



INTERCOM

Bismarck Public Schools weekly employee newsletter

March 4, 2010

Hope, engagement, & well-being

In March all of our schools will be using the Gallup Student Poll to take a brief measure of the hope, engagement and well-being of 5th through 12th grade students in our district. They will take an online poll developed by Gallup and America's Promise Alliance. This will be the third opportunity for our students to participate. The majority of our schools participated in the poll in the spring of 2009 and five schools participated in the fall of 2010.

The Gallup Student Poll surveyed 70,078 students in grades 5-12 from 335 schools and 59 districts located in 18 states and the District of Columbia in March 2009. Bismarck Public Schools was selected to participate in the poll at no cost to the district.

According to research conducted by Gallup and America's Promise Alliance – "Intelligence and aptitude are not the only determinants of a student's academic success and future success in the job market." We probably have all worked with students and adults with high levels of intelligence and aptitude that are not successful students or adults and other students and adults who are very successful even though they struggle academically. "Hope, the ideas and energy for the future, is one of the most potent predictors of success of our youth."

"Hopeful students see the future as better than the present, and believe they have the power to make it so. These students are energetic and full of life. They are able to develop strategies to reach goals and plan contingencies in the event that they are faced with problems along the way."

A few of the questions used to measure hope are as follows:

- I know I will graduate from high school.
- There is an adult in my life who cares about my future.
- I can find lots of ways around any problem.

According to recent data, 49% of Bismarck Public School students feel hopeful, 37% are stuck (in the middle) and 14% are discouraged. Nationally 50% are hopeful, 33% are stuck and 17% are discouraged.

The engagement data on the Gallup Student Poll provides us with information about the conditions that keep students and staff involved in and enthusiastic about school. In the district's discussions about student activities at the middle schools and high schools we talk about the importance of having students involved in a variety of clubs, sports and other activities and we try to offer a variety of opportunities. Engagement in school and community is a Balanced Scorecard objective.

"In a series of studies, Gallup research has demonstrated that student and teacher engagement is associated with future performance on high-stakes tests." The results of the spring 2009 Gallup Student Poll show 53% of BPS students are engaged, 30% are not engaged and 17% are actively disengaged. The highest level of engagement is in 5th grade and the lowest level of engagement was in 9th grade. The research shows that engagement is not associated with class size or income.

There is a strong link between students who have experienced well-being and engagement. Well-being is measured by the positive or negative experiences students had the day before. Examples of these questions are:

- Were you treated with respect all day yesterday?
- Did you learn or do something interesting yesterday?
- Did you smile or laugh a lot yesterday?

"The poll displayed that 73% of students who had a positive yesterday (respect, interesting, smile/laugh, energy) were engaged at school, compared to 12% who had a negative yesterday. The poll is only given Tuesday through Friday so that yesterday was a school day. 62% of BPS students were thriving, 37% were struggling and 1% was suffering.

Our challenge as a school district and individual teachers, support staff and administrators is to find ways to use this information to improve the hope, engagement, and well-being of all of our students and staff.

Lisa Kudelka, HR Manager

Calendar Call

- Mar 8 **School Board Mtg.**
5:15 pm City/Cnty. Bldg.
- Mar 12 **Spring Break**
No School
- Mar 15 **Staff Development Day**
No School
- Mar 17 **Secondary School Admins.**
7:30 am Hughes #3
Elementary Principals
9:00 am Hughes #1
- Mar 22 **Speech/Lang. Pathologists**
3:30 pm Hughes #2
- Mar 26 **Team Leadership Mtg.**
8-11 am Hughes #1 & 2
- Mar 31 **School Board Mtg.** to choose Supt. finalists, 4 pm
- Apr 1 **BPS Foundation Teacher Mini-Grant Deadline**
- Apr 2-5 **Easter Break**
No School
- Apr 7 **Secondary School Admins.**
7:30 am Hughes #3
Elementary Principals
9:00 am Hughes #1
- Apr 12 **School Board Mtg.**
5:15 pm City/Cnty. Bldg.
- Apr 14 **Team Leadership Mtg.**
9:00 am Hughes #1, 2
- Apr 19 **Speech/Lang. Pathologists**
3:30 pm Hughes #2
- Apr 21 **Secondary School Admins.**
7:30 am Hughes #3
Elementary Principals
9:00 am Hughes #1
- Apr 21 **BPS Foundation Mtg.**
11:45 am Hughes #1
- Apr 26 **School Board Mtg.**
5:15 pm City/County Bldg.
- Apr 27 **Employee Dinner**
- May 5 **Secondary School Admins.**
7:30 am Hughes #3
Elementary Principals
9:00 am Hughes #1

