

# BOW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Dear Families and Friends,

We welcome spring and the many special activities that occur in the lives of BES students. We encourage you to watch for news about concerts, field trips, field days and other activities outside the classroom. In addition, spring highlights the great progress of our students since the beginning of the year. Also scheduled are end-of-the-year assessments, the NECAP science testing for grade four, NWEA testing for grades 2, 3 and 4, special projects and varied demonstrations of learning on display at our annual Education Fair on May 21<sup>st</sup>. We are proud of our students and their accomplishments!

This week the NH State Department of Education released information about schools and AYP (adequate yearly progress) on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Bow Elementary School has been designated a School in Need of Improvement. Many have questions about this and we will attempt to answer some of them here.

Adequate yearly progress (AYP) is determined each year based on state testing results (the New England Common Assessment Program - NECAP). Every student in grades 3-8 and students in grade 11 are tested each year as part of the No Child Left Behind legislation (NCLB). A school's scores are based on the NECAP results of its own students. At BES, students in grades 3 and 4 are tested in the areas of reading and math in October; fourth graders are also tested in the area of science in May. Students' scores on the NECAP are reported in proficiency bands – proficient with distinction, proficient, partially proficient and substantially below proficient. At BES in 2008-2009, 91.4 % of students scored proficient or above in reading and 92.6% of students scored proficient or above in math.

To "make AYP" a school or district must have scores for *the school as a whole* and for *all identified subgroups* that meet or exceed the Annual Measurable Objective (AMO). Subgroups in a school must include 11 or more students "to count" in the AYP calculations and at BES, we have two subgroups – students identified with an educational disability and students who are eligible for free and reduced lunch. If a school or subgroup does not make AYP for two years in a row, they are automatically identified as a school in need of improvement (SINI). Because the subgroup of students identified with an educational disability at BES did not make AYP in reading for the second year, BES is designated a school in need of improvement.

At BES we have a deep and abiding commitment to the continuous progress of each and every learner. All teachers are teachers of all students and while some students receive more intensive instruction, services and/or programs than others, we all are accountable for the learning and growth of every BES student. We are eager to work together with the NH Department of Education to strengthen our work with our most at-risk learners. We anticipate this work will include (although not be limited to) enhancing our core literacy instruction in the classroom, extending our three tiered model of instruction and intervention to grades three and four, evaluating our programs and resources to determine strengths and needs, and a review of our assessment preparations with students to foster their success in standardized testing situations.

We will continue to share our work in the weeks and months ahead. If you have questions or concerns, please contact us.

Dr. Deb Gibbens, Principal

Jane Morrill-Winter, Assistant Principal

## VISITING AUTHOR

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## ALASKA STUDIES



Our third grade classes are taking a closer look at our wonderful United States through our social studies units. Some classes are becoming experts on Alaska, while others are researching and reporting on one of the contiguous states. Mrs. Bryant created totems with all of the third graders. These stately creations decorate our hallways.

## GRADE 3 CONCERT



## REPTILES ON THE MOVE



Reading and researching reptiles and amphibians has been a source of great interest for our third grade students. The PTO generously donated funds for 'Reptiles on the Move' to visit our classrooms. This yearly visit provided students with hands-on opportunities to both observe and handle these remarkable creatures. Lizards, snakes and even an alligator took up temporary residence in our classrooms.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- May 4th-22nd- NWEA Testing
- May 5th & 6th- Grade 4 Concert 7pm
- May 6th- PTO Meeting 7pm
- May 7th- School Board Meeting 7pm
- May 13th- Grade 1 Field Trip
- May 18th- Kindergarten Screening Day
- May 19th-21st- PTO Book Fair
- May 21st- Education Fair 6pm
- May 25th- Memorial Day- No School
- May 28th- Grade 1 Field Trip
- May 29th- Memorial Day Assembly

