

## "Let's see and be seen as we work our way through twenty eighteen!"

That was the motto that greeted students and staff upon returning from winter break. These words of encouragement and challenge are not meant to reference the familiar meaning for the phrase "see and be seen," which is more about posing and being around the right people and getting noticed. To the contrary, I hope we will see those at the margins, those being missed, those who are hurting and those we can help and include this year. I hope we can see EVERYONE, especially those who have been right there all along but perhaps been overlooked. I hope we will be seen as we put ourselves out there, not to get noticed, but to be of aid, to be present, to accompany and that we'll take some risks we normally might not take in doing so. Lastly I hope we will remain committed to effective effort, working hard as we always do, but also working smarter and more strategically throughout this new year. I am excited to see where 2018 can take us together!

**January is a time when we pause to see how students are learning and growing.**

One way we do that is by **benchmarking**. Our two most obvious benchmarks are with the **MAP (Measures of Academic Progress)** for students in grades 2-5 and with



Mr. E drawing, by Hannah G.

the new **BAS (Benchmark Assessment System)** for students in grades K-3. MAP measures growth in reading and math, compares student performance to local and national peer groups, tracks progress over time, and also allows/promotes goal setting. The BAS is tied in to our new reading program and is intended to confirm a student's current independent and instructional reading levels. A child's independent level is what they are able to read successfully on their own without additional teacher supports. The instructional level is what a student can successfully handle with the support of their teacher. Adding this benchmark data to the ongoing feedback gathered day in and day out allows us to celebrate success and to recalibrate and strategize where we have potential yet unrealized.

**In early February, we'll begin our second round of conferences.** As it is our last guaranteed time to sit down and examine student progress together face to face, it is

especially important and powerful. We count on meeting every Beye family. Looking at the benchmarking data, classroom performance and other indicators at home and at school, we want to honestly assess where we are and where we could be by the last day of school on May 31<sup>st</sup>. Conferences should always be a dialogue. There are things you can only know about what happens here by listening to us, and there are things we can only know about (especially how the learning is going at home) by listening to you. I offer to every teacher and every family an open invitation to join your conference. If having me there could help the dialogue, help coordinate resources that may be needed, or just loop me in to better understand your learner and their journey, I hope you'll ask me in.

**When our newly formed Beye Diversity council (DIVCO) put out a survey over the summer, a number of things emerged as consistent themes/ requests.** One was the desire families have for more tools and resources to support learning at home. Another was around the scheduling of events, specifically looking to a Saturday morning alternative to what is typically a weeknight meeting routine. In response to both of those priorities, we are thrilled to announce we're hosting a **Morning Math Meetup (M3) on February 24th from 9:00-11:00 am**. That morning is designed to help parents and guardians understand our Common Core-aligned math program, and specifically, to better

# NEWS FROM THE PRINCIPAL CONTINUED

understand how students are being asked to think and work mathematically. We know that much of what you see coming home may look foreign or confusing given the math background most of us have. We'd like to eliminate that uncertainty and share some activities that we hope will illuminate what we're doing and why. **After a light breakfast together at 9:00 am, we'll break up for two 45 minutes sessions led by a teacher at each grade level from 9:30-10:15 and then from 10:15-11:00.** We hope that providing these two working times will allow parents with more than one child to gather information about different grades and that for parents interested in what came before or what comes next to understand the prelude and postlude to this year's learning. More than anything. WE HOPE YOU'LL COME!! The morning is for adults, but to make it easy for people to attend, there will be babysitting in the auditorium. Look for a follow up email allowing you to RSVP to your specific teacher-presenter.

**In response to results from last year's PLESS survey (Positive Learning Environment Student Survey) we have goals in our school improvement plan to see more students reporting they feel safe from bullies and they feel respected by other students.**

Just before break, students took the survey again. We saw no real change yet in students' perceptions

of feeling safe from bullies, but **did see more students reporting feeling respected by peers.** We also noted fewer students reporting they feel like they belong this time around. We know that one way to work on many of those learning environment fronts is to have more students known by more faculty members and by more peers. **To that end, we are taking the connections we always make at the end of the year when we form our multi-age Olympic day teams, and getting that party started right now!** You are probably aware that for Olympic day, teachers gather students together from across the grades (K-5) to form a team. Students meet their team mates and their coach and form relationships and connections above and beyond those they already have. Starting in February we'll gather together monthly in our teams and begin to establish and leverage those connections to help more students feel they belong, feel they are respected, and feel they are safe.

