



Share your love with someone special this month.



WATERLOO
Community School District

Engaged in Learning • Prepared for Success

Volume 2, Issue 6

February 1, 2012

Becker Elementary News

Success is our Only Option

Principal's Corner

Hello families,

With the start of February we, the staff, are feeling like life is finally back to normal. The ceremonies are over, most of the kinks have been worked out, all the furniture is in now, and we can begin to get back to business as usual. Thank you again for all your patience as we went through this huge transition.

We look forward to serving your children for the rest of the year!



The Becker Pledge

I'm a positive leader starting today.
Whatever happened yesterday has gone away.
Hey everybody! Follow me!
A Becker leader is what I'm going to be.
I'm on the right track to reaching success.
Every single day I do my very best.
I know staying focused, it is the key.
Above all else, I will believe in me.

Melissa Steggall, Principal

Schedule of Events

- **Every Wednesday**
Leader of the Week lunch in the Becker Café.
- **Feb. 2nd**
PTO @ 6:00
- **Feb. 9th @ 5:30**
Black History Program/Dinner
- **Feb. 10th**
NO SCHOOL
- **Feb. 14th @ 2:30**
Valentine's Parties
- **Feb. 17th @ 6:00**
Movie Night
- **Feb. 21st @ 5:00**
Chili Supper
- **Feb. 24th @ 2:00**
ROAR Assembly

Reminders



We have just a few things we would like to mention this month:

- If you have a change in phone number, please notify the office as soon as possible so we can be our records up to date.
- Students are tardy if they arrive after **8:50**.
- If your child would like to play in the snow they must bring **boots, snow pants, and extra shoes.**



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Becker News



February is Black History Month and we would like to honor that by hosting a Black History Program and Soul Food Dinner here at Becker Elementary.

Please join us in our
**4th Annual
Black History Program**

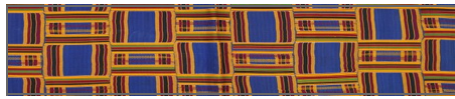
When: Feb. 9th, 2012

Time: 5:30 p.m.

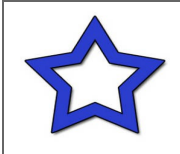
Where: We will begin in the Becker Gymnasium with a program and then head over to the Becker Café for a free Soul Food Dinner.

Our program will include some "History Makes," who are students giving us the history, a play titled *Midnight at the Black History Museum*, put on by a group of students, as well as, some songs and a rap performance given by another group of students.

We really hope you can join us for this awesome celebration!



Leaders of Becker



These are our **Leaders** for the month on January:

Kindergarten: Sha'Kiya Mitchell, Caitlin Bartruff, Kayona Flowers, DeAvionte Lumpkin

1st Grade: Brianna Williams, Jakob Hummel, Chyenne Atkins, Zach Schmitz

2nd Grade: Nick Spratt

3rd Grade: Hannah Lovegren, McKenzie Heinz, David Myers

4th Grade: Jeremiah Bruno, Kevin Rossow, Breanna Roos

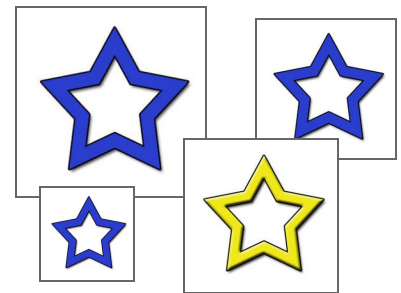
5th Grade: Skylar Brunson, Noelle Brueseke, Jessica Smith

Music: Josey Dascher, Ayala Jackson, Spenser Mochal

Gym: Zach Thurnau, Akila Matlock, Jessica Pham

Media: Savannah Ringheden, Staphanie Onofre, Jerran Hummel

Art: Ali Mullnix, Robert Vargas, Markyse Wilson



Our next Leader Luncheon will be hosted on Feb. 29th.

Events Sponsored by Your P.T.O.

Come and support your child's education by participating in some upcoming events that are being hosted by your very own Becker P.T.O.

Movie Night

February 17th @ 6:00



Chili Supper

On Feb. 21st from 5:00 to 7:00 come and enjoy a hot bowl of chili. Bring the family and enjoy some time together in our new cafeteria.

