

Website

[www.bryant.dbqschools.org](http://www.bryant.dbqschools.org)

Weather-552.3035 Lunch-552.3250

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## Calendar

Mon Feb 1, 2016

- ♥ 7:30am Free Four-Year-Old Preschool Registration Opens at Bryant. Proof of age is required.
- ♥ 3pm Leisure Services – Girls' Basketball
- ♥ 3:05pm Orchestra Rehearsal
- ♥ 6pm Girl Scouts – Gr. 3

Tue Feb 2, 2016

- ♥ Orchestra Lessons
- ♥ 3pm Leisure Services – Boys' Basketball

Wed Feb 3, 2016

- ♥ 3pm Leisure Services – Girls' Basketball

Thu Feb 4, 2016

- ♥ Band Lessons & Ensemble
- ♥ 7:30am Bryant Choir
- ♥ 3pm Leisure Services – Boys' Basketball
- ♥ 6pm Girl Scouts – Troop 7345

Fri Feb 5, 2016

- ♥ No School for Students
- ♥ Professional Learning Day for Staff

Mon Feb 8, 2016

- ♥ 3pm Leisure Services – Girls' Basketball
- ♥ 3:05pm Orchestra Rehearsal
- ♥ 6pm Girl Scouts – Kdgn.

Tue Feb 9, 2016

- ♥ Orchestra Lessons
- ♥ 3pm Leisure Services – Boys' Basketball

Wed Feb 10, 2016

- ♥ 3pm Leisure Services – Girls' Basketball

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Please join me in welcoming our newest staff member, Ms. Kristi Skemp! Ms. Skemp is serving as a half-time special education teacher here at Bryant. I feel very fortunate to have her on our faculty. View her bio on page three in today's Bryant News.

As a result of the increase in staffing we've made changes to schedules. Those changes went into effect last Monday. Teachers and other staff did such a nice job preparing students for the change in routine, and students worked hard to make the needed adjustments.

A reminder that Friday, Feb. 5 is a professional learning day for staff – No School for Students.

Wishing you well, ~Vicki Sullivan, Principal

Free Four-Year-Old Preschool  
Registration Begins Feb. 1

Registration for free four-year-old preschool in the Dubuque Community School District begins Monday, Feb. 1. This includes Dubuque's 12 public schools offering preschool through the Statewide Voluntary Free Preschool Program.

**Parents and guardians may register students in person at the selected site, beginning when that site's office opens on February 1. Bryant's office will open at 7:30am. Proof-of-age, preferably a birth certificate, is required to register a student. A passport or signed immunization record will be accepted if necessary.**

Free four-year-old preschool is open to students who are four by September 15. For additional registration questions, individuals should contact the site they are interested in registering at. Space may be limited in some facilities and registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Enrollment for preschool is not based on geography and all sites are open to Iowa residents.

**In addition to spots in Dubuque's public schools, a variety of community preschool partners also offer free four-year-old preschool. For a complete list of preschool providers, visit [www.dbqschools.org/preschool](http://www.dbqschools.org/preschool).** The Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children is funded by the State of Iowa and facilitated locally by the Dubuque Community School District.

**JOY!**

Congratulations to Mrs. DeMaio (grade 3 teacher) and her husband! Their son, Dillon, was born on Friday, Jan. 22. Dillon joins two big brothers at home. Mrs. Jaeger will be Mrs. DeMaio's substitute. Welcome to Mrs. Jaeger!

*"Babies are such a nice way to start people."  
~ Don Herold*

## VALENTINES' DAY/FRIENDSHIP CELEBRATIONS



We are celebrating friendship on Friday, Feb. 12!

If you choose to allow your child to bring Valentine cards to school on Feb. 12, please include a card for each student in the class. Teachers will share a roster of students' names with you. As part of this celebration of friendship, we will be offering all students and staff a sugar cookie. **Special thanks to the Bryant Family Organization for funding the cost of the treat.**

Please do not send any treats of your own whether it's food or nonfood items such as pencils. This will help us to avoid safety issues related to allergies and to avoid placing a financial burden on families.

## FEBRUARY SCHOOL SPIRIT – A FOCUS ON EMPATHY AND KINDNESS

Mr. Hamilton is sponsoring a Jump Rope for Heart event at Bryant during PE/Wellness classes! While your participation in the service portion of the event is completely voluntary, we appreciate your thoughtful consideration of it.



American  
Heart  
Association®



***It Takes Heart  
to be a Hero!***

## UNIVERSAL SCREENING IN READING

**Nick Hess, Bryant Instructional Coach**

**Holly Oberhoffer, Bryant Language Arts Content Leader**

Between Friday January 29<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday February 3<sup>rd</sup> all Bryant students will be administered a universal screening assessment in the area of reading. Iowa code requires that universal screening in the area of reading be administered to all kindergarten through third grade students 3 times per year. In the Dubuque Community School District universal screening in reading is administered to all kindergarten through fifth grade students 3 times per year. We use students' performance on this measure along with other measures to understand their strengths and needs as learners and respond with needed changes in instruction.

Students in kindergarten are administered the FAST (Formative Assessment Systems for Teachers) universal screening assessment. For students in first through fifth grade the DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) universal screening assessment is administered. Kindergarten, first, and second grade students are administered the entire universal screen individually by a Dubuque Community School District employed tester. For students in third, fourth, and fifth grade all parts of the universal screening are administered individually except for 1 subtest. That subtest is administered to an entire classroom of students at the same time. The individual portions of the screener take about 8 minutes to complete. The subtest that is administered to the entire class at once is a timed 3 minute assessment. Your student's screening results will be shared with you during spring parent/teacher/student conferences.

The mission of Bryant School is to create a supportive environment that inspires all students to grow academically, socially and emotionally so that they are productive members of a diverse society.

If you would like to learn more about universal screening in reading the Iowa Reading Research Center has a very informative blog at the link below. Know that the blog is specific to the FAST universal screening tool but the same information applies to DIBELS. FAST and DIBELS are both research based universal screening assessments used throughout the country. The differences between the two assessments are similar to the differences between Coke and Pepsi. The basic products are the same but with subtle differences.

<http://www.iowareadingresearch.org/blog/universal-screening/>

## WELCOME TO MS. SKEMP!



Dear Bryant Families,

Hello! I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Ms. Kristi Skemp, and I am ecstatic to announce that I have joined Bryant Elementary's staff as a part-time special education teacher. Given that I may be seeing you around school or school events, I thought I would tell you a little background about myself.

I am originally from, and currently reside in, Dubuque, Iowa; although, I have lived in Wisconsin, California, and Illinois. My family is made up of my two amazing and loving parents, an older brother and his wife (with a baby on the way!), as well as the family dog, Kalie, and my tuxedo cat, Dani. I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, reading books, watching movies, listening to music (particularly live music), traveling to new places, and occasionally partaking in a crafty project.

I just received my teaching certification through Loras College in Elementary Education (K-6) with a Special Education Endorsement (K-8) in December 2015.

I was previously a school psychologist with Keystone AEA and actually served Bryant for 4 years. So I am very familiar with this school, especially its amazing staff and students!! Needless to say, I am thrilled to be teaching at Bryant Elementary. I can already tell that this is going to be an amazing experience, and I look forward to being a part of this great community! ☺ Go Bulldogs!!