



STAY IN TOUCH

Bryant Website

www.bryant.dbqschools.org

Weather-552-3055

Lunch 552-3250

Like us on Facebook – we are the Bryant Family Organization



CALENDAR

The Week Ahead

Mon January 9

- Orchestra Group Rehearsal 3:05 pm
- Girl Scouts Gr. 2 3:15-4:45pm
- Girl Scouts Gr. 1 6:00-7:30pm
- Bryant Skate Party 6:00-8:00 pm

Tue Jan10

- Band Group Rehearsal 3:05 pm

Thursday Jan 12

- Choir 7:30-8:00 am
- Site Council 6:00-7:30 pm

Monday Jan 16

NO SCHOOL
MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

Looking Ahead!

Community Gathering

January 27

3rd Grade to Heritage Center

January 30



From Ms. McCarron

I hope each of you enjoyed the vacation! I had the opportunity to spend time with family, but it is good to be back with the Bryant School family and to move into the second half of this school year. Sometimes it feels good to settle back into a routine and know what to expect each day. I hope students are ready to get back with their friends and teachers and settle into our learning routine! It was good to see all of their smiling faces.

In service with you,

Chris McCarron

Literacy Assessments

January is a time when all students participate in another round of literacy assessment. During this month, district testers will come to Bryant and all children will be taken individually to have a reading assessment. This assessment is just a screener. It provides a quick check on the progress that your child is making in the area of reading. This screener, however, does not tell the whole story. The staff reviews the results of this assessment and compares it to the other information that the teacher has about your child's reading. If it matches the other information with have, that's great. If it does not, we then investigate further to try to understand why there might be a discrepancy and work to better understand your child as a reader. These assessments will begin in the middle of January and last through the end of the month.

MAP Testing

MAP (Measures of Academic Performance) is an assessment that is given to students in grades 2-5. Children took this assessment earlier in the fall and are familiar with the testing format. The assessment is taken on the computer and adjust according to the child's individual performance. This assessment allows us to both measure your child's growth and to compare your child's achievement to students his or her own age both within our district as well as nationally. We want to get an accurate look at your child's achievement, and want children to understand the importance of this assessment, but also don't want to place too much of an emphasis on the "test" that it causes anxiety or it gives a message that tests are more important than every day's learning! Classes will begin taking the tests the 2nd week in January and will continue through late January.

Bryant Skate Party

With just getting back after our vacation, wouldn't it be great to have an opportunity to spend some extra time with friends? Your child has an opportunity to do just that! The next Bryant Skate Party is scheduled for Monday, January 9th from 6:00-8:00 at Skate Country. All families are welcome!



Delays, Cancellations, Early Outs



In Iowa, you can never guess what winter weather might bring! It is important that we are prepared no matter what might be in store for us. Our district makes every effort to notify parents of the changes in schedule. You can receive a call, a text, and an email. If you are NOT receiving these notifications please check the information you have in PowerSchool.

Morning Arrival

As you know, helping 300 plus students arrive at school on time and in a safe manner is no small feat! These are some ways that you can be helpful with these procedures:

- Be aware of the time and have your child arrive to school on time.
- If you are dropping off in the drive-up lane in front of school, remember the following:
 - Please stay in your car.
 - Have your children get their coats on, grab their book bags and be all set to leave the car when the door is opened by one of the Bryant staff members or parent volunteers.
 - Children should wait until the door is opened by an adult.
 - Do not let children out of the car while you are in the line waiting. If you want to drop off children without waiting for the process, please drop your child in another area.
 - Once your child/children leave the car, proceed forward through the line. DO NOT move around another car in the line.
- If your child walks or if you walk with your child, please make sure that you are crossing in the cross walk. Even if your child is with you, it provides good modeling and reinforces safety expectations.

Please be supportive of the staff members who are enforcing the procedures because their only objective is to help ALL students arrive safely!

Winter Weather

In the last newsletter, I shared that we make every attempt to get children outdoors, even when the weather is cold. However, when the actual temperatures or wind chills dip below zero, we all want to be where it is safe and warm! To help students to get into the warmth more quickly, we have changed our morning entry procedures for those days when the wind chill is below zero. When students arrive in the morning, if there is an orange cone and flag out on the playground by the lines, students can know that they can come inside immediately. They will not wait outside until the entire line goes inside. If the sign is not posted, they will know it is outdoor arrival.



GIVING BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY

Thanks so very much to all of the families who contributed to our December snow pant drive and collection for the United Way. Because of your generosity we're able to share snow pants with kids throughout the district who were in need of warm winter clothing AND we were able to make a delivery of various items that will be distributed to homeless shelters through the United Way. The Bryant family is very generous!

ATTENDANCE

As we look forward to beginning a new calendar year when we return to school, it seems like an appropriate time to remind people about the importance of school attendance. Research tells us that students who are absent more than 10% of the school days are at risk for struggling as readers, have less school success and a reduced chance of graduating from high school. Attendance patterns are established early. The detrimental effects of absences begin already in preschool and kindergarten. There are times when students are sick and need to stay home, but when at all possible, students should be at school. We understand the challenge to get doctor appointments after school, and we appreciate all of the effort that you give to try to make that happen. If you should receive a letter from school regarding your child's absence, please note that it is simply to keep you abreast of the accumulated number of days that your child had been gone. It is not any judgement regarding the reason. If we have a question regarding the reason, we will contact you. Please feel free to contact the office or the nurse if you are struggling to get your child to school on a regular basis.



Dubuque Sports & Recreational Festival: Sport Stacking

When: Saturday, January 28th
9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Where: The Grand River Center
Who: Stackers of All Ages and Abilities
Provided by: DCSD Elementary School Physical Educators



(No pre-registration necessary. All mats, timers, and speed stacks will be provided.)

Anyone is welcome to come be a Stacker—

This event is for experienced and as well as beginning stackers. Tables will be set up for students who wish to practice stacking or for those who wish to learn how to stack. Stackers may choose to be timed in the 3-3-3, 3-6-3, and/or the cycle stack. After a student stacks, a P.E. teacher will record their times on their registration form. When finished, stackers put their form in the basket located by the laptop computer. Parents and guardians, brothers and sisters...all are invited to try Sport Stacking!

To assure that all participants have fun and remain safe, we ask that an adult accompany all children. We hope all students will leave this event with an appreciation for the benefits of exercise and an appreciation for Sport Stacking.

What is Sport Stacking?

Sport stacking is an exciting individual and team sport where participants stack and unstack specially designed plastic cups (Speed Stacks) in pre-determined sequences. Stackers race against the clock for the fastest or best times. With practice, a person can stack at lightning speed that has to be seen to be believed!

What are some of the benefits of Sport Stacking?

Sport Stacking can be individualized, allowing each student to work, successfully, at his/her own level. It is geared to include students of all ability levels, allowing every student to succeed, while still challenging the more fit and athletic students. Sport Stacking has proven to increase bilateral proficiency (equal performance on both sides of the body) that develops a greater percentage of the right side of the brain which houses awareness, focus, creativity and rhythm.

Where can I learn more or purchase Speed Stacks?

www.speedstacks.com

