



FEBRUARY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Beechwood Knoll
Elementary School

2021

Principal

Janet Loftus

Assistant Principal

Marisa Forrester

Secretary

Jane MacDonald

Nurse

Debbie Cerone

Guidance

Maura Hurst

School Hours:

M, T, Th, F

8:15am - 2:30pm.

Wednesday

Early Release

Hours:

8:15 am. - 11:55 pm

BKS Info:

225 Fenno Street

Quincy, MA 02171

Tel:617-984-8781

Fax: 617-984-8636

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	2	3 <i>Beechwood Bedtime Story Release</i>	4	5
8	9	10 <i>Beechwood Bedtime Story Release</i>	11	12 Lunar New Year
15	16	17	18	19
VACATION - NO SCHOOL				
22 Gr 1-3 Hybrid Students Return 5 Days a week	23	24 Role Model Assembly <i>Beechwood Bedtime Story Release</i>	25	26

Grades 1-3 Hybrid Return To School!!

We are thrilled to announce that our grades 1-3 hybrid students will return to school 5 days a week starting on February 22nd! Wednesdays will remain half days and the children will be dismissed at 11:55. Please keep an eye on your email as there will be more details to follow!

****Any student looking to move from remote to hybrid will be placed on a waiting list and will be contacted at the start of Term 3 (March 22) if space allows.***

A Note from the Principal:



Valentines Day Celebrations: This year, there will be no exchanging of valentines within the classrooms at school. As we continue to follow CDC guidelines in order to keep everyone healthy, we would like to avoid distributing shared items across classrooms. Your Children's teachers have already been brainstorming other creative ways to celebrate the many holidays in February at BKS. Thank you for your understanding!

Cell Phone Use

Overall at BKS, any student who carries a cell phone to school has done a fantastic job keeping it in their backpacks, following along with our school rules. It has been great!

However, it is being brought to our attention that many older students' use of social media (snapchat, etc) and texting outside of school is becoming concerning.

Please continue to closely monitor your child's social media use, the amount of time they are on their phones, and the amount of pictures and videos they are creating and sharing with their "world". When children are having playdates, please ensure that there are rules regarding all phones as well. A lot of times these videos and photos that the kids are making and sharing feature other people's children, whose parents may not consent to this. Please support each other as the adults. These social media/video sharing issues become far more heightened and far more significant as the kids get older, and the more rules and structure we establish now, the easier it will be as the kids travel to middle school. If your child does not share things on their phone, but "follows" those who do as the audience, please also be monitoring what they are watching and who they are watching to avoid any problems. The more we are involved, the less problems occur.

As a point of reference, just remember that children have to participate in hours of classes and field experience before they are allowed to even take a test to earn the right to operate a vehicle. Yet we give children access to the world wide web, at a younger age, as though it is a "toy". Children need guidance and limits in order to help teach them how to use social media appropriately and respectfully.

Thank you for your support in this. The culture of our student body can be significantly affected with only a few videos or posts, and the entire tone of a grade level can shift. This is not what we want to see here at Beechwood Knoll, and all staff will be monitoring this closely in the remaining 5 months of school. There is enough stress on these kids as it is, and we all need to come together to ensure that phones, the internet, and social media are not adding to the pressures they are facing.

~Ms. Loftus

Counselor's Corner

During classroom lessons in Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 2, students have finished their unit on Empathy. They have learned how to recognize the feelings of others and then how to put their empathy into action through an act of compassion.

We are now building on those skills by recognizing strong feelings within ourselves. Students will be learning (some have already learned) how strong feelings affect our bodies and thinking. In this unit, students will learn how to **Stop, Name their Feelings, and Calm Down**. The simple act of naming their feelings starts to get the “thinking part” of their brains back in charge. They will be practicing calming down strategies including breathing, counting and positive self talk. (Ask your second graders about the dance they learned to help them remember the steps.) Practicing “belly breathing” with your children when they are calm can help them strengthen this skill for when they need it to calm down.

BKS Expected Behavior of the Month

For the month of February, students will be working hard to demonstrate *Respect for Others in the Classroom*. This will include helping others, cooperating and behaving in ways to allow others to learn.

