



Little Bucks Bulletin

Nurturing Hearts, Developing Minds, Inspiring Dreams

January 2022 Edition
Ottawa Elementary School

MESSAGE FROM MRS. DENISON

Dear Little Bucks Families,

Happy 2022! We are off on our journey through the second semester of school. It is still hard to believe we are at the halfway point.

When we reach the middle of the year, we check in again with students on our yearly assessments. We will assess students using NWEA for reading and math, along with DIBELS (reading assessment) and DELTA Math. NWEA growth will be shared with you in a report at the conclusion of the testing window at the end of this month.

The word of the month is "Appreciation". Every January is School Board Appreciation Month along with January 24th being National Compliment Day. Every day of the year is a good day to show someone appreciation. I would like to show appreciation beginning with this newsletter.

As the saying goes, "it takes a village to raise a child" and we are definitely in this together. I would like to extend my appreciation to you, the families and parents, who support our efforts as educators, especially during these continued trying times. Thank you for the support, donations, and communication to help us do the best job we can do while your little ones are in our care. **We appreciate you!!**

Stacey Denison, Principal

sdenison@buchananschools.com

OFFICE HOURS

Our school office is open 8:00am-4:30pm

Phone: 269.695.8409

Mrs. Stacey Denison, Principal

sdenison@buchananschools.com

Mrs. Hurd, Administrative Assistant

mhurd@buchananschools.com

SCHOOL HOURS

REGULAR DAY OF SCHOOL

8:35am-3:43pm

ECSE/Preschool AM 8:35am-11:50pm

ECSE/Preschool PM 12:25pm-3:43pm

WACKY WEDNESDAYS

8:35am-3:10pm

HALF DAYS OF SCHOOL

8:35am-12:05pm

No Preschool or ECSE Classes on these days!

IMPORTANT JANUARY DATES



JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day
- 3 School Resumes
- 11 PTO Meeting at 6:30
- 11 Report Cards Sent Home
- 12 Wacky Wednesday Early Release 3:10pm
- 17 No School for Students- Martin Luther King Jr Day
- 17 Board of Education Meeting 6:00pm
- 19 Wacky Wednesday Early Release 3:10pm
- 20 Kickstart to Career Deposit Day (Career Dress Up Day)
- 21 ECSE- Miss Gmeiner's Class Extra Friday
- 24 National Compliment Day
- 26 Wacky Wednesday Early Release 3:10pm

JANUARY IS SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION MONTH

Thank you school board members for your dedication to our schools and the time you give to making sure our district is the best it can be! **You are appreciated!**



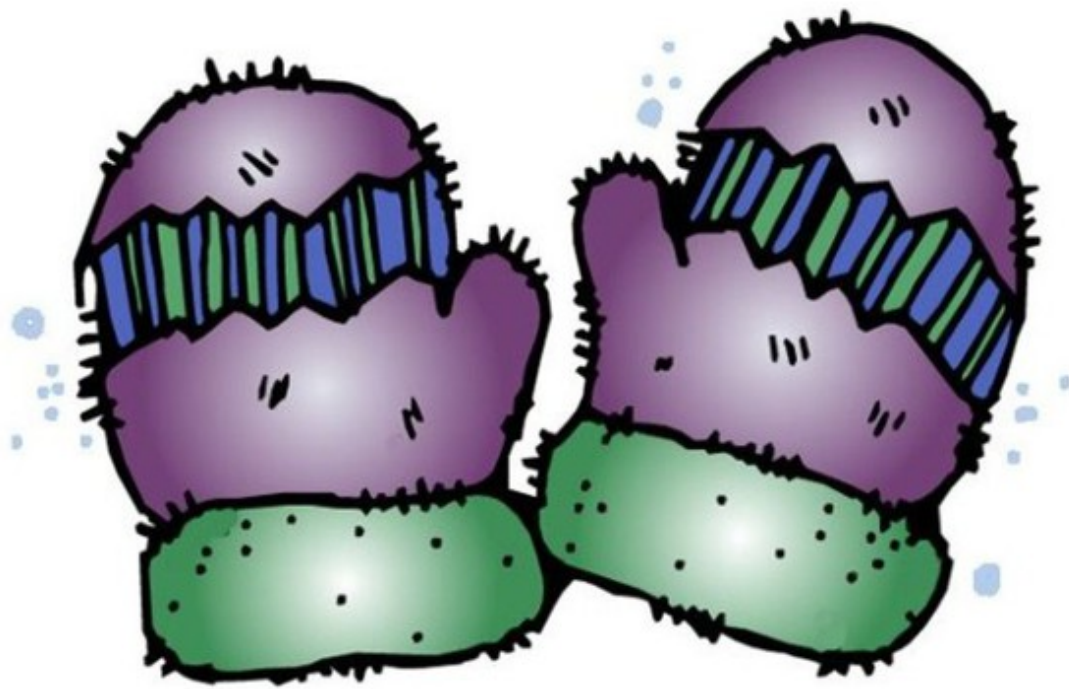
Next Deposit Day! January 20th

Students may bring in their deposits on Thursday in a sealed envelope with the following information: Student Name, Grade, Graduation Year and Account Number found in their personal savings account register booklet. If you have questions regarding deposits, please contact the Michigan Gateway Community Foundation at 695-3521.