Credit Courses

Latte Sessions - Held at Hughes, 3:30-5:00 p.m. Staff can register in the Staff Tracker to attend any of these free sessions for credit.

- ✓ Moodle 101- Mar. 8
- ✓ What is your RIT? - Mar. 16
- ✓ Classroom Web Pages - Mar. 17
Additional Support/Training
- ✓ Audacity - Mar. 22
- ✓ ActivInspire - Mar. 23
- ✓ PowerSchool Data Mining - Mar. 24
- ✓ Animoto - Mar. 25
- ✓ Delicious - Mar. 30
- ✓ Classroom Web Pages - Mar. 31
Additional Support/Training
- ✓ Wordle - Apr. 7
- ✓ Blogs@EduTech - Apr. 12

Community Corner

√ **It's that time of year again!** Nominate a deserving teacher for the Chamber Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award. For nomination forms, contact spaulson@bismarckmandan.com or call 223-5660 by March 19.

√ **Excellent Teachers Needed:** Are you interested in making a difference in an aspiring teacher's future? Are you also interested in growing professionally, participating in a collaborative learning experience, and giving back to education? If you answered "yes" to both of these questions, then Dickinson State is offering a course for you! Supervision of Student Teachers prepares you to be an effective cooperating teacher, as well as enables you to meet the ND requirements for student teacher placement. Course will be held in Bismarck on the BSC campus Saturday, March 20 from 9 am-3 pm with a follow-up session Tuesday, May 4 from 4-7 pm. To accommodate the lives of busy teachers, there will be a combination of face-to-face and online instruction (15 hours total). Graduate credit is available for \$60 through Minot State plus a \$10 registration fee. Space is limited; contact Lori Gibson at 224-2481 or email Lori.Gibson@dsu.nodak.edu.

√ **Chance for FREE dino tickets:** Bismarck Civic Center and Bismarck Public Library are hosting a coloring contest for a chance to win 4 free tickets to Walking with Dinosaurs in April (see below). If you'd like your class to participate, you can find the coloring pages on the BPS "employee" web page, or e-mail Lindsey Morey at lamorey@nd.gov. Entries must be dropped off at the public library by March 26.

√ **Walking With Dinosaurs:** This educational, theatrical show is coming to Bismarck Tuesday April 13 at 7 pm and Wednesday April 14 at 3 and 7 pm. Call the Civic Center at 355-1384 for group discounts of 10 or more or go through Ticketmaster for individual tickets.

√ **Make a Wish Fashion Show fundraiser:** Sunday, March 28, 4 pm at Simle. Tickets are \$10 at the door, Attitudes or at 221-0588 (Cara Mund).

√ **Online contest with great prizes:** Between now and March 31, educators, parents and teens (middle/high school) can participate in a trivia contest at www.sylvanchallenge.com. *School Success Challenge* features an electronic game board filled with 6 categories and participants are asked 3 random questions per day. The Grand Prize winner will receive a \$5,000 Carnival cruise, as well as \$10,000 for his/her school. Other prizes: a Mac laptop, Kindle, Nintendo DS, graphing calculator, iPod, etc.

