Happy Friday, Bear Creek Families,

Thank you to all the Bear Creek families who took part in the Florida Department of Health Dental Sealant program. For the past 7 years, I have made it a priority that ensure that our Bear Creek students are able to participate in wonderful program and opportunity and each year our families continue to show up.

Thank you for understanding the benefits of the sealant program.

Parents, please take a moment to peruse our monthly calendar of events at your convenience. Please note that following events are scheduled for the month of August.

**August Calendar of Events**

08/29 – PTA General Election Meeting (open to all families)

08/30 – Annual Title I Meeting & Open House @5:30pm-7:00pm

**School to Family Communication**

In an effort to reduce the use of paper, we will continue use electronic forms of communication with families. This year you can keep up with Bear Creek in the following ways:

- The Bear Creek website will be our primary source of communication at [https://www.pcsb.org/bearcreek-es](https://www.pcsb.org/bearcreek-es). All weekly communication updates will be posted on our website by 7pm Sunday.
- Classdojo will be used primarily for school-wide reminders and daily communication **between parents and instructional staff**.
- School Messenger will be used to remind families or previously communicated information shared on the Bear Creek website.
- Student agendas
General Updates/Reminders

Safety updates/reminders:
To ensure the safety and well-being of all students, students are not permitted on campus until 8:15am, unless enrolled in the YMCA. Whether students are car riders, bus riders, walk, or bike to school; please adhere to the following:

- Student attendance is important and being on time matters.
- Our student hours are **8:45am-2:55pm**.
- **Pre-K drop-off is from 8:30am-8:45am using the designated Pre-K drop-off location in the car circle, zones 1-3. Car circle zones 1-3 are designated only for Pre-K drop off.**
- Our front office hours are 8:15am-3:55pm.
- Students K-5 are not permitted on campus until 8:15am (unless enrolled in the YMCA).

State Testing – Progress Monitoring Cycle 1:

Grades K-2
The Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (F.A.S.T.) is a progress monitoring tool that will be administered three times per year to track your student’s progress in learning the Benchmarks of Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards throughout this school year. The purpose of this letter is to inform you that your student will take the 2nd Grade Renaissance Star Reading and Star Math assessments within the testing window of Monday, August 21st to September 8th. Your student’s results from PM1 are for informational purposes only and you will be notified of results within 14 days of test administration.

Below, you will find the date(s) your child will be taking the FAST Reading and Math:

- **VPK – Grade 2**
  - Star Reading: August 21st to September 8th
  - Star Math: August 21st to September 8th

Grades 3-5
The Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (F.A.S.T.) is a progress monitoring tool that will be administered three times per year to track your student’s progress in learning the Benchmarks of Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards throughout this school year. The purpose of this letter is to inform you that your student will participate in the first administration (PM1) of the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (F.A.S.T.) Reading and Mathematics assessments within the testing window of Monday, August 21st to
September 8th. Your student’s results from PM1 are for informational purposes only and we will provide you with information about how to access the results.

Below, you will find the date(s) your child will be taking the F.A.S.T. Reading and Math:

- **Grade 3**
  - Reading: Week of August 21st
  - Math: Week of August 28th

- **Grade 4**
  - Reading: Week of August 21st
  - Math: Week of August 28th

- **Grade 5**
  - Reading: Week of August 21st
  - Math: Week of August 28th

**Computer/technology updates:**

1-to-1 laptops should remain at school until after the testing window. If you would like your student to take home their device this year. You must fill out the online form accessed through focus: [https://focus.pcsb.org/focus/index.php](https://focus.pcsb.org/focus/index.php). Remember devices must return to school every day fully charged. Please also communicate with your student's teacher if you would like them to bring their device home.

**PTA Information/updates:**

**JOIN THE TEAM!**

**BEAR CREEK ELEMENTARY PTA NOMINATIONS**

**2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR**

The Bear Creek Elementary PTA is looking for people committed to our school and community to serve on its Executive Board for the 2023-2024 school year! If you, or someone you know would be interested in serving as Bear Creek’s **PTA President, Vice President, Membership Chair** or **Special Events Coordinator** and several other Chair Positions. Please submit nominations to ballot box in Front Office. All nominations will be accepted through August 29th.

***Please remember to join PTA.***
Campus Expectations and Updates for the 2023-24 school year

Early Release Pick-ups
Please note that 2pm is the cut off time for early pickup. Prior approval from administration is required for all early release pick-ups after 2pm.

Whether students are car riders, bus riders, walk, or bike to school; please consider the following:

- Student attendance is important and being on time matters.
- Our student hours are 8:45am-2:55pm.
- Our front office hours are 8:15am-3:55pm.
- Students are not permitted on campus until 8:15am (unless enrolled in the YMCA).
- All students must adhere to the Bear Creek expectations and all students are required to wear a uniform.

➤ Shirts
- Collared solid color in navy, light blue or white (no designs or patterns)
- Bear Creek Spirit t-shirts – can be worn on any day of the week. Shirts should always be tied.

➤ Bottoms
- Khaki or navy shorts, slacks, skirts, shorts, capris, or jumpers
- No jeans, sweatpants, cargo pants or baggy clothing
- Pants must be worn at waistline. If not, a belt must be worn.

➤ Shoes
- Safe and appropriate footwear must always be worn. Inappropriate footwear includes, but is not limited to – Crocs, backless shoes, sandals, roller skates, and bedroom slippers.

➤ Winter Wear
- Solid color sweatshirts, sweaters, and jackets in navy, light blue or white
- No printing or designs allowed on outerwear
- Hoods/hats may not be worn inside the classroom

- Car riders must be dropped off in the car circle only.
- All students must use the single point of entry (car circle) to gain access to our campus.
- As in the previous years, all students arriving before 8:30am must report directly to the cafeteria.
- Breakfast is free to all students and served in the classroom until 8:45am.
- Students arriving after 8:45am are considered tardy.
Bear Creek is looking forward to another great school year!
Principal Houston

~Still Showing Up for students, staff, families and SELF~