

BELLINGHAM FAMILY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

1409 18th St. Bellingham (360) 676-6424

Dear BFPP Families,

At BFPP we value the whole child. We hope to support students to be "exceptional in their own way, with strong character" (the Bellingham Promise).

I am challenged at times when I am asked what I am going to do about a child's behavior. People ask for assurance that undesirable behavior will never happen again. I truly believe there are no bad children, just bad behavior at times. Our charge is in how to help some students recognize the importance of making socially acceptable decisions. We do not give up on students struggling with math or reading, and we do not give up on students struggling with behavior, even when it takes time. Lillian Katz, renowned early childhood educator and author, offered this observation:

"Each of us must come to care about everyone else's children. We much recognize that the wellbeing of all other people's children is intimately linked to the wellbeing of our own children. After all, when one of our children needs lifesaving surgery, someone else's child will perform it. When one our children is harmed by violence, someone else's child will have committed it. The good life for our own children can be secured only if it is also secured for all other people's children. But to work for the wellbeing of all children is not just a practical matter-it is also right!"

As a parent I must advocate for my son, but also help him develop the skills needed to be a responsible community member. Being responsible, kind, safe and yourself (the 4 Common Agreements at BFPP) are lifelong skills that need to be taught, learned, and sometimes missed and reminded about.

Sincerely,
Dr. Kate

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FYI – Survey Results

Survey Monkey results from the fall are posted outside the Collaborator room. Thank you again for those who participated. It helps us gather input and informs our program development. A new survey will be coming soon.

CALLING ALL MENTORS

The BFPP Parent Mentorship Program is accepting people interested in being a Mentor or Mentee (or both!). The vision for the program is simple: to create collaborative partnerships that will help process and support the experiences and challenges of homeschooling unique learners. To be a mentor or mentee takes a bit of time and the belief that together we can do more. Please contact Erin McCarthy at emack78@yahoo.com to request an In-Take Survey and we will get you partnered with a collaborative peer.

BFPP Volunteers are needed:

- to refill water bottles from The Cabin (water dispenser at Fairhaven Haggan)
- to clean all tables at the end of each class session

The snacks provided in our family lounge are purchased by one of our community members (they are not funded nor supplied by the school district). If your family chooses to partake of the snacks, please either contribute to the donation box so more can be purchased, or buy snacks and leave them for others to enjoy.

Starting in the new year please feel free to join Kate for tea at 10 am on the second Wednesday of each month. This will be a time to chat with our principal and share your passions and interests. BYOM - Bring Your Own Mug!



This newsletter is from our BFPP Community for our BFPP Community. Thanks to those of you who have submitted contributions and suggestions. We are especially looking for submissions from our students: accomplishments, announcements, glimpses into their educational journey, thoughts they want to share about our community, and connections they might want to make. Bring on the ideas for next month's edition! If you'd like to help or contribute, please contact Alina at zollizen@gmail.com.

Mark Your Calendars

12/12, Monday at 1:30 – 2:30 – Story Time, Songs and Crafts in BFPP Library. All are welcome!

12/19 – 1/2 Winter Holiday – No school

1/6, Friday – 2nd Semester Course BFPP Catalog Published

1/9 – Monday, 1:30 – 2:30 – Story Time, Songs and Crafts in BFPP Library. All are welcome!

1/10, 1/17, 1/24, 1/31 Homeschool Ski/Snowboard School at Mt. Baker

1/11, Wednesday at 10am – Tea with Dr. Kate. BYO(Mug) and chat about your thoughts/ideas

1/12, Thursday at 12 –12:30 Teen Book Club in BFPP Library

1/16 No School – Martin Luther King, Jr.

1/18, Wednesday - Celebration of Learning from 2:30 – 4:30. Details to follow

1/19, Thursday – Last Day 1st Semester

1/19 – Teacher Jim Capitol Tour field trip

1/23, Monday, 12:30 – 1:15 - Snow School Pre-trip meeting at BFPP

1/23 1:30 – 2:30 All-Community Sing-Along with Teacher Pam in BFPP Library

1/23 – 1/25 – Learning Plan Meetings with Learning Partners

1/23 – 1/24 – Registration for 2nd Semester

1/24, Tuesday, 10am and 12:15 – Peking Acrobats at Mt. Baker Theatre

1/27, Friday, 10:30 – 11:15 – Jovon Miller performs at WWU

1/30, Monday, First Day of 2nd Semester

To help keep our community healthy and our more at-risk students safe:

Is your child not feeling well?

KEEP THEM HOME WHEN....

- Fever: 100F or above. Must be temperature-free for 24 hours before returning to school and maintained without the use of fever reducing medicines.

-Common Cold: Nasal discharge is green, thick, or accompanied by other symptoms. Unusually loud breathing.

-Sore Throat: If accompanied by fever or swollen glands.

- Headache: If accompanied by stiff neck, chills, or fever.

- Diarrhea: Watery stools or decreased form of stool not associated with a change in diet.

- Vomiting: Two or more episodes in 24 hours

- Skin color/Eyes: Pale/pasty, flushed- if accompanied by other symptoms, Glassy/red eyed.

-Behavior: Irritable, withdrawn, whiny, cranky. Lethargic-if accompanied by other symptoms.

-Appetite: Change in eating habits (if accompanied by other symptoms).

- Skin sores/rashes: Fever, itching, oozing, spreading. The child may not return until the doctor says it is safe to do so.



We promise to inspire learning and support families because together we achieve more. INSPIRE, SUPPORT, TOGETHER, ACHIEVE.