



BOW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

School Board Report

10/1/09

September 24, 2009

Dear Families,

We are off to a strong start at the beginning of our new school year. In the first weeks of school each year, we work very hard to establish classroom structures, teach and re-teach expectations, practice routines and help students build stamina for the varied activities of school. Our goal is to develop positive classroom communities that foster focused and purposeful learning. There is already evidence that these efforts are working! We hope your family is experiencing a positive start to the school year.

We have had a very, very busy summer at BES. While we always have several professional learning and curriculum activities happening in the summer, this year's schedule was particularly full. Below is a list of *some* of our summer activities:

- Members of the district Literacy Leadership Team met frequently throughout the summer to examine assessment data, align grade level expectations, and revise our literacy curriculum K – 12. This work will continue during the coming months.
- In late June, members of the third and fourth grade teams participated in a two-day training on our three tiered instructional and intervention model. Already implemented in grades K – 2, we have extended the model to include grades three and four this year.
- Our School Improvement team worked together for three days in July to develop our SINI plan (School In Need of Improvement) for the coming year. This team included regular and special education teachers, Reading Specialists, administrators and parents. As previously reported, our SINI plan includes many previously planned and/or implemented initiatives including a 90 minute literacy block at each grade level, ongoing professional development throughout the year and team collaboration in the analysis of assessments and the design of instruction.
- In late August, many K – 4 teachers participated in Tier I training in core literacy instruction. In our three tiered instructional model, Tier I represents the implementation of the core curriculum in classrooms. The

focus of this work was on using assessment data to guide instruction, implementing research-based strategies and differentiating instruction for diverse needs.

We are deeply committed to the success of all BES children and will continue our work to maximize student learning.

It was wonderful to see so many families at our Open House on August 31st. This year we tried a new approach to this annual event, one aimed at helping students and families transition smoothly to the start of school. We would love to hear your thoughts about this revised Open House format.

We are excited to welcome our new staff members to the BES community and look forward to a positive, productive year. Please share your questions, concerns and ideas.

Sincerely,

Dr. Deb Gibbens, Principal

Jane Morrill-Winter, Assistant Principal

PARENTING PLACE *NEW BULLETIN BOARD* (OUTSIDE THE OFFICE)

The role of parenting, we all know, can be described as "the toughest job we'll ever love." Education and learning rely heavily upon the emotional well-being and self confidence of our children. For parents, in a busy world filled with demands and expectations, it becomes critical to remain open and focused on ways in which our home lives and interactions with our kids affect our children's success in school. Sometimes, the little things can loom large, impacting the start of a day or a child's confidence during certain tasks. Yet by evaluating our balance, becoming aware of ourselves and our family and the various roles and directions that all members take, we are better equipped to meet the needs

of our kids. Sometimes, in evaluating, we also must be willing to approach tasks or routines differently. For example, a rushed morning can send the family into a tizzy, racing to the bus with a half-made sandwich, homework left on the table, sharp words spoken, producing undue stress contributing to strong emotions that in turn compete for the brain's attention to new learning tasks once at school. To combat this scenario, a morning checklist might be just the trick, set up in collaboration with parents and child, custom-made to remind the child of responsibilities and tasks that must be completed to ensure a smooth, more relaxed morning. This suggestion and others will now be featured on a bulletin board

located in the hallway just outside the office. There will be tips and ideas, from setting limits to suggestions for waiting in line or reading with your child, or even the hidden benefits of sharing a family meal. Take a moment to glance at these suggestions throughout the year. If you want to talk further about specific parenting issues that arise, feel free to contact your child's teacher, or Doug Bonnema, Guidance Counselor, or Julie Bassi, School Psychologist, or Cindy Prescott, School Nurse. We are fortunate at BES to have many resources to support parents and children in all areas of learning.

UPCOMING DATES:

OCT. 1ST- BES FAMILY LITERACY NIGHT

OCT. 6TH- FAMILY DI NIGHT

OCT. 9TH & 12TH- NO SCHOOL

OCT. 13-16TH- NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH

OCT. 14TH- PTO MEETING

OCT. 22ND- FAMILY MATH NIGHT



Doug Bonnema

I have been a guidance counselor for six years and have worked with special needs children for eight. After receiving my dual Masters in School Counseling and Community Counseling from the University of Northern Colorado in 2003, my wife and I moved to New Hampshire to explore all that New England has to offer.

The importance of developing coping skills, healthy peer relationships, emotional literacy, and self-control to both school success and to an engaged & meaningful adult life has become well established. As an elementary guidance counselor, I not only get to teach these skills, I get to partner with teachers and parents in supporting children as this development plays out. I love my job and I am very much looking forward to serving the BES community.



Christina Hutton

I am excited to be here at Bow Elementary School. I am originally from Rhode Island but have been living in Concord for 6 years. I went to Plymouth State University and graduated magna cum laude in 2007. In my spare time, I enjoy reading and painting.



Kelly Morrow

I grew up in Vermont but have lived in NH since college and in Bow since 1992. I have 4 children including a son in 8th grade at BMS. I have a dog, Stevie and two cats Poppy and Binky. I enjoy quilting, reading and long walks. I really look forward to working with everyone at BES!



Amanda George

I recently graduated from Southern New Hampshire University with my Bachelors in Child Development. Previously I was a preschool teacher in Hooksett. I am from Salem, MA but live in Manchester, NH now. I am looking forward to learning more about Bow Elementary School especially 4th grade where I am currently working as a 1-1 assistant in Mrs. Monahan's classroom.



Maria Lessard

Hi. My name is Maria Lessard. I have been working at BES since January 2009 as a substitute aid. I currently am working as an aid in preschool. I live in Bow with my husband and 3 children. My oldest is in the 8th grade at BMS and my 2 youngest are at BES. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my family, travelling to the beach, Boston and New York. We also love the movies and going up North.



Bryan Van Norden

I am from Loudon, NH. I attended college at Bowling Green State and just recently moved back to the East Coast from Portland, Oregon. I have been a vegetarian for nearly four years. I enjoy playing basketball, as well as guitar.



Deb Zucowska

My name is Deb Zucowska and I am the new Speech and Language Assistant here at Bow Elementary School. I had worked in the Bedford School System as a Speech Assistant before I decided to stay home with my daughters. Now that my youngest is in first grade, I am ready to start working again and am very excited to be working within the Bow School District.



Kelsea Moses

Hi. I am Kelsea Moses and I am glad to be back at BES. I first attended BES as a kindergarten student and continued my way through graduation from BHS in 2005. I graduated from Quinnipiac University with my Bachelors in Health Science this past May. Within the next few years, I hope to attend graduate school to study Physical Therapy. I enjoy travelling, playing sports, spending time with family and friends, watching the Red Sox, reading and taking my dog for hikes. It has been fun to be able to come full cycle and be back in Bow.



Jessica Allison

I am working as one of the Kindergarten Program Assistants this year. I am a recent graduate of Saint Joseph's College of Maine, where I received a B.S. in Elementary Education. I also coach the Bow Memorial Boys School Soccer Team this fall. I grew up in Bow and am currently still a resident of the town. I am very excited to have the opportunity to work with the outstanding children in Bow!