



# COUGAR TRACKS

The School Newsletter - BELMONT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Visit your school's website at [www.lps.org](http://www.lps.org)

PRINCIPAL THOUGHTS.....FROM DEB DABBERT

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

May 2009 be filled with peace, love and joy for your families.

## PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

As indicated in the Belmont AYP Parent letter, your involvement plays a vital role in your child's academic success. Each grade level focuses on a SMART goal that addresses reading and math skills. Activities that you can do with your child that will reinforce high standards of academic achievement:

- Play alphabet and number games with your kindergarten student.
- Practice addition and subtraction basic facts with your first, second, and third grade student.
- Practice multiplication and division facts with your third, fourth and fifth grade student.
- Set aside personal reading time each evening for your student.
- Encourage your child to collect things. Whether they collect rocks, shells, leaves, or bugs is not important. But by collecting, children are learning new ways to make sense out of their world.
- Estimating is an important math skill. You can help your children learn to estimate at home by estimating how long it will take to make dinner, how long will it take to drive to the store or how long it will take to complete a homework assignment.
- Talk about geography in terms children can understand. Talk about where things come from, talk about where the wheat for your bread was grown or tell your children where your ancestors came from and find these places on the map.
- Show your child that writing is useful. Have them help you write a letter to a relative or write in a daily journal.

## BIST

BIST is a school-wide behavior management plan that increases student learning time, stops disruptive/hurtful behavior and teaches skills that will lead to life long success. Your child's teacher remains the single most important person to affect student learning. However, as all adults at Belmont Elementary use BIST, there is consistency for all children in each area of the building. With the BIST foundation, relationships are established quicker and easier with each student that enters Belmont.

## BARNES AND NOBLE

The Belmont Family Association wants to say a great big THANK YOU for coming out to the Barnes and Nobles bookstore on Friday the 12th and supporting our school!!! We didn't know what to expect with this being our first year but the turn out was wonderful!! It was fun to see everyone in their pajamas and listening to Mrs. Dabbert read one of her favorite stories. The swing choir was great! The all-school sing-a-long was so much fun! Thank you to Paul Read for reading his book too! Thanks for taking time out of your busy schedule to share it with Belmont! I know a lot of the books the teachers had requested were purchased and many other books were purchased as well. Thank you so very much to those of you who contributed. We made \$860.74 from our book fair at Barnes and Noble.

You are a very important part of your children's education so...THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU again.

## **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 – 3pm. 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 of each month beginning January 17, 2009, 9am-1pm at 7800 Holdrege Street.

## **COLLECT TO EARN MONEY FOR BELMONT**

Please remember to collect for Belmont!!! We collect Box Tops for Education, empty ink cartridges, and Campbell's soup labels. You can drop off your donations with Mary, our secured entrance monitor. Please call the office if you have any questions regarding donations.

## **MR E'S BOOKTIME**

Mr. E's Booktime can now be seen online. The address is <http://kiwi.lps.org/groups/mresstorytime/blog/> -click on the picture of the episode you want to watch. All 14 episodes are available for your viewing. If you have iTunes on your computer you can subscribe to the Mr. E's Booktime podcast. The link to subscribe to iTunes is on the right hand side of the page.

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

#### **BIST Goals for Life**

The BIST management program centers around three goals for life. These goals set the foundation that allows adults to partner with students to teach appropriate life long behaviors.

1. I can take good care of myself, even if I am mad.
2. I can be productive and follow directions even if I don't want to.
3. I can be okay when others are not okay.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **Upcoming Events**

January 13 – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Curriculum Night  
January 15 – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 22 – 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Curriculum Night  
January 27 – 1:35pm dismissal - PLC  
January 27 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Curriculum Night  
January 29 – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Curriculum Night  
January 30 – Report Cards sent home