**A new calendar year should always remind us how blessed we are to be here.** Not just that we're on the planet to see the ball drop one more time but that we're HERE, at Beye School, in Oak Park, in 2018, surrounded by an abundance of resources and possibilities for the year ahead. Even as we examine our benchmarks and set our goals, realizing there's much to do and always many places to improve, **we should**

**always acknowledge and celebrate the assets we have all around us.**

That starts with incredible people—teachers, students, parents and community members—who make this place go. It extends to physical resources, too—a beautiful school full of warm and wonderful spaces, filled with materials, utilized almost every day of the year by faculty members, the PTO and other community agencies to offer a plethora of programs. It certainly must also include this time we've been given. If we can see assets first rather than deficits, and see what we have rather than what we lack, we can surely be better at seeing student strengths first and foremost and the ways we can build off of them. It is my fervent hope that this year we can be focused as a community on being steadfast in maintaining an asset-based, world view no matter how we're tugged to focus on deficits.



**As always, I welcome and invite you to email, call or make an appointment to stop by with questions, concerns, feedback, ideas and causes for celebration.** I need and appreciate you and your partnership and support.

Sincerely,  
Jonathan Ellwanger, Principal

## NEWS FROM THE BEYE PTO & RIGHT AT SCHOOL



<http://www.beyeschoolpto.org>

Dear Beye Families,

Happy New Year! Maybe you have set some New Year's resolutions or intentions (or maybe not), but either way, the PTO welcomes you to 2018. If you're like us, your winter break included the flu and freezing cold winter. We're ready to jump back into the second half of the school year -- and the PTO truly hopes part of your plans include joining us at meetings and events.

We have a full calendar of Beye-In Parties coming up so be sure to check the calendar for your chance to partake in family fun events like Game Night, Harry Potter Party and adult-only events like Indian Cooking Demonstration and Wine Tasting. And, of course, the popular Pancake Breakfast is coming up soon on Saturday, February 3.

Please sign up to volunteer for a shift, if you're able. Volunteers are what make our school-wide events possible. Sign up here: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4dabad2ba5fc1-volunteer>

Stay healthy and warm!

--Stephanie Kloster-De La Rosa and Denise Franta, Co-Presidents Beye PTO

## HAPPY NEW YEAR RIGHT CLUB FAMILIES!

We hope you enjoyed your winter break and were able to get some much needed R&R. Now that we are back to our regularly scheduled program, there are a few things in place.

Right now our curriculum/double play theme is in preparation for our **annual Right Club Variety Show**. The kids are doing several exercises, games and warm-ups to help them to become comfortable with performing and being on stage. Our show is scheduled to take place the week before Spring Break; please talk with your kiddos, as we will discuss during our Town Hall meetings, what acts, talents, and stage setup they might be interested in.

In February, due to parent/teacher conferences, we will have our **half-day camp on Thursday February 8th, and Friday, February 9th**. Registration is open and is \$31/day. It will run from 11 am - 6 pm. Snack will be provided, but children will need to bring a lunch from home.

**Spring Electives are arriving soon!** Our next lineup will have a few familiar classes, but we are also trying to introduce French to the upper grade levels at Beye. Since the middle schools will offer French as one of their languages, our goal is to give Beye students a leg up when they enter 6th grade. Because of the two half days, there will be no electives classes on February 8th and 9th. Registration begins on January 29th; please don't hesitate to sign up!

## RIGHT AT SCHOOL CONTINUED



BEYE PTO PANCAKE BREAKFAST

# Pancake Breakfast



Featuring the Beye  
School Gospel Choir,  
“Celebrity” Pancake  
Flippers  
and more!

2/3 @ 8-11 AM, Beye Commons  
Hosted by the Beye PTO  
\$5 Individual tickets, \$20 Family

BUY TICKETS: [www.beyeschoolpto.org/beye-in](http://www.beyeschoolpto.org/beye-in)  
All proceeds benefit the Beye School PTO  
This Beye-In is for Families!

## BEYE-IN PARTIES

# FEBRUARY BEYE-IN PARTIES

### PANCAKE BREAKFAST: FEB. 3

Featuring the Beye School Gospel Choir,  
"Celebrity" Pancake Flippers and more!

FOR FAMILIES: \$5 INDIVIDUAL TICKETS, \$20 PER FAMILY

### HARRY POTTER: FEB 4

Muggles, wizards, and witches of all ages are invited to a special afternoon at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Meet some professors, get sorted into houses, test your ability to use the Marauders Map, and maybe even try a chocolate frog - who knows what magic awaits? Robes and wands optional.