CAREER DRESS UP DAY January 20th

What do you want to be when you grow up? On January 20th, in conjunction with our Kickstart to Career Deposit Day, dress up like the profession you would like to be when you grow up!



Winter Clothing

Please be sure to send the following with your child for recess:

- Coat
- Hat
- Mittens/gloves
- Snowpants
- Boots

Please help us by labeling your child's belongings. This is super helpful and will keep our Lost and Found empty as we will be able to return missing items to their owner.

We will continue to go to recess outdoors unless the Real Feel temperature is below 10 degrees.

National Compliment



DAY!

January 24th National Compliment Day

Every day is a great day to pay someone a compliment, however, January 24th is denoted as National Compliment Day! Take a minute to write a compliment by email, card, or Class Tag to any of our school staff or board members!



PTO OFFICER POSITIONS AVAILABLE

We currently have the offices of President and Vice President open. If you are interested in having your name on the ballot for the upcoming election on January 11th, please send an email to Stacey Denison, sdenison@buchananschools.com

NEXT PTO MEETING: Tuesday, January 11th 6:30pm

Event Information

Next PTO Meeting

At our January meeting, there will be an election of officers since there are two vacant positions. If you are interested in the president or vice president positions, please notify Mrs. Denison by email at sdenison@buchananschools.com for your name to be added to the ballot.

We will hold the event in person, with masks and socially distanced. If you cannot attend in person, you may call into the meeting using the following number:

Phone Number
(US)+1 631-946-7077
PIN: 672 990 118#

When?

Tue, Jan 11, 2022, 06:30 PM

Where?

**Ottawa Elementary School, Ottawa Street,
Buchanan, MI, USA**

MID-YEAR ASSESSMENTS

It is time once again to assess our student's progress. Each kindergarten and first grade student will receive the following assessments.

NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association) Reading and Math

DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills)

DELTA Math (standards-based assessment using K-1 common core standards)

Ottawa has a two-week window to complete the NWEA assessment. DELTA and DIBELS will be completed by the end of January, beginning of February. DIBELS is given to students individually.

January 12th will be NWEA Reading

January 19th will be NWEA Math

These sessions are usually 35-40 minutes and can be broken into smaller chunks depending on the student's needs. The tests are computerized and change according to the student's skill level. Most questions and answers are read aloud unless the skill level moves high enough to independent reading for the student.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Welcome Miss Gmeiner, our new ECSE Teacher

We are pleased to welcome Miss Brittney Gmeiner to Ottawa! Miss Gmeiner (pronounced guh-mine-er) is an excellent fit for our Early Childhood Special Education classroom. Brittney comes to us with degrees in special education and early childhood. Her previous experiences involve being a kindergarten teacher for eight years and also spending several years instructing young students in Haiti. Miss Gmeiner believes that exploration and hands-on learning is the best for children to learn. She is excited to join the Little Bucks family and connecting with you and your children. Pictured is Miss Gmeiner with her dog, Lucy.

TRANSPORTATION CHANGES AT DISMISSAL

We want to make sure every single student gets out the door and home safely. Please remember the following:

- You **MUST** contact our school office by 2:00 pm if you need to make changes to your child's transportation routine.
- If you need to make changes involving a bus, these changes must be communicated to our office by 1:30 pm, before the buses leave for their middle/high school routes.
- Please do not message or email teachers as they are often in session and do not receive the messages until it is too late.
- If you need a numbered car tag for the pick up line, please come into our office.
- If you are picking your child up as a walker, they will be dismissed at the doors by our front office.
- Only car riders with parents in the pick up line will be dismissed at the north parking lot doors.

Transportation

269.695.8402

Nate Will, Transportation Director

nwill@buchananschools.com

SUPERINTENDENT & BUCK PARENT CONVERSATIONS



JOIN US!

Mrs. Robinson wants to know what's on your mind, connect with you, and exchange information.

MEETING DATES & LOCATIONS

Thursday, October 21 4:45-5:30pm, BHS Auditorium
Wednesday, December 8 4:45 - 5:30pm, BMS Media Center
Tuesday, February 15 4:45-5:30pm, Ottawa Gym
Wednesday, April 27 4:45-5:30pm, Moccasin Gym

Board of Education Meetings

- January 17th
- February 22nd
- March 14th

Meetings will be called to order at 6:00pm unless advertised differently.

YOUR FEEDBACK IS IMPORTANT TO US!

We work hard every day to make our school the best it can be. Please tell us how we're doing!

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSedhHzyguA0_cCpd2Ue17IUTG5bV9LXzCo_e6sP2f_BJrovA1Q/viewform

CENTRAL OFFICE

269.695.8400

Superintendent

Mrs. Patricia Robinson probinson@buchananschools.com

Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

Mrs. Michelle Munyon mmunyon@buchananschools.com

Assistant Superintendent

Mr. Mark Kurland mkurland@buchananschools.com

Business Office Specialist

Mrs. Carrie Brunsting cbrunsting@buchananschools.com

Director of Special Education

Mrs. Karin Falkenstein kfalkenstein@buchananschools.com

Director of Technology

Mr. Philip Place psplace@buchananschools.com



Stacey Denison

Stacey is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters