

**Big Hollow Primary**  
 33335 N. Fish Lake Rd  
 Ingleside, 60041  
 847-740-5320

**Mrs. Christine Arndt**  
 Principal

**Ms. Dawn Smith**  
 Assistant Principal

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**District Office**  
 847-740-1490

**Durham Bus Services**  
 847-534-9244

**Arbor Food Services**  
 847-740-1490  
 ext. 5024

# The Primary Press

January 6, 2012

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! The school year has been moving quite quickly and we have seen some tremendous growth from our students in this short amount of time. Many thanks to you for your partnership and support at home to keep the momentum going.

This month, the district will conduct winter screening assessments for RtI. Screening assessments are provided to all students within the district. A variety of appropriate grade-level assessments are administered to identify students current skill sets in the academic subjects of reading and math. The screening assessments are projected to be completed by the second week in January. The data generated from these assessments will be analyzed to assist in proactive decision making for determining appropriate instructional practices and support for students. Additional instructional support may be provided through interventions to students based upon the screening assessments through our RtI program and/or within the classroom. Responsive teaching practices ensure all intervention instruction aligns with the student's current level. Parent and student notification will be provided prior to additional intervention support by an RtI interventionist. If there are any questions and/or concerns that you may have please feel free to contact Donelle Staples, RtI Facilitator, at 847-740-1490 ext. 3031.

Sincerely,

Ms. Dawn Smith  
 Assistant Principal

Mrs. Christine Arndt  
 Principal

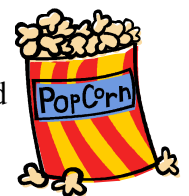


## Help Wanted

We are looking for a full-time lunch/recess/bus monitor to work daily and also substitute monitors to fill in on an as needed basis. For information on these paid positions please pick up an application or contact the Primary office for more information at 847-740-5320.

## Popcorn/Spirit Day Rescheduled

Wear your Big Hollow shirt or our school colors blue and white and bring 25¢ for popcorn on Friday, January 13.



## Six Flags Reading Program

The deadline to turn in the reading logs for the Six Flags Reading Program is on or before Wednesday, February 22.

### From the Office

As the cooler weather approaches students begin to wear hats, coats, gloves, snow pants, and boots.

**Please remember to mark you students name somewhere on the label or in the pocket.** Our lost and found grows by leaps and bounds during the winter months and sometimes the student's do not recognize what they wore to school. Help us help them by placing your student's names on these items.



Please consider keeping an extra set of season appropriate clothing in your child's cubby in case of accidents, spills, or a mishap with a puddle on the playground.

### Bus Safety and Guidelines

January is a good time to review Bus Safety. Be aware that bus drivers will not drop off kindergarten and first grade students unless there is an adult present at the bus stop. Please review these guidelines with your child.

- Arrive 5 minutes early at your designated stop and stay off the roadway while waiting for the bus.
- Stay seated while the bus is in motion.
- Keep voices and noise at a safe level.
- Be absolutely quiet when approaching railroad tracks.
- Do not throw anything out the bus window.
- Keep hands and head inside the bus at all times.
- Keep backpacks and feet out of the aisle.
- Be courteous to the bus driver and other bus riders.
- Do not ask the driver to stop at places other than the regular bus stops.

**A bus incident report will be submitted for inappropriate behavior on the bus and a parent will be notified.**

### Reading Tips for Parents

Read to your child often. Let your child choose a favorite story and explain the pictures and answer questions about it. As time goes by you can stop in the middle of a familiar story and ask what happens next. This encourages memory skills and reinforces the material in the text.

### Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten Registration will be held from 6:00-7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 21 at the Primary School. To qualify, children must be five years old by September 1, 2012. More information will be available at a later date.

### Family "Under the Sea" Dance

Bring your family for a night of dancing and fun! The "Under the Sea" dance will be held on Friday, January 27th from 6:30 - 8 p.m. Check in for the dance will be at the Elementary School entrance. Please return the bottom portion from the informational flier that will be sent home with payment by Monday, January 23rd for your discounted admission of \$2. Admission at the door will be \$3. Proceeds go toward t-shirts, tickets, and incentives for the character education program.

### Important Dates

- 1/7- PTO Scrapbook Event  
10 a.m. - 10 p.m. @ Middle
- 1/9- PTO Meeting 4 p.m.  
@ Primary
- 1/11- Market Day pick up 5 -6 p.m.
- 1/12- End of Qtr 2
- 1/13- ECH Family Engagement Day  
8:30 a.m. @ Camp Duncan  
  
Spirit/ Popcorn Day for  
Primary
- 1/16- Martin Luther King Jr. Day-  
No School
- 1/20- Report cards distributed
- 1/23- School Board Meeting 7 p.m.  
@ Middle
- 1/27- "Under the Sea" Dance
- 1/31- Character Day for "Caring"  
wear red



### Character Education Program

Many students participated in the food drive for 'Caring'. Thank you for your record 974 contributions! Congratulations to Mrs. Landis first grade, Mrs. Ellis and Mrs. Cloherty's Kindergarten classes who will be caretakers of our Character Cub mascots for the month of January. The character trait "caring" will continue through the month of January and culminate with "Red Day" on January 31st.