FOR KIDS: \$20 PER PERSON

### INDIAN COOKING & DEMO: FEB. 10

Do you love Indian food? Do you want to learn how to cook an authentic meal? Join us for a night's of cooking lessons, followed by a full Indian dinner and great company. All dietary restrictions can be accommodated.

When this date sells out, more will be added!

FOR ADULTS: \$50 PER PERSON

### GAME NIGHT: FEB. 24

Enjoy game night without the kids! Sip a glass of wine or hot cocoa by the fire while you munch on delicious snacks and strategize with no distractions. Try your hand at Carcassonne, Harry Potter Clue, Machi Koro, Scrabble, and more. Play old favorites; find new favorites. As a bonus, relive the 80s with some Nintendo Classic action when you need a break from the board games -- no sharing with the kids required!

FOR ADULTS: \$40 PER PERSON

**Buy Tickets: <http://www.beyeschoolpto.org/beye-in.html>  
before they sell out!**

**Interested in hosting a party? Email: [jkellogg11@gmail.com](mailto:jkellogg11@gmail.com)**

## SPELLING BEE

Congrats to all the students who participated in the  
Beye Spelling Bee on January 16.  
And a big shout out to this year's winners:



**2nd grade**  
First Place: Yusef H.-S.  
Second Place: Salma H.-S.  
Third Place: Ben B.



**3rd grade**  
First Place: Jacopo D.  
Second Place: Gigi C.  
Third Place: Claudia D.



**4th grade**  
First Place: Max A.  
Second Place: Braylon J.  
Third Place: Maisie C.



**Fifth grade**  
First Place: Malini D.  
Second Place: Evangeline C.  
Third Place: William C.

# BEYE DISCOVERY



## BEYE PTO'S AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM WITH A FOCUS IN ART AND SCIENCE

<http://www.beyeschoolpto.org/beye-discovery.html>

[beye.discovery@gmail.com](mailto:beye.discovery@gmail.com)

### Beye Discovery Highlights, Mid-December through Mid-January

Happy New Year Beye Families! Beye Discovery wrapped up the week prior to winter break with two projects highlighting the beauty and joys of the winter season. One project utilized “vintage” metal CD cases to display illustrated scenes of children or animals enjoying a snow-filled winter wonderland. Hints of glitter added sparkle to the snow and ice. Bow-tied ribbons provided a festive touch to hang the artwork. For our second winter themed project, we focused on the creation of a winter village or animals within a snowy landscape. For this illustration, we utilized a long and narrow accordion folded paper, to create a free-standing illustration. Both projects captivated the students’ interests and the results were beautiful! Please see the photos included with this article.

Upon our return from winter break, our focus was on playful approaches to art making. In one collaborative project, the children collaged a single image cut from wrapping paper, and inspired by that image, began sketching additional images, designs, words, etc into the work, for about 2 minutes. We then rotated the artwork to another child at the table to add more images, designs, etc. (again for only a couple minutes). We repeated this process until the artwork had traveled back to the original artist. These collaborations are as fun to look at as they were to make!

We also enjoyed working in small groups to create a booklet of rubbings, using textured surfaces within Beye School. The “C.O.W.”, heating vents and stair treads had some terrific surfaces for this purpose! To increase the “fun factor”, students swapped their booklets, became detectives, and set out to identify where their classmates’ rubbings were made.

In a different booklet approach, students were given four random organic or abstracted shapes, one for each page of their 4 page booklet. After studying the shape, the children let their imaginations guide them, to transform the shapes into something identifiable, like an animal, a person, a face, a monster, etc. The results were impressive! Some children followed a theme, like “Odd Two Legs” by Max; others used forced perspective, like Jenna’s falling girl; or captured our imagination, like Zachary’s monster.

In Ms. Gillet’s eco-friendly mixed media project, we utilized used wrapping paper and finger paint to encourage a fantastic layering process, with collage, painting, stamping & drawing. I couldn’t resist joining in and was thrilled to create a work of art to take home to my family : )

If you are in need of activities for a cold winter afternoon, these would probably turn the ho-hums into so-funs! So take a chance, grab crayons, paint and whatever else you can find, to spark your creativity and to make outstanding, frame-able works of art!

Beye Discovery is an enrichment program of the Beye PTO that offers children opportunities for exploration and growth through creative project-based learning in art and science. It is facilitated by Jocelyne Adkins, Program Director, and Maia Gillet, Teaching Assistant. For questions about Beye Discovery please contact