



Welcome to the Woodland Park School District e-Newsletter, which will be sent out weekly when school is in session. This will serve as a glimpse of some of the wonderful things going on in our schools and with our students, as well as a point of reference for upcoming events.

Your Partner in Education,
Michele R. Pillari, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Important dates to note

Monday, Oct. 1 -
Memorial Picture Day

Friday, Oct. 5, 7 p.m. - BGHSA
Paint Night fundraiser at
Arts & Creations Poetry Studio

Monday, Oct. 8 - District schools
are closed for Columbus Day

Wednesday, Oct. 10 -
CO Picture Day

Monday, Oct. 15, 7 p.m. -
Board of Education
workshop meeting at BG

Friday, Oct. 19 - Memorial
HSA Harvest Fest/Tricky Tray

Friday, Nov. 16 - BGHSA
Purse Bingo

Students take part in 'Start With Hello' initiative

This week at both Charles Olbon and Beatrice Gilmore Schools, students and staff worked to "Start With Hello." The initiative was created by Sandy Hook Promise, a national non-profit organization founded and led by family members whose loved ones were killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School on Dec. 14, 2012.

This program teaches students the skills they need to reach out to those who may feel alone or isolated, according to CO guidance counselor Danielle Indri. It helps create a culture of inclusion and connectedness in the classroom and among their peers. It is CO's first time taking part in the initiative.

At CO, the week kicked off Monday with Smile Power Day. Teachers reminded students that saying hello or a simple smile can make someone feel special. The mission of the day was to smile at as many people possible. Miss Indri handed out smile stickers at lunch to students she saw smiling at others.

Tuesday was Hello Day and everyone in school wore a green name tag. The mission of the day was to say hello to someone new by name, whether it be another student or a staff member. Students worked to create posters showing the word hello in different languages.

Diverse Greetings Day was Wednesday. The posters made were hung throughout the building. Students learned there are many different ways to say hello to others and while they may be different, they all make people feel welcome.

On Thursday, No One Eats Alone Day had the students taking part in lunchroom facilitated conversations with the use of ice breaker cards and fun "This or That?" questions. The mission was to learn something new about someone at your lunch table.



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Friday was Green Out Day with everyone wearing green and remembering the message of Start With Hello Week - If you see someone alone, you should reach out and help. Start with Hello!

Over at Beatrice Gilmore, the week started with all staff and students wear a name tag that said "Hello... I am special." They watched the Sandy Hook Promise video, which is a quiet video with examples of students who are alone and students who befriend them in various ways. Discussion and picture activity followed.

The students also made "Hello" banners that were hung in the gym. The students and staff colored and signed them. On Wednesday, teachers worked in their classes teaching students how to say hello in different languages. They went over random acts of kindness and have a kindness jar so that the name of anyone who show and act of kindness can possible win a prize.

On Thursday, the classes did activities showing how we all have something in common. On Friday, staff and students wore green in unity and remembrance of the purpose of the week.

"The students are really enjoying the activities and are sharing some personal stories about how someone just saying hello started friendships," said BG guidance counselor Donnamarie Scarpa Farraye.

Parents are encouraged to speak with their children about what they have learned this week. Find out more about the program by visiting www.sandyhookpromise.org/bringstartwithhello.

Back to School Nights offer parents a wealth of information

All three Borough schools held their Back to School nights this week. For those unable to attend, here are some important updates and notes.

ATTENDANCE: All three building principals stressed the importance of attendance. CO Principal Mrs. Irizarry noted that students chronically absent are more likely to experience reading deficiencies by the third grade. She said that a child that misses five days of school misses 30 hours of instructional time. Ten missed days equals 60 hours of instructional time missed.

TECHNOLOGY: Students are one to one with laptops from second to eighth grade this year and utilize their laptops for nearly all subjects. This year BG and Memorial students have access to a student portal where they can access a Microsoft Office 365 suite of programs. They can create, view and submit assignments via the portal as well as access digital textbooks. Having access to the portal helps reinforce a student's self-sufficiency and responsibility, Memorial School Vice Principal Lisa Barreto noted.

COMMUNICATION: Parents and guardians were asked to make sure that their information is up to date on the Parent Portal. The profile can be found on the child's portal profile page under "contacts" on the left side. Include an email address to ensure that important updates and information can reach you, as all schools are paperless.

HEALTH: The school nurses stressed the importance of keeping students home when they are sick. Students must be fever, vomiting and diarrhea free for 24 hours before returning to school. Any student that has asthma, allergies or any chronic illness that does not have medications/permission forms filed with their school nurse should do so immediately so that an action plan is available for your child.

GYM: Students at CO and BG should come appropriately dressed for their physical education days in athletic attire and sneakers. No jewelry should be worn on these days.

"I need you as a partner so that we are doing what we can to best serve your child," Superintendent Dr. Pillari stressed at CO's Back to School Night. "We are always here for you. We are always available." Parents and guardians should be asking children what they are doing in school and going on to the Parent Portal regularly to check for grades and assignments.