Maura Hurst
School Counselor

Nurse's Message

It is hard to believe we are in February already, this year is flying by. This month will be our first of two upcoming week long breaks and thus a good time to remind everyone that the only low risk state to travel to is Hawaii.

Returning to Massachusetts the governor has requested that travelers either quarantine for 10 days or have a COVID test within 72 hours. We are lucky that we have not had to endure any shut downs as some other districts have. In order to keep our school building healthy I am asking that if you travel your student does not return to in person learning until they have either quarantined or had a negative COVID test. I have attached the link if you would like to review the guidelines.

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-travel-order#lower-risk-states->

Please feel free to call me with any questions or concerns.

Yours in Good Health,

Mrs. Cerone

BKS SPECIAL EVENTS & CELEBRATIONS PARENT PLANNING MEETING

Please join us for a meeting to plan upcoming special events & celebrations at the Beechwood Knoll School! We are looking forward to hearing ideas from your family on traditional ways to celebrate in school!



Topic: BKS Holiday Planning Parent Meeting
Time: Feb 1, 2021 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://quincypublicschools.zoom.us/j/89817791516?pwd=a0piSDF6MWNhQldUSjl4RktrZlRVZz09>

OR

Meeting ID: 898 1779 1516
Passcode: BKS



BKS假期计划家长会议

BKS jiàqī jìhuà jiāzhǎng huìyì

Cuộc họp phụ huynh lập kế hoạch cho kỳ nghỉ của BKS

Takimi i Prindërve për Planifikimin e Festave të BKS

Reunião de pais de planejamento de férias BKS

Reunión de padres de planificación de vacaciones de BKS

Chinese New Year Facts for Kids

Kids Encyclopedia Facts

https://kids.kiddle.co/Chinese_New_Year

Chinese New Year, known in **China** as the **Spring Festival** and in **Singapore** as the **Lunar New Year**, is a **holiday** on and around the **new moon** on the first **day** of the **year** in the **traditional Chinese calendar**. This calendar is based on the **changes** in the **moon** and is only sometimes changed to fit the **seasons** of the year based on how the **Earth moves around** the **sun**. Because of this, Chinese New Year is never on **January 1**. It moves around between **January 21** and **February 20**.

Chinese New Year used to last 15 days until the Lantern Festival on the year's first **full moon**. Now, it is a **national holiday** in the Republic and People's Republic of China, the Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei, and Indonesia. It is also celebrated in some parts of Thailand. In some places, only the first day or three days are celebrated. In the **PRC**, nearby **weekends** are changed to create a 7-day-long "Golden Week".

Year of the Ox

<https://chinesenewyear.net/>

In Chinese culture, the Ox is a valued animal. Because of its role in agriculture, positive characteristics, such as being hardworking and honest, are attributed to it.

Oxen are the hard workers in the background, intelligent and reliable, but never demanding praise.



Origins of Black History Month

<https://asalh.org/about-us/origins-of-black-history-month/>

The story of Black History Month begins in Chicago during the summer of 1915. An alumnus of the University of Chicago with many friends in the city, Carter G. Woodson traveled from Washington, D.C. to participate in a national celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of emancipation sponsored by the state of Illinois. Thousands of African Americans travelled from across the country to see exhibits highlighting the progress their people had made since the destruction of slavery. Awarded a doctorate in Harvard three years earlier, Woodson joined the other exhibitors with a black history display. Despite being held at the Coliseum, the site of the 1912 Republican convention, an overflow crowd of six to twelve thousand waited outside for their turn to view the exhibits. Inspired by the three-week celebration, Woodson decided to form an organization to promote the scientific study of black life and history before leaving town. On September 9th, Woodson met at the Wabash YMCA with A. L. Jackson and three others and formed the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH). He hoped that others would popularize the findings that he and other black intellectuals would publish in *The Journal of Negro History*, which he established in 1916. As early as 1920, Woodson urged black civic organizations to promote the achievements that researchers were uncovering. A graduate member of Omega Psi Phi, he urged his fraternity brothers to take up the work. In 1924, they responded with the creation of Negro History and Literature Week, which they renamed Negro Achievement Week. Their outreach was significant, but Woodson desired greater impact. As he told an audience of Hampton Institute students, "We are going back to that beautiful history and it is going to inspire us to greater achievements." In 1925, he decided that the Association had to shoulder the responsibility. Going forward it would both create and popularize knowledge about the black past. He sent out a press release announcing Negro History Week in February, 1926.

To continue reading, go to <https://asalh.org/about-us/origins-of-black-history-month/>



Valentine's Day

Here's why we celebrate friendship on this winter holiday.

BY ROSE DAVIDSON

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/celebrations/valentines-day/>

Candy, flowers, heart-shaped notes—what's not to like about Valentine's Day? This sweet celebration, which happens every year on February 14, is all about spreading the love.

ROMANTIC RULE BREAKER

The holiday we know today got its name from a man named Valentine. While a few different stories are told about what he did to inspire the holiday, many people believe he's celebrated for his role as a Roman priest who helped couples secretly get married.

As the story goes, Emperor Claudius II of Rome—who reigned from the year 268 A.D. to 270 A.D.—banned marriage because he thought unmarried men made better soldiers. Valentine thought this was unfair and decided to break the rules and perform marriages anyway. He kept the ceremonies quiet, but he was eventually caught and later killed on February 14 of the year 270 for defying the emperor. Right before he died, Valentine supposedly wrote the first-ever "valentine" to his jailer's daughter, with whom he'd fallen in love. Later, in the 5th century, Pope Gelasius I declared the day of his death as St. Valentine's Day.



St. Valentine

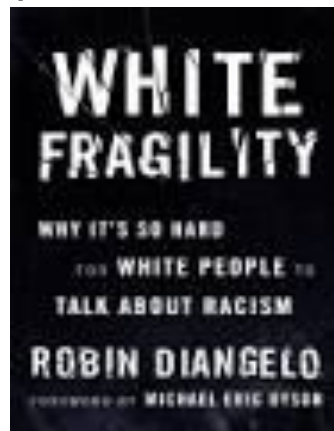
IMAGE BY ERIC VANDEVILLE, GAMMA-RAPHO, GETTY IMAGES

BKS DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

ADULT BOOK CLUB

*Our summer book club was so successful that we would like to have another! Join us for some conversation and some community building this March! No pressure if you don't get to finish the whole book or if you don't like to talk in front of other adults. Being present and listening is just as powerful!

We will be reading White Fragility by Sociologist Robin DiAngelo. All we ask is that you come with an open mind and the ability to challenge yourself and your own norms in order to make our community a better place for our children. We are all in this together.



“I grew up poor and white. While my class oppression has been relatively visible to me, my race privilege has not. In my efforts to uncover how race has shaped my life, I have gained deeper insight by placing race in the center of my analysis and asking how each of my other group locations have socialized me to collude with racism. In so doing, I have been able to address in greater depth my multiple locations and how they function together to hold racism in place. I now make the distinction that I grew up poor and white, for my experience of poverty would have been different had I not been white” (DiAngelo, 2006).

BKS Family Inclusion Survey Results

Total Results: 162

- English - 107 (66%)
- Albanian - 3 (2%)
- Chinese - 49 (30%)
- Spanish - 1 (1%)
- Vietnamese - 2 (1%)

Responses collected from October 30 and will close on November 25

Outreach:

- Posted on QPS Website
- Fliers sent home
- Parent Newsletter Emails

Incentive:

To show our appreciation for your time, families who complete the survey will be entered in a BKS Family Fun Night prize basket raffle upon completion.

Responses that Resonated

- *Everyone has a lot of challenges during the pandemic.
- *“I worry the excessive use of technology will diminish creativity and problem solving thought processes.”
- *Just the pandemic - I miss being able to see the classrooms and chat with the teachers and other parents at pick up and drop off.
- *It seems that a lot of families feel BKS is a “safe and welcoming environment,” which is great to hear.
- *I was surprised that many families don’t know that we celebrate the Lunar New Year. We could possibly advertise what we do as a school community with the parade and various activities that each grade level does.
- *I am worried about the way adults are conducting themselves in the world these days. They seem to have forgotten what they should have been taught as children about how to get along with people who are different from them in a variety of ways. I would love to see an emphasis placed on treating others with respect, dignity, and empathy, and developing a sense of gratitude for the ways in which the students have been fortunate in their own lives.
- *Stick to the core mission of academics, reading, writing, science, math etc. Everything else is a distraction. No indoctrinating.
- *Stuck with me that many reasons why families aren’t involved were answered with language barriers

Celebrated Successes

- *I believe that Mrs. Loftus and the BKS teachers really care about my family, they really want to help my son feel comfortable and be his best self.
- *The responses seem overwhelmingly positive. Only a few responses of people being upset with how things are handled. Most parents seem just as stressed and overwhelmed as teachers so they seem to be very understanding and open to help/be helped. Also it is nice to see that almost all families look forward to one or more of our school events each year.
- *Communication from the school and teachers has increased, and parents seem happy with that.
- *I loved reading that families believe that we have a strong sense of community at BKS.
- *I like that there is so much diversity in the school. I love the culture of inclusion and understanding that we are all from different walks of life but can be included together as one.

Opportunities to Improve

- ***Lunar New Year**-It seems like many do not realize we do celebrate this in school with the parade. Maybe we should advertise that we do the parade (during a normal year).
- *Recognize and do more to celebrate **Lunar New Year**. It seems a lot of families would like more recognition of their cultural traditions. Maybe think of some sort of virtual event to simulate the dragon parade thing we do here at BKS with second grade. Maybe spread that topic throughout all grades and spend time on it.
- *LOTS of email issues, when this is a primary method of **communication**, there should be a way for us to improve this
- *Maybe we can do a confirmation **email** confirming that we have the correct email addresses for each family. Also a “how to check spam” folder so parents are checking there each month.
- ***Email** needs to be addressed. So many families do not receive emails from QPS. It seems that most emails go to Spam.
- *Work on **language barrier** issues. More translators or network with more bilingual parents to help pull others in.
- *Additional understanding of the **language** and **cultural** issues...
- *Differentiating for kids as seen above, and finding more activities to extend the sense of **community**, particularly amongst remote learners.

Kindergarten Registration

<http://quincypublicschools.ss19.sharpschool.com/cms/One.aspx?portalId=22782402&pageId=23457790>

2021-2022 KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

[Quincy Public Schools](#) / [Family & Community](#) / [Family](#) / [Student Registration](#) / 2021-2022
Kindergarten Registration

Welcome to Quincy Public Schools! Children who will be 5 years of age on or before August 31, 2021 are eligible to attend Kindergarten beginning in September 2021.

Kindergarten registration is a two-step process:

- Families will fill out an online Pre-Registration form:
<https://fs30.formsite.com/lauraowens/y1ocgv4w1i/index.html>
- Families will be contacted beginning in early February to schedule an appointment to complete the registration process in person. This appointment may be at the school site or at the Central Registration office. Appointments will be scheduled during school hours and will continue through June. *Translation services are available at Central Registration.*
- [Click here to download the Kindergarten Registration packet.](#)

If your child presently attends a Pre-Kindergarten program at the Amelio Della Chiesa Early Childhood Center, Point Webster, or Snug Harbor it is *not* necessary to register your child for Kindergarten.

If you have questions about Kindergarten registration, please email lauraowens@quincypublicschools.com or call 617-984-8702.

We look forward to having your child enter our Kindergarten program in the fall!



February Break Free Grab N' Go Meals



In order to receive this AMAZING benefit, please call 617-984-8768 by February 4 before 12 PM, to reserve your child's breakfast and lunch meals for all 5 days of school break.

Pick-up is at North Quincy High on February 12, 2021, from 11 AM-1 PM



Breakfast Meals Include:



5 Cereal Breakfast Options with
100% Fruit Juice, & Milk

Lunch Meals Include:

Protein Pack

String Cheese, BBQ Turkey, WW Cheez-its, Apple Slices, & 100% Fruit Juice

Grilled Cheese

With Baby Carrots & Orange

Brunch for Lunch

Yogurt with WW Pancakes, Maple Syrup, Pear, & 100% Fruit Juice

ANYTIME Lunchable

Turkey, Ham, & Cheese, with WW Crackers, Apple Slices, Raisins

Cheese Burger

On a WW Bun, with French Fries, & 100% Fruit Juice



*All meals served with 1% Milk