√ **Attention 1st & 3rd grade teachers:** St. Alexius and Kohl's will host a **FREE Summer Fun & Safety Day on Thursday, May 13**, at Sertoma Park for 1st and 3rd graders. Students will visit action-oriented booths that teach a variety of safety tips. Suggested schedule is 3rd graders from 9-11:15 am; 1st graders from 12:15-2:30 pm. To register by March 31, e-mail this info to Amber Larson at alarson@primecare.org: your school, grade, teacher's name and e-mail, number of students attending, school phone and fax number.

√ **Neighbor Network needs beds:** Call Sylvia Hauck at 527-8464.

√ **Homebound tutors needed:** must have a teaching certificate; \$19.75 per hour, max 5 hrs/week, with per mile travel reimbursement. Contact Wendy Monzelowsky at 323-4028 or wendy_monzelowsky@bismarckschools.org.

Census teaching tool available

In 2000, only 72% of occupied households mailed back their Census forms. In 2010, communities are being challenged to do better. To track how local communities are doing, check out this interactive, map-based "Take 10" Web site to compare 2010 Census mail back participation rates at <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/take10map/>. It will be updated daily.

Kudos!

National Guard First Lt. Ryan Kaufman, a Century High School social studies teacher currently deployed to Kosovo, recently escorted ND Representative Earl Pomeroy when the congressman visited the area. Kaufman was with Pomeroy during a walking tour with N.D. soldiers on patrol in the cities of Ferizaj/Urosevac and Brezovica. The congressman spent a day at Camp Bondsteel with North Dakota soldiers as part of his week-long stay in the Balkans. Most of the soldiers have been in Kosovo since late October.



Job Opportunitites

Deadline: March 10

Cook/Cashier - Simle - Step 3 -
(parttime 11 am-1:15 pm)

Food Service Asst. Cook - Step 3; 9
am to 1 pm- & Custodian I - Step 2;
1:30-5:30 pm - Centennial - 9 mo.

Deadline: March 12

Custodian II - Horizon - Step 5 -
(fulltime 2:30-11 pm)

Deadline: March 15

2010 Summer School Teachers -
June 7-25 (Session 1); June 28-July
20 (Session 2); no school July 2 & 5.

Deadline: March 21

Director of Bands -CHS
Middle School Counselor - 2010-11

Deadline: March 31

Camp Edventure - June 7-July
20 - Mon-Fri, 8 am-noon, seeking
certified elementary teachers for
elementary summer school for
students entering grades 1-6.
There will be 1 six week session
with no school July 2-5. Applicants
can apply to teach the entire 6
weeks, 1st 3 weeks, or 2nd 3 weeks.

Jumpstart grade K - June 7-18,
Mon-Fri, 8 am-noon, at all schools.

BECEP Summer Program/ESY:
June 7-July 15, Tue/Wed/Thur
am. Lead teacher, Speech, OT, PT,
& Instructional Aides/Step 5, 3-4
hours per day in morning.

Manchester House Summer
Program - June 7-July 20, no school
July 2-5, Special Ed Teachers (4
hours in am); Summer Special Ed.
Instructional Aides (4 hours in am).

Special Ed MR Summer Program:
Middle, Senior High & Life Ed -
teachers with special ed credentials
and Instructional Aides (Step 5) 3-4
hours per day in morning.

Special Ed Extended School Year:
June 7-July 20, no school July 2-5,
Mon-Fri, 8 am-noon. Certified OT,
Speech, and special ed teachers for
elementary, current grades K-6. In
conjunction with Camp Ed unless
otherwise directed by IEP teams.

Deadline: April 28

2010-11 Elementary Teachers -
creating a hiring pool of qualified
teachers to fill vacancies for all
BPS K-6th grade classrooms and
elementary reading positions.

Deadline: April 30

Instructional Aides - Jumpstart
Kindergarten - June 7-18, Monday-
Friday, 8 am-noon (Step 5).

For a detailed job description and to apply, go to bismarckschools.org "Job Opportunities" link.