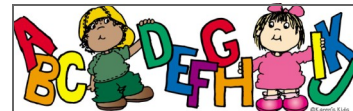
Kindergarten Round-Up for 2012-2013

When: Friday, April 13th

When: 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Is your child ready for Kindergarten? District-wide Kindergarten Roundup dates for the 2012-13 school year is April 13th.

There will be no prekindergarten or kindergarten on that day.



Please bring your child, proof of your child's age (a certified letter signed by your doctor, birth certificate, or adoption record), proof of address (rental agreement, current utility bill, cable bill, or water bill with the parent's name, DHS/Title 19 documents with parents name and current address), and a copy of your child's immunization records.

For more information, contact Becker at (319)433-2180.

Final Tidbits

Becker PTO

Join us again this month to discuss any happenings here at Becker. We will be meeting on February 2nd at 6:00 in the evening.

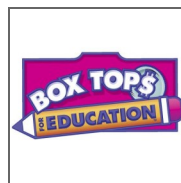
Childcare is provided as well as dinner. Come, meet our families, talk about your school, and enjoy a bite to eat.

We hope to see you there!

Labels for Education

Save your labels for Edison/Becker. Labels for education is a fundraising program that allows families to save labels from different food products and in turn raises money for the school. We are currently collecting these labels:

Pop Tabs for
Ronald McDonald





Spotlight on Students at Becker

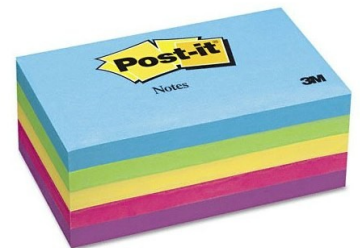
This month we would like to take a moment to focus on our Reading Instruction. Reading Instruction in the past was very chopped up. During a typical elementary school day there were different subjects that were taught, but we did not necessarily connect them together. We have learned a lot since then and now we are finding that the more we can tie everything together, the more students are retaining or remembering.

Here at Becker we call our reading instruction “Reading Workshop.” Reading Workshop is a way to engage all children in a number of meaningful activities that will strengthen both their reading and writing skills. This makes up a large portion of our day and your child is busy is busy connecting their reading and their writing understand by being involved in many different activities. *Read below to find some examples of those activities.*

Word Work is one station that is used in Kindergarten and 1st grade. Magnetic letters make this more authentic by allowing students to practice making words.



Post-it notes are used quite frequently to help students respond to reading both in small groups and individually. In 2nd grade, as students are reading to themselves they use their sticky notes to write down the characters in their story. At the end of the workshop they are then able to share with the class who the characters were in book.



Graphic organizer template with sections for:

- Topic:
- Detail:
- Detail:
- Detail:
- Concluding Sentence:

Many teachers use graphic organizers to help students organize their thoughts about what they write and what they read.



In 5th grade this week when students were done silent reading their book they were to respond independently to the book by drawing a comic strip that summarized what they read

Listening to reading is another great way for students to become better readers. To make it more meaningful teachers give the students something to listen for and then at sharing time, students share what they heard.



Infinite Campus Now Available on your Ipad

Access to your student's attendance, assignments, grades, and more is now available on your iPad through the free Infinite Campus Mobile Portal! This app allows parents to access up to date student information through a convenient app, rather than needing to log-in through the web-based portal. You can also setup the app to notify you in the event of an attendance event, or a new assignment being created or graded. To begin, just visit the app store on your iPad, and download the "Infinite Campus Mobile Portal" app. When you launch the app, it will ask for a URL code, which is **TKHWDX**. You will then be able to sign in with your campus portal username and password. Be sure to turn on notifications so you are notified when new assignments, grades, or attendance events are created for your child.



STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION IN PROGRAMS AND EMPLOYMENT

It is the policy of the Waterloo Community School District not to illegally discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to these policies, please contact the district's Equity Coordinator:

Dr. Bev Smith, Associate Superintendent for Human Resources and Equity
1516 Washington Street, Waterloo, IA 50702
Phone: 319-433-1800 Email: smithb@waterloo.k12.ia.us

