

Friday Note 10/21/2016

This year Halloween is on a Monday. Students will be allowed to dress up in their costumes in the afternoon at school. **HOWEVER: NO CLOWN COSTUMES OR COSTUMES WITH WEAPONS OF ANY TYPE WILL BE PERMITTED.** We also have a special treat this year courtesy of Mr. Schmeltzer and the 6th-8th grade bands. At 1:30 the bands will be performing some fun and spooky themed music for the Bessemer students as well as community members in the A.D. Johnston JH/HS gymnasium. Prior to the concert, the elementary students will be bused to the high school and will have their Halloween Costume Parade there for any family members who would like to attend.



The Junior Class will once again be holding their annual “Fun Frolic” on Halloween night from 6-8 pm in the Washington School gym. Tickets for games are 25¢ each and can be purchased at the door. Some games require more than one ticket. There will also be a 50/50 raffle, a costume contest, and prize giveaways. You must be present for the costume contest and prize giveaways in order to win. It is a fun time for the kids and a great fundraiser for the junior class.

There will be a “Dig Pink” Speedgirl Volleyball Fundraiser in our building on Tuesday, October 25th at 12:30. All proceeds from this fundraiser will be going to Meghan Movrich and another person in the area who has been affected by Breast Cancer. The cost of the cupcakes will be \$1 each. The volleyball players will go room-to-room to sell the cupcakes. Please send money with your child if you would like them to purchase a cupcake.



We will once again be having our “Have Lunch with Your Child” event at the Washington School on Tuesday, November 22nd. Parents/Guardians are invited to come to the school and eat a Thanksgiving lunch with your child. The cost for non-students is \$3.75 - students will be charged their normal price. We are requesting “reservations” for non-students. Please fill out the bottom of the flyer that came home with this Friday Note and return it along with your money to the school no later than Thursday, November 10th. More information is provided in the flyer.

The November Lunch Menu is included with this Friday Note.



The next scheduled Washington Elementary PTO meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 25, 2016 in the Washington School Cafeteria. There will be child care available for those of you who would like to come but are unable to find a “sitter” for your child. We encourage everyone who signed up in the Membership Drive to attend this meeting as we have some decisions to make regarding fundraising and how to spend the funds along with information as to how some funds have been distributed so far this year.

There will be an early dismissal of ALL students in the Bessemer Area Schools on Wednesday, November 9th due to Parent/Teacher conferences. Dismissal will be at 11:17 am. Buses will run their normal routes.

Dear Parents, Students, and Community,

Welcome back to school! I hope you had a relaxing summer. The start of a new school year is always an exciting time! The year ahead gives us new opportunities to improve the lives and futures of Bessemer's children. This year, we have a major initiative, to improve our students' opportunities and achievement.

With input from the citizenry of Bessemer and our Citizens' Committee for the Future of Bessemer Schools, the School Board gave the "green light" to proceed with plans to close the Washington Elementary School and move to a PreK-12th grade school at ADJ High School. Along with the move, there will need to be building renovations. A major component for the construction is to update all of our security systems. This is paramount to keep our kids, staff, and visitors safe. The plan also calls for a new elementary gym, a new music room, and a 4 year old program room. Along with infrastructure upgrades, technology needs will be a priority. As the necessity for educational technology expands, we need to keep students' technology requirements current.

Communicating effectively and providing facts to our citizenry is utmost important. We are going to ask the residents of Bessemer to support a referendum in May, 2017. We want you to vote, however, and to vote on facts and not rumors. There will be opportunities for you to attend an informational meeting, to gather facts and ask questions.

We have steadily improved student performance in the K-12 program by supporting highly skilled teachers. Now we need to support our students and staff with a safe environment, renovated classrooms, additional program opportunities (4 year old program) and state of the art technology. It takes all of us to step up.

In order for students to achieve at the highest levels they have to attend school consistently and feel welcomed and safe in our schools. Last year Bessemer graduated 100% of the seniors. This is remarkable. This shows that education is a priority in Bessemer. It starts at home. We need that tradition to continue. We need your support.

We have a talented and dedicated staff and strong parent and community partnerships. Let's keep it growing. You can contact me by phone at 906-667-0802 or by email at: dradovich@bessemer.k12.mi.us.

"Our School, Our Community, Bessemer Proud"