

Important dates

Deadline for parent input form April 12 (see note below)

BCO meeting- Monday April 12

No School K-12- Friday April 16

Teacher Work Day- Monday April 19

International Day- Thursday April 30

Reminders

- 3,4,and 5th grade will be taking CMAS tests next week: April 13,14 and 15. Check with teacher for specific times your student will be testing.
- Lunch and breakfast menus can be found online at: <https://psdschools.nutrislice.com/>
- With cooler morning temperatures and warmer afternoon temps, we see a lot more jacket/sweatshirts on the playground. Please remind your students to check the lost and found if they are missing anything.

BCO

Happy National Empanada Day from the Bennett Community Organization! Your PTO, the BCO! I am Eric, your BCO Co-President. Empanadas are pretty amazing and versatile. They can be savory or sweet. Meaty or vegetarian. Baked or fried. Served hot or cold. And the best part, because all the delicious filling is wrapped in a dough shell, they can easily be transported in your backpack, pocket, car cup holder, or that weird little hole for sunglasses that some cars have between the visors!

Please join us for the BCO Meeting on Monday, April 12th at 7pm! We have several important items to discuss. On the agenda are International Day, classroom grants, staff appreciation week, and potential for make-up Eco Week activities for the fifth graders. We will also have a special breakout session to learn everything we can about the Bronco Stampede from Paula who will no longer have kids at Bennett next year. The breakout session will be from 7:45-8:30 using the link below. If you are interested in learning about the Stampede, please join the meeting!

7:00-7:45 - meet.google.com/hgw-byft-vkg (regular BCO meeting)

7:45-8:30 - meet.google.com/rcv-skaa-ztz (Bronco Stampede breakout session)

Do you need a refresher on what happened at the March BCO meeting? Check here!
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1bMbwVzBtcA0ICVLFSEyWyrEPuN3XVg-N?usp=sharing>

Thank you! We hope to see you on Monday evening!

Eric Bowman

bennettcommorg+pres@gmail.com (BCO related email, Bennett questions)

enamwob@gmail.com (love letters, hate mail, where do you keep your empanada?)

303-885-9734

Lisa Verbsky, Co-President

bennettcommorg+pres@gmail.com

Teacher Appreciation

Hello Amazing Bennett Community!

Kat Reeves here and it is time once again to start planning for Teacher Appreciation Week, which takes place this year from May 3rd—7th. Here are FIVE things you can do to help us show our amazing teachers some well-deserved LOVE.

1) As much as we would love to have a traditional potluck, due to Covid, we need to mix it up this year. Please sign up to bring something to our potluck luncheon that can be delivered for the teachers. I will have more details and a sign up sheet available next week.

2) Help us gather donations!! We are trying to assemble 40 individual teacher donations as well as gift bags for all 65 Bennett staff members. I have written a generic donation letter and have PSD's tax free info letter. Please e-mail me at katmike.reeves@gmail.com and I will send them to you.

3) Think of people you know that might make something for the teachers, and ask them (people are more likely to donate things to their friends or for something their friend is doing):

** jewelers

** massage therapists

** Hairdressers

** Crafters

4) Help your kids to something amazing for their teachers!! We will be sending home suggestions of things you and your kiddo can do each day of Teacher Appreciation Week to let your educators know how much they rock! Help us by participating!

5) Email me with any businesses you know of with a connection to Bennett that might donate something to the teachers. I am happy to follow up on any leads or connections you suggest.

Thanks for all of your help Bennett Community! Let's come together to do amazing things for our teachers and finish the school year strong!!! Y'all rock!! Please reach out to me at (970)214-9907 or katmike.reeves@gmail.com if you have questions, if you have a donation that you need to drop off or need picked up, or if you just want to say hi.

Last Call for International Day Speakers

Dear Bennett Families,

Have you heard about **International Day** - a day where Bennett celebrates our diversity by learning about the different cultures and places our Bennett families are from? Despite the challenges of this year, we didn't want to let this special day go. On the morning of **Friday April 30** we will be having a virtual version of International Day, and we need your help!

Are you from another country or have you spent significant time abroad? Are you willing to create a short 5-10 minute video to be viewed the morning of April 30? If so, we would LOVE to hear from you! Please email our International Day Coordinator Lisa Verbsky - lisa.verbsky@gmail.com. Lisa will then send you more information and a list of ideas for your presentation.

Thank you for helping us keep this tradition alive!

