



COUGAR TRACKS

The School Newsletter - BELMONT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Visit your school's website at www.lps.org

PRINCIPAL THOUGHTS.....FROM DEB DABBERT

HOLIDAY SEASON

This time of year can be filled with busy schedules and time-consuming activities. A time meant for happy memories can quickly turn to a stressful season. Strive to keep this time of year in balance by focusing on relationships and not the material side. Those close to us will cherish the time spent together, be it a walk in the park or playing a game.

- Give yourself permission to say no when you feel your schedule interferes with family time.
- Set a realistic budget and stick to it.
- As a family, select a charity for a donation or volunteering, as it will teach your children the importance of giving to our community.
- Make times for family traditions such as baking and decorating cookies.
- Happy memories come from quality time spent together.

COUGAR PRIDE TIME

At the November Cougar Pride assembly we recognized students with outstanding character and behavior. Golden Ticket winners were recognized from each classroom. Each winner selected a prize of his or her choice.

Each grade level, ELL, Literacy, and Specialist teams selected an Exceptional Cougar Citizen Award winner. This award recognizes a student that is doing their best in the areas of academics, behavior, friendship skills and responsibility. The following students were awarded a certificate and Belmont Exceptional Cougar Citizen t-shirt:

Korbin Arnold
Mazen Elshaikh Elrayah
Kevin Mai
Makayla Sutton

Maria Lopez Chavez
Austin Herzog
Austin Gaines
Alexis Robinson

Mayela Medina Jacinto
Litzy Alcala Sanchez
Abby White, Paraeducator

We also celebrated each team's growth on our **SMART GOALS**. Following are the SMART GOALS and the progress made:

Kindergarten – 100% Kindergarteners will know all 54 letters. 100% Kindergarteners will know numbers 0 -20. 85 Kindergarteners out of 154 know all their letters and 53 know their numbers.

First - All First Graders will read 30 of the 40 high frequency words by the end of second quarter. 74% of the first graders have met the goal.

Second – 85% of all 2nd Graders will pass the addition basic fact test. 59% have passed the addition-timed test.

Third –100% of all 3rd Graders will pass the addition basic fact test. Third grade went from 28% to 70% of third graders who have passed the addition test.

Fourth – 83%of all 4th Graders will use context clues to determine the definition of vocabulary words measured by weekly vocabulary tests. 71% of the 4th graders have passed the vocabulary test.
83% of all 4th graders will pass the numeration concept. 74% of the 4th graders passed the math challenge assessment.

Fifth – 83% of all 5th Graders will have a score of 60% or higher on the Math Essential Outcomes Assessment. 84% of all 5th graders passed the 1st quarter Math Essential Outcomes test.

ELL – All ELL students will move a level in reading, writing, or speaking level. 36% of ELL students have moved a level.

BARNES AND NOBLE BOOK FAIR - DECEMBER 12

Our Belmont Family Association is sponsoring a pajama party at Barnes and Noble, 5150 O Street to raise monies for new books. A percentage of the net sale will be donated to BFA with purchases made with a voucher between 9am-9pm on the 12th.

Make and take activities will be available throughout the evening with hot cocoa.

5:00 – Belmont Swing Choir performs

5:15 – Principal Dabbert Pajama Book Reading Party

5:30 – All school sing-a-long

6:00 – Paul Read, local author, reading and signing his book, “The Legend of Lil Red”

CLOTHING OPPORTUNITIES

The Barnabas Project

Second hand clothing will be available, free of charge, for families in the Belmont Community at Save Mart Plaza, 11th and Belmont St. on Saturdays from 9:00am – 1pm. Basic census information will be asked. The Barnabas Project is the collaborative outcome of community leaders affiliated with The People’s City Mission, Sheridan Lutheran & Prince of Peace Churches, and the Lincoln Parks & Recreation Department to better strengthen neighborhoods and families.

Capitol City Christian Church

Free clothing is available on the third Saturday each month beginning January 2009, 9am-1pm at 7800 Holdrege Street.

LINCOLN HIGH POMALINKS

Lincoln High Pomalinks are having a “Hip-Hop at the High” mini clinic. The clinic will be held on Friday, December 19, 2008, 4-6 p.m. at Lincoln High School. The clinic is for students’ ages 5-11 years old. The cost is \$20 per child OR \$18 per child if you register with a friend or sibling. Kids will learn dance technique, play team-bonding games, get a custom t-shirt and perform a hip-hop routine at the Link’s girls Varsity basketball game that evening – 7:30 p.m. vs. Grand Island. Registration is due Friday, December 12 by 3 p.m. Forms can be found in the Belmont office.

**B.I.S.T.
GOALS FOR MY LIFE!**

Bist offers GRACE to Students

Grace is:

- Providing what students need, not what they deserve
- Having a relationship when students reject you
- Having the courage to hold students accountable

Grace is NOT:

- Being permissive
- Lowering standards
- Giving more chances

UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 11 – Last day for CLC after school clubs for 2008
- December 12 – Barnes and Noble Book Fair
- December 16 – 1:35 pm dismissal
- December 20 – January 4 – Winter Break
- January 8 – 4:45pm – ELL and Kindergarten Curriculum Night
- January 9 – 2nd Semester CLC Club Registration Begins
- January 13 – 4:45pm, 4th Grade Curriculum Night
- January 15 – 4:45pm, 2nd Grade Curriculum Night
- January 16 – End of first semester
- January 19 – No School, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- January 20 – No School, Teacher Work Day
- January 21 – CLC After School Clubs Begin
- January 22 – 4:45pm, 1st Grade Curriculum Night
- January 27 – 1:35pm dismissal
- January 27 – 4:45pm, 3rd Grade Curriculum Night
- January 29 – 4:45 5th Grade Curriculum Night
- January 30 – Report Cards sent home