

Botelle School Newsletter

December 10, 2018



December 14	Winter Concert – Hall of Flags – 10:30AM
December 14	Parent Lunch – 12:00 – 1:00
December 17	Winter Concert – Hall of Flags – 6:30PM
December 18	Holiday Fair – Hall of Flags
December 19	Holiday Fair – Hall of Flags
December 19	An Hour with Lauren – 6:00-7:00PM
December 20	Holiday Fair – Hall of Flags
December 24 – Jan.1	Winter Break – No School

LUNCH MENU CHANGE

On Tuesday, December 11th the main lunch in the cafeteria will be Beef Tacos.

WINTER CONCERT

Botelle's Winter Concert will take place on **Monday, December 17th at 6:30 p.m.** in the Hall of Flags. The 5th and 6th grade band and the 4th, 5th, and 6th grade chorus will be performing. Band students should arrive at 6:15 in order to warm-up and tune in the music room. Chorus students are asked to sit with their family members until they are called to perform, as they are not needed before 6:30. Students are also asked to wear a white top and dark pants/skirt. Girls should wear low-heeled shoes. If, for some reason, your student cannot attend the evening concert, we ask that you let us know in advance. We will be sharing this same concert during school on Friday, December 14th at 10:30 a.m. Please contact Ms. Kleisner or Miss Bianchi with any questions. Thank you and we look forward to sharing this season's music with you.

FROM MS. MARQUIS

Boot season is here! I understand that we get our fair share of snow in Norfolk and boots are a must for coming and going to school and also recess. However, it is still important for your child to bring or wear sneakers on gym days. They will not be able to participate in class if they are wearing boots, it is a safety concern. Gym days are **MONDAYS** and **THURSDAYS**! If you have any questions please feel free to email me at marquisv@botelleschool.org

AN HOUR WITH LAUREN

On 12/19/18 from 6-7 please come to an Hour with Lauren. Do you have an idea you want to share or a question that you'd like answered? Take a break from holiday shopping on Wednesday, December 19, 2019 and stop by Botelle to meet with Lauren. Parents are welcome to bring their ideas, questions or celebrations to share.

HOLIDAY FAIR DONATIONS

The holiday fair will be held December 18th, 19th, and 20th in the Hall of Flags. This is an annual non-profit event sponsored by the PTO. The purpose is to allow Botelle students to shop for holiday gifts for family members and friends. Gifts are priced (with a few exceptions) between \$1.00 and \$3.00. The children take great joy in selecting gifts for people in their lives! **We are asking for your help.** If you could donate 5-8 items to the fair it would be

greatly appreciated. Homemade items, pet treats, golf balls, socks, pencils, note pads, calendars are just a few ideas and are always desirable items. Thank you for your support!

FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE

If your child was sent home with a change of clothing from the nurse's office, please return the clothing to the school. Additionally, if you would like to send in a spare set of clothing for your child for the nurse to keep on hand, please feel free to send them in, in a labeled bag. All clothing will be returned to you at the end of the school year. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Ms. Pequignot at 860-542-1904 or by email pequignotd@botelleschool.org.



Nutrition Nuggets

MANAGING THE FAST FOOD TEMPTATION

- Order carefully!
- If you do get fast food, choose grilled chicken rather than fried, a whole-grain bun or tortilla, and fruit or vegetable sides. Suggest that your child request toppings like mustard or extra tomato slices instead of mayonnaise or bacon.
- Idea: Share “sometimes” foods. Get a small order of onion rings for the whole family. Or ask for a milkshake with extra cups, and divide it up for dessert.

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

On Tuesday, Dr. Iacobelli, Mrs. Moscaritolo, Mrs. Travaglini, Mrs. Tallon and I met with families of students in our multiage PK/K class. This is the first year we are implementing this model in Pre-K/K. Feedback from parents helped me to realize that communication about this educational model can be improved to include the whole school community. So here's some past, present and future information about implementing multiage instruction at Botelle school.

The History

As you may (or may not) know, last year was the first year we implemented multiage instruction with two K/1 classrooms taught by Mrs. Tirrell and Mrs. Tallon. Prior to this, teachers researched this model by visiting Warren School in Warren, CT. They use a multiage model with their Pre-K through grade 6 students and seeing this model in action was informative and inspiring. In the spring of 2017, Dr. Sandra Stone, a leading researcher and educator on multiage instruction gave workshops to teachers and parents on this topic. For many reasons we decided to pilot the model with kindergarten and first grade in the fall of 2017. Throughout the summer and school year, Mrs. Tirrell and Mrs. Tallon participated in professional development and planning sessions to deliver high quality instruction to their students. We carefully monitored student progress, both academically and socially. The data was positive- students were achieving at high levels and there were many benefits for students who have the same teacher two years in a row. We determined that this was a viable model for our students and moved forward with the roll out. We wanted all of our students to have the opportunity to participate in multiage instruction and that meant we had to look at different grade level configurations- Pre-K/K and 1/2.

The Present

We currently have one Pre-K/K classroom and two 1/2 classrooms. Mrs. M's Pre-K students are now her kindergarten students. They have the benefit of her continued instruction for a second year in a row. The new Pre-K students attend on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8:30-12. Mrs. Tallon and Mrs. Incillo are the teachers of the 1/2 classes. These children have been classmates for 2 years. It is very difficult to identify what grade each child is when you walk in a classroom. Each child receives instruction that is personalized to their interests and needs. It is a student-centered model that is differentiated for all learners.

The Future

Next year, in addition to Pre-K/K and 1/2, we plan to implement multiage instruction in grades 3 and 4. Ms. Waldeisen and Ms. Pitruzzello are an awesome team and have already begun planning and collaborating. This year they are co-teaching science and social studies with both classes. Half of Ms. Waldeisen's class will remain with her as fourth graders and the other half will be taught by Ms. Pitruzzello. The current 2nd graders, who will become 3rd graders, will either have Ms. Waldeisen or Ms. Pitruzzello. Much care, thought and consideration will go into creating balanced classes- academically balanced, socially balanced and balanced by gender. When we roll the model out to grades 5 and 6, we hope to include opportunities for our students to switch teachers in preparation for the middle school.

We also plan to rename these classes. Because a child's grade is no longer the focal point of instruction, a name for each group of learners that better captures the model is needed. In addition, the purpose of combining the grades is to enrich the learning experience for all. Labeling them as separate grades by name is contrary to the goal.

Please don't hesitate to contact me or your child's teacher for more information on multiage instruction. Here's a link to an article with additional information. <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED504569.pdf>