### Stop and Think Social Skills

The students have learned why it's important to be a good listener and have been working on the skill of following directions. They have learned the following:

#### 2. Following Directions

- A. **Listen** to the direction
- B. **Ask** a question if you don't understand
- C. **Repeat** the direction to yourself (in your head)
- D. **Follow** the direction

The social skills program is being taught in the PE classes and is reinforced by the classroom teachers.

### Calling All Artists! 2012-2013 Picture of Health School-Based Child Nutrition Programs Calendar

The School-Based Child Nutrition Programs' staff is working on next year's Nutrition Programs' calendar and needs help from your students. The 2012-2013 calendar theme is *Picture of Health*. We are promoting healthy habits and would like to have your students draw a picture of their favorite healthy habit. This could be depicted in the food choices they make or the physical activities they do. In addition, we are asking for a few words (no more than 15) describing the benefits of their healthy habit.

Have your students draw a picture of one (1) of their healthy habits following the guidelines below.

- Artwork is to be done on a white piece of paper (8½" x 11"); have them utilize as much of the paper as possible. Please no poster board or frames.
- Use crayons and/or markers (no colored pencils or water-colors please). The more color the better!
- On the back include: The student's first name, last name, and grade level

o The healthy habit that was drawn

o A few words describing the benefits of the healthy habit. Please no more than 15 clearly printed words.

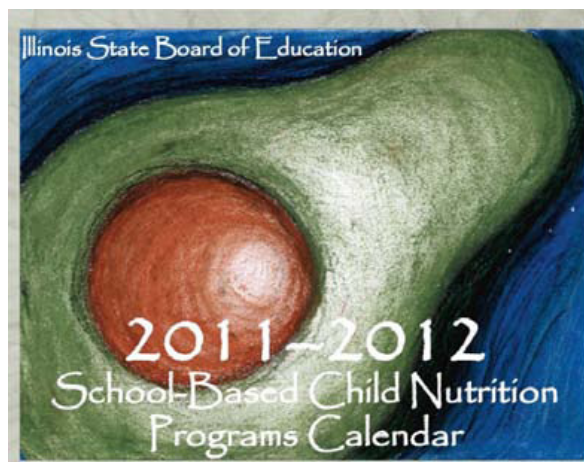
**Please submit completed projects no later than Friday, January 13, 2012, to Mrs. White or Mrs. Sekel** our school art teachers .

**Selected drawings will be displayed in next year's program calendar (July 2012 – June 2013).**

#### **Important Notice to Submissions!**

- **Incomplete or late submissions will not be considered.**
- **Drawings will not be returned.**

Thank you for your help in making next year's calendar a success. We are excited to see your students' masterpieces and encourage healthy habits!



## Social Work Corner- New Year's Resolutions For Children With Special Needs



Does your family like to make new year's resolutions? Beginning a new year can be a great time for all of us to revisit our commitments and goals, especially for children with special needs, learning differences, or behavioral issues. Here are three tips to help kids get focused and involved in their own success:

1. Putting a new year's resolution in writing and hanging in a prominent place, like the refrigerator or family organization board, can help remind you and your child to stay focused on the goal. Have school-aged children write a short sentence describing their goal, and get the whole family involved in supporting their effort and progress.
2. For some children with special needs, new year's resolutions may include improving reading skills or a specific grade on their report card, while for others, goals may focus on physical accomplishments like riding a bike or playing a team sport. Whatever the goal, avoid making it too specific. If your child wants to become a better reader, make that the initial goal. For example, have your child write "I resolve to improve my reading skills" instead of "I resolve to read five books per week." Once your child has set a goal, discuss concrete ways to make it happen. After the child has seen some progress and gained confidence, it may be time to set more specific goals, but keep it simple in the beginning so your child doesn't feel overwhelmed or disappointed.
3. Praise your child's effort. As we all know, sometimes despite admirable effort we can fall short of our goals. Teach your children to re-set a goal and keep going. Invite them to discuss what they've learned through the process. Reward and acknowledge their effort with a favorite family activity or outing, and let them know you support them no matter what. Children with special needs and learning differences often experience self-esteem issues and can use the extra support, and this is a great time to let children know you will help them accomplish their goals.

Helping special needs children identify and accomplish new year's resolutions can be a rewarding opportunity to teach life skills to your whole family.

Christina Fredrick Social Worker- article from January 3, 2012-Brain Balance

### Mark Your Calendar:

#### Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences

Conferences are scheduled for Thursday, February 16 and February 17, 2012. Teachers will send home parent informational forms to indicate if they would like to request a conference or if they feel a conference is unnecessary at this time.



#### PTO Meeting

The next PTO meeting will be held on Monday, January 9, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. in the Primary School library. Childcare is available and all are welcome to attend.