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup>. Let you child know that you are confident in them and know they will do their BEST!

Your enthusiasm for your child's learning makes a bigger difference than you can imagine! In the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882), "When you do a thing, do it with all your might. Put your whole soul into it. Stamp it with your own personality...Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm."



## Fourth Grade News

When the fourth grade students walked back into school on January 5, they were rested and ready to get back to work. The current reading theme is titled "How Amazing" and includes several tales from the fantasy genre. The reading homework format has changed for second semester, and students are responsible for turning in book reports. Each teacher has modeled the steps that students must follow to complete a book report, and contracts and calendars were sent home with the criteria and due dates for the grading of book reports. Students are responsible for reading about 50 pages weekly...that translates into about 10 pages each evening. Family support is critical as these students learn how to handle the responsibility of a long-term assignment.

We all wrote New Year's resolutions, and are currently working on an imaginative recount about becoming "Principal for a Day". Those pieces will be on the wall for parent/teacher conferences, so please stop by and read our stories. Our most recent math themes have been: multiplication, division, and geometry. Math instruction in fourth grade includes: skill review (to maintain previously learned skills), mental math (solving problems in our heads, rather than always on paper), problem solving and mastery of facts. Multiplication fact fluency for numbers 1-12 is one of the most important skills that families can practice at home.

Spring will be here before we know it! Fourth grade CSAP tests will be administered on March 28, 29, 30 and April 3,4,5,11,12. Please look ahead as you schedule appointments and try to have your fourth grade student at school on those dates!



## Kindergarten News

### Favorite Tales of Ours

On these cold winter nights, the Kindergarten teachers would like you to curl up on the couch with your family and read a good book. Research tells us one of the best things we can do with our children to help them in learning to read is to read *with* them. The closeness you experience with your child is special, as is sharing a journey together wherever that story takes you. Mrs. Nitsch, Mrs. Reeverts and Mrs. Hanson would like to recommend some of our favorite books and authors that you might look for and read together this winter.

From Mrs. Hanson - One of my favorite "winter" stories is Tacky the Penguin by Helen Lester. It is a hilarious tale about a penguin who is unique and a true individual. You will laugh and laugh as you discover "how many toes does a fish have!!". If you enjoy this story about Tacky, you can check out several others about the same crazy penguin along with other delightful tales by Helen Lester.

From Mrs. Nitsch - My favorite children's book is "The Dog Who Had Kittens" . It is written by Polly M. Robertus and illustrated by Janet Stevens. "The Dog Who Had Kittens" is about a basset hound dog named Baxter who feels ignored after the family cat, Eloise, has kittens. He is miserable, until he meets the kittens for the first time. They snuggle up to his warm body and massage him with their paws. They pull gently at his legs and neck and use him as a kitten playground. Baxter is happier than he has ever been in his life, until the kittens grow older and find new forever homes of their own. This book has become one of my favorites because I love animals, especially cats and dogs. Another reason for my choice is that the pictures are created by Janet Stevens, who just happens to be my favorite illustrator. When I first came back to Burlington to teach, Janet Stevens was invited to come to our school and share her life as an illustrator with us. She said that she creates her characters and their clothing from things that are seen in her surroundings. So, the shoes or shirt that a character is wearing in one of her books, can probably be found in her very own closet. She is also one of my favorites because she happens to live in Boulder, Colorado. Janet Stevens is the illustrator of several award winning children's books. Many of them just happen to be about animals. I would highly recommend any children's book that is illustrated by Janet Stevens. Happy reading!

From Mrs. Reeverts-"Love you Forever" by Robert Munsch is a story about a little boy that goes through his childhood and enters adulthood. Once you have read this story as a parent, the catchy song will be with you forever as you watch your own children "grow and grow and grow". Although this is a very funny story, don't be surprised if you get a little choked up. Great book!

The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you. BB King



### February Lunch Prices:

\$38.00 Regular

\$7.60 Reduced



BES



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## February Calendar

Feb 1: National Freedom Day

Feb 1: Pee Wee Wrestling registration 3:30 at the Elementary School.

Feb 2: Ground Hog Day

Feb 4: Thank a Mailman Day

Feb 6: Afterschool Enrichment begins/Jan Christenson visit

Feb 7: Republican Caucus in the Library/voting starts at 7 am

Feb 11: Don't cry over spilled milk Day

Feb 12: Abraham Lincoln's Birthday

Feb 13-16: Parent/Teacher Conferences

Feb 14: Valentine's Day/All school recess at 1:45/Valentine Parties at 2:00

Feb 17: Random Acts of Kindness Day

Feb 17 and 20: NO SCHOOL 🌸

Feb 20: Presidents Day

Feb 22: George Washington's Birthday/National walk the Dog Day

Feb 22: Ash Wednesday

Feb 29: 3rd grade CSAP (READING)

Feb 29: Leap Day

March 1: 3rd grade CSAP (READING)

March 1: Dr. Seuss Family Night