In appreciation,

Lisa Verbsky

International Day Coordinator

Counselor Corner

The third and final Mental Health Matters event is taking place April 19th! This time, our guests will discuss social media and its impact on our youth as well as internet safety tips. To learn more about this event or to view previous sessions, please visit our [Mental Health Matters website](#). You can RSVP to our April event by filling out [this form](#), or scan the QR code attached to our flyer. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Anna Burris at annab@psdschools.org. Thanks! [Mental Health Matters March 2021.pdf](#)

VOLUNTEER MENTORS NEEDED

Fifth Grade Exhibition

Exhibition is the significant, culminating experience in the International Baccalaureate PYP (Primary Years Program). It is the final assessment of each student's development of the attributes of the learner profile. It represents Bennett's evaluation and celebration of its students' international mindedness, their continued school career, and each student's preparation for the 21st century. During exhibition, students consider real life issues or problems, select one to explore, research it, and do something about it. Exhibition concludes with student presentations about their inquiries and actions and a celebration of the learner and human being they are.

Mentors are not required to be experts in any area, but "consultants" who advise a small group of students as needed. No supplies or experience is needed. A guide is provided to aide in facilitating group sessions. Training is provided to prepare mentors with the key elements of the PYP and give examples of past exhibitions.

Mentor commitments are about one hour twice per week for six consecutive weeks, all online.

Mentor Expectations

1. Attend Mentor training from (online, TBD time and date)
2. Meet twice a week with the same group of 5th grade students for six consecutive weeks April 12th - May 20th.
 - Days of the week are flexible (you choose the two that work for you).
 - CMAS may impact the times of some meetings.
 - The last opportunity to "meet" with your group will be Wednesday, May 19th before the presentation day on Friday, May 21st.
3. Ask questions to encourage students' depth in thinking and questioning (inquiry), support students in securing experts for the student group to interview, guiding students during their planning and

organization for taking action and presenting their inquiry to others. “Stretch their path to new heights on the exhibition journey, but let them steer.”

4. Help students learn from situations that didn't go as planned through reflection and discussion. Help students get unstuck through looking at a problem differently.

5. Support students in setting goals each week.

6. Suggest resources that might be helpful in further research needed for deeper understanding, action, and/or presentation planning.

7. Aide in interpreting difficult information.

8. Facilitate interviews, telephone calls, communications with public (emails, letters, brochures, etc.) Students will need to have a script for verbal contacts or written communications approved by teachers first.

9. Register with PSD's Partnership and Volunteer Center online at:
<http://www.psdschools.org/partnerships>

10. Mentors are invited to digitally attend the exhibition presentations the morning of May 21st!

11. Have Fun!

If you, or anyone you know, is interested or have more questions please contact Sarah Shigemura at sshigemu@psdschools.org Call Bennett 488-4750 to RSVP for mentor training.

Thank You!

ICYMI:

1. **Class placement for 2021-2022**

We use a software program that sorts students for us based on certain parameters. The program helps us create balanced classes across the grade level. Teachers do not have names of teachers for the following school year when inputting the information for the next year class assignment. So, while you can't request a specific teacher for your child, you can give input on anything you want us to keep in mind about your child when inputting information such as; the environment that you feel your child best learns in, any students you hope can be placed with your child, any students you hope your child can be separated from, etc. The way to communicate this information is through our “parent input form” which you can find on the Bennett website. The form is available now and is due by April 12th. You can email the completed form to me at asmythe@psdschools.org. The forms do not carry over from year to year, so, if you filled one out previously you will need to do a new one for this year. Thank you!

2. Following public health guidelines, PSD to allow voluntary shortened quarantines

PSD believes access to education is critical to student success. As allowed by [county](#) and state public health guidance, PSD staff and students can voluntarily end their quarantines early if they meet strict criteria and are approved by PSD COVID-19 Response Teams to do so. This goes into effect March 22 and is a change from PSD's previous protocols. Process information and criteria are available on the [PSD Protocols for COVID-19 web page >>](#)

- Please note, the shortened quarantine is not available if an entire class has shifted to Remote Learning. Students may not “test back” into class early because the classroom will remain closed to all until a date communicated by the school.
3. If your child has an appointment after school, please come and pick them up by 3:00. **You will need to come to the front door to check them out.** This will allow you time to park and get them at the front door and miss the afterschool congestion.
 4. Call the attendance line 488-4751 or enter an absence in ParentVue when your child will be out. If they are sick, please leave detailed information, so we know if there needs to be Covid related follow up.
 5. **All PSD elementary schools will be using enhanced contact tracing.** Classrooms will be kept together as a “cohort” and not mixed with other classes. If a student or staff member has a positive COVID test, the entire class will automatically be quarantined for 10 days.