



**Anissa Wiseman**  
**Principal**  
**51 SE 13th Street,**  
**Bend, Oregon 97702**  
**April 4, 2018**

### **Principal's Message:**

Hello Bear Creek Families-

We hope that you have had a wonderful beginning to Spring. I am a fan of winter, but it is nice that Spring is now upon us.

As we move into the last trimester of this school year, we have several important events coming up. It is the time of year that we plan for both beginnings and endings. We are looking forward to enrolling our new Kindergarten students and transitioning our fifth grade students to start Middle School next school year.

It is a busy time of year, and we celebrate all of the wonderful changes happening around us.

- Our Fifth Grade students will experience Middle School Orientations and Move-up days in May.
- Bear Creek Elementary hosts kindergarten registration on **April 24th**. We will share information about the Kinder programs, answer questions, and take registration all day. Registration starts on this date and continues for the rest of the school year. We encourage early registration, so we can plan for the programs next school year. Please bring your child's birth certificate and immunization records with you.
- Turn off the T.V. Week is a huge tradition at Bear Creek. The events kick off **April 22-26**. We will be hosting several activities for the entire family to participate in and enjoy. Stay tuned for details. The school talent show is scheduled on the last day of that week, **Friday, April 26**. This talent show is sure to be entertaining and fun for all. Don't miss it.

We want to remind parents how important school attendance is for every child. If a child is here less than 90% of the time, he/she is considered chronically absent. At this time of the year, chronically absent students have missed about 9 days of school. When students are not here, they are missing out on important class discussions, questions, and opportunities for practice. I know that illness play a factor, but often absences occur for other reasons. Please support your child's education, and work to get them here on time every day.

Thank you for your support.  
My door is always open,  
Anissa Wiseman

### **Mark Your Calendar!**

#### **Monday, April 8**

*PTO Meeting @ 6pm Gym*

#### **Wednesday, April 10**

*School Improvement early release*

*2pm schedule*

*Spring Conference begins 4:00pm - 8:00pm*

#### **Thursday, April 11**

*Full Day School*

*Spring Conference continues*

*4:00pm- 8:00pm*

#### **Friday, April 12**

*No School/*

*Parent Conferences by appt.*

#### **Thursday, April 18**

*Site Council Meeting*

*3:45-5:00pm*

#### **April 22-26**

*TV turn off week*

#### **Wednesday, Apr.24**

*Kindergarten Registration begins*

#### **Friday, April 26**

*Annual PTO Talent Show*

*Looking Ahead....*

#### **May 1, 2 & 3**

*5th Grade Camp Tamarack*

#### **May 6-17**

*Annual Marathon*

**May 21st** 5th Grade Middle school visits

## April is National Poetry Month

“I would define ... the Poetry of words as The Rhythmical Creation of Beauty.” — *Edgar Allan Poe, from "The Poetic Principle."*

### Important School Calendar Updates:

We know that our students are best served when our schools are in session. Record-setting February snowfall, however, resulted in our canceling school for four days. Bend-La Pine Schools' students are fortunate to receive exceptional learning opportunities that each of you help provide in our schools every day. Making sure that our students receive the education that they deserve is a priority – that is why we will be making up missed school days this spring and extending our school year so that it now ends on Friday, June 14.

The following changes to the 2018-19 calendar were made with much consideration and input from our employee group leadership and staff:

#### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Wednesday, April 10 — School Improvement Wednesday schedule
- Thursday, April 11 — Full school day
- Friday, April 12 — No School
- Thursday, June 13 — Full school day
- Friday, June 14 — School Improvement Wednesday schedule

#### Spring Conferences

Parents should have received an invitation to schedule a Spring Conference prior to Spring Break.

Bear Creek has selected to offer conferences the evening of April 10th and April 11th.

Some families may not feel they need a conference at this time and other families may want to make an appointment at a different time, during the month of April.

If you did not receive a conference scheduling invitation, please contact your child's teacher.

## Kindergarten

### KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION!

Kindergarten Registration will be held at Bear Creek all day on Wednesday, April 24th. Make sure to bring your child's birth certificate, proof of address and immunization records.

#### Next Year's Plans:

As we work to define our enrollment for the 2019-2020 school year, please notify the office as soon as possible if your student will not be attending Bear Creek next school year. Thanks!

