From the Principal

Ms. Erin Conley

We have had a great start to our year here at BTWA! We rolled out our Virtues, or 10 Keys to Success: kindness, responsibility, respect, courage, self-discipline, truth, perseverance, citizenship, fairness and true friendship. Each day on morning announcements we talk about what it means to display these virtues and the students are challenged to act on them. For example, on Friday students were asked to demonstrate kindness by granting forgiveness to someone who had hurt them. We also held our first two All School Meetings (pictured above) where we focused on these virtues and building a united BTWA community. This week at All School Meeting we learned our new BTWA song written by our own Mr. King and performed by our second graders.

For more information on a specific grade please continue reading. We are looking forward to October and learning about responsibility.
Homework

Your scholar will be assigned a homework packet each Monday to be completed and returned the following Monday. Homework will consist of either an ELA or Math worksheet nightly and a reading log. Scholars must read, or be read to, for a total of 20 minutes a night and record it on the reading log. Homework will be checked for completion each week and tracked, as scholars will receive a mark for it on both progress reports and report cards.

Looking Ahead

Math: Your scholar will begin working on comparing lengths and quantities to determine which is bigger.

Reading: We will continue exploring books, paying special attention to how illustrations support the text.

Writing: Your scholar will begin writing "All About" pieces and using their writing to teach others.

Core Knowledge: Your scholar will continue exploring their five senses.

Practice at Home

• Counting to 20 with and without objects

• Letter sounds:
  ○ a as in "am"
  ○ m
  ○ s

• Sorting objects by common attributes such as shape, size, color, or texture

• Identifying words that rhyme

Cheyenne was all smiles for her first day!
First Grade

SHOW READY, GET SET, GO!

First Grade is off and running! We are learning new things about each other and what being a first grader really means. It is a time when, we begin to be more responsible for ourselves.

This is true starting with Morning Routine. Scholars enter the classroom room quietly and unpack folders and homework. They complete Morning Work and then enjoy breakfast with their peers. This prepares them for a day filled with rigor, challenge, and social interaction with teachers and peers.

Our day begins with a "meeting" on the carpet. There we say good morning to each other and play a quick game. Reader’s Workshop is next followed by Reading Mastery.

We have Writer’s Workshop and then off to a Special. Lunch follows with a story for Read Aloud. Math Workshop is where we demonstrate our problem solving skills and Core Knowledge is when we learn about the World.

We are looking forward to a great school year with lots of learning, discovery, and success.

Homework

Homework in First Grade is sent home as a weekly packet. It will be sent home on Monday and is expected to be returned on Friday of that week.

Mrs. Uju teaching about Aesop’s Fables in Core Knowledge
Second Grade

What are we learning?

**Reading:** In reading, scholars will be focusing on making sense of unknown words as well as using multiple strategies to identify those tricky words while reading. Strategies will involve identifying various endings such as -ing, -ed, and -s. They will be replacing unfamiliar vocabulary with known words to maintain meaning.

**Writing:** In Unit 2 Small Moments, scholars get to see their lives as important, and interesting as they transform their experiences into stories that are worthy of sharing. They will focus on a small moment, a small experience and learn to use details to elaborate.

**Math:** We will begin Unit 2, Attributes of Shapes and Parts of a Whole. Scholars will develop visual images of 2-D and 3-D shapes. They will learn about rectangular arrays, and partition shapes into equal parts.

**Core Knowledge:** Scholars are learning about Early Asian Civilization. They will identify Asia as the largest continent with the most populous countries in the world. They will explain the importance of the Indus, and Ganges rivers for the development of civilization in ancient times.

**Math Workshop**

Ni'anye and Zy'inna from Ms. Hickmon's class are working together to create towers of 2's, 5's, and 10's with connecting cubes.

Responsibility

Responsible second grade scholars will make good choices by caring about themselves, and others. For example, keep their desks clean, pick up papers, stay focus, and complete work.

Homework

It is our belief that homework teaches responsibility, involves parents in the education process and reinforces skills at home. You will find a homework packet in your scholar's folder weekly. Homework packets are due on Mondays.
**Third Grade**

**What’s going on this month?**

**Reading:** This month, we are moving into our second unit. The focus for this unit will be on characters in the books we read. To do this we will focus on character traits, shared experiences, thoughts, emotion and dialogue in a story. Make sure to have your child read each night and record it on his/her reading log to best support them at home.

**Math:** We are finishing up our first unit on multiplication and division. Unit two will be all about data and graphs. Keep practicing those basic facts at home. The test will be the week of October 21st!

**Writing:** We are beginning Unit 2, which is focused on crafting true stories. Scholars will work on creating stories about personal experiences. To support at home, work with your child on proper spelling and punctuation.

**Homework**

Your child will bring home a homework packet every Monday. In the packet, there are assignments for each night. The packet should return to school on the following Monday. Please be sure to rip out the spelling words when you receive a new packet so that your child can practice for the test.

**Testing**

This month we are starting all of our fall testing. It is necessary that all scholars are in school on time as many sessions begin early in the morning. Here is the schedule for all major testing for the month:

- **NWEA:** 9/23-10/4
- **DRA:** 10/1-10/11
- **Math CBA:** Week of 10/21
- **Math Basic Facts Assessments:** Week of 10/21

*Scholars in Ms. Palermo's class working hard on the Reading NWEA*
Fourth Grade

Here's What's Happening In 4th Grade

Fourth Grade Team:
- Ms. Garrett
- Ms. Walters
- Mr. Morrison
- Ms. Dimeola

Reading:
We have started our Poetry Unit. In this unit we will be exploring poems and their structure. We will also dive into why author's write poems, how they express themselves through poetry and the meanings of their poems. Students will learn to look at the inferential meanings that can be found in poems by using context clues written in them.

Writing:
In writing we are learning how to use our everyday experiences in realistic fiction stories. We will dive into the creative process of a story arc. We begin this unit by learning how to develop the characters in our stories and explore how to make our stories feel real.

Math:
We will be focusing on using line plots to represent, describe, and compare measurement data. Students will have a chance to model a real-world problem using mathematics and learn to construct arguments based on a data model.

Core Knowledge:
After learning about maps and world mountains, scholars are now going to explore Medieval Europe. Scholars will learn about early Europe and its transition from the Dark Ages up to the Black Plague. Scholars will explore the development of government and about some of the influential events and people during that time.

Our virtue this month is Responsibility. 4th grade scholars are expected to embody this day in and out. There is a high expectation and accountability that they should strive to meet. This starts with homework. Homework is given out nightly and it is expected to be completed and returned the following day with no excuses. Please help your scholars be successful and grow in this.

Families also have a responsibility to our classrooms. We are asking that families help by providing snacks for the classroom weekly. Snack schedules should have been sent out and we ask that you pay attention to when it's your week.
ART
Hello BTWA parents! I am Elizabeth Squire and I will be your child’s art teacher this year. This is my fourth year at BTWA and I’m so excited to explore the world of art with your scholars. Kindergarten has been working on their fine motor skills including coloring, gluing and using scissors. First grade is learning about patterns, the rainbow and two amazing artists - Faith Ringgold and Alma Thomas. Second grade has been creating collages inspired by Reggie Lawrence and will soon learn about landscapes. Third grade is exploring color value, advanced drawing and the artist Keith Haring. Fourth grade is starting to master One Point Perspective. I strive to create an inclusive, safe, creative environment and look forward to bringing out your child’s inner artist!

DANCE
Greetings,
My name is Tyquanda Johnson and the Dance Teacher here at BTWA! This will be my first full year here and I am excited to share the art of Dance with your scholar(s). Right now, scholars are learning about the Elements of Dance; Body, Action, Space, Time and Energy. Each week scholars will be learning about each element and it’s components. The goal is for scholars to gain body and spatial awareness through movement and choreography. As the dance teacher my goal is for scholars to be enthusiastic about dance and have fun!

PHYSICAL EDUCATION
Hello BTWA families! My name is Mr. DeHuff and I am the physical education teacher. This is my sixth year at the school so I am looking forward to another fun year with the students. Please make sure they always come to school in sneakers and appropriate clothing on PE days so that it does not limit their participation.

4th grade families: We are already preparing for the Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment, which is a big deal for our school. The test includes running, push-ups, curl-ups, sit and reach. Make sure they practice at home often as much as possible so that they do a great job with the assessment!

SCIENCE
Greetings from the world of science! My name is Intisar Khan and I am thrilled to be your child’s science teacher. This will be my third-year teaching science at BTWA, and I am eager to make this year one of growth and discovery for your child. I am passionate about providing access to equal education opportunities for all my students, especially in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Currently, students are studying the following: Kindergarten students are engaging in making observations in the garden space using their five senses. Our kindergarteners tasted our gardens first batch of strawberries and smelled a variety of herbs including basil, parsley, cilantro, and mint. First grade students are conducting investigations to make a rainbow of light using prisms, mirrors, water, and light. Second grade students are engineering their own ramps and design experiments to test which type of ball will go the furthest down the ramp. Students collect, record, and analyze the data from their experiments. Third grade students learn about forces and interactions through investigations with magnets; they are working on conducting an experiment to test which magnet is the strongest using metal washers and a variety of magnets. Fourth grade students design their own instruments to learn about sound and vibrations in our Makerspace. I am pleased to announce the following scholars earned Scientist of the Month for September: Cheyenne Brown (Kindergarten), E'niya Harris (Grade 1), Jeremiah Wureh (Grade 2), Mason Washington (Grade 3), and Jayla Pollard (Grade 4).