**Bear Creek is excited to partner with our PTO and the Family Resource Center to offer a 6 week parenting class, "Active Parenting Now" starting April 30th from 5:30 -7:30.** Call the Family Resource center at 541-389-5468 or visit [frconline.org](http://frconline.org) to register. Space is limited! Please plan to attend all sessions. Child care and dinner are provided.

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL VISITATION**

**Tuesday, May 21st**



5th Grade Students will be bused to either High Desert MS or Pilot Butte MS depending on your address. If your child is attending a different middle school: please plan to either transport your child to that school for their visit on that date, or make different arrangements.

Bear Creek Staff accompanies the students for their middle school to nearby middle school, not selected schools.

## **Classroom Placement Process for 2019-2020**

Beginning in May, our staff will be meeting to place students into classrooms for the 2019-2020 school year. At Bear Creek we are making every effort to maintain balanced student populations in all of our classrooms. In balancing classrooms we will be considering gender, academic performance, special needs, attendance, personality combinations, and other extenuating circumstances. Current classroom teachers will divide their students into heterogeneous groups, based on the balancing criteria described above. They will also examine which future classroom will best meet the learning style of individual children. Specialists, office staff, and building administration will also have input into student placement. This will be a long process, and could be delayed as we wait for funding and staffing information. Parents will be notified of future classroom placement at our Open House in August. In the meantime, we will be identifying which teachers will be teaching which grade level. A parent input form will be available in our office for parents who wish to provide us with additional information and guidance as we complete this process. Specific teacher requests will not be honored. The deadline for parent input is May 17<sup>th</sup>.



### **Math Tip for Parents**

**Encourage drawing whenever you can:** So much of math can be taught visually. Mathematicians draw all the time, they do this because sketching a problem helps them really see the important mathematical ideas. Drawing and restating problems both help children understand what questions are asking and how the mathematics fits within them. – Jo Boaler, Stanford University

### **Reading Tip for Parents**

**Last Comic Standing** Take time to read comic strips together. Share favorites from your own childhood and have your child put his favorites on the fridge. Read them aloud, and often -- repetition is a great way to build reading skills. Soon, he'll love looking forward to the "Sunday funnies" each week.

## State Testing

All students grades 3,4, and 5 will take the smarter balanced assessments. We will begin to administer these tests in the student's classrooms using their iPad. Each classroom teacher will let the students and families know their specific test date.

As a school, we will begin testing on April 15th . The testing window will run until the end of May. You can support your child by: Knowing the date that they will take their tests, and making sure that they get plenty of rest. Results from these tests will not be available until next fall.

Turn off the TV Week is April 22-26

Our 20th annual TOTV Week is coming in April!

Turn off the screens and come and join us in the evenings for fun family activities. More information will be sent home as it gets closer so you can plan which nights work for your family. Most events are Free!

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Congratulations to our winning team for Oregon Battle of the Books! They are our 4th graders from Mr. Nuñez's and Mr. Shelton's classes. [The Fat Bear Paws: Jude Kim, Van Giessler, Jack Novak, Austin Morales, and George Gove will be attending the Regional battles at Sisters Middle School on March 9th.](#) We are so proud of all their hard work. Congrats!

~ Mrs. Roberts



## SEL



We are moving into a very sensitive area of focus for Social and Emotional Learning and we want you to be well informed. April is Child Abuse Awareness month, and we will be focusing specifically on childhood sexual abuse.

National studies indicate that 1 in 10 children will be molested by the time they reach their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Unfortunately, most incidents are not reported and therefore can be repeated. The statistics are chilling, but there are things we can do to protect our children. Informed children are safer children.

Beginning in April, we will be teaching a short unit on body safety to all students. It will cover safety with strangers as well as people the children may know. This safety unit, called SafeTOUCH, will teach children to recognize the difference between "OK" and "Not OK" touches, how to say "NO", and who to go to for help. This approach will be honest, yet non-frightening.

You are invited to attend the PTO meeting on April 8<sup>th</sup> to get more information, preview the program children will receive, and ask any questions you may have.

We feel this program will help us work together as partners towards the common goal of protecting our children. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher or the office at 541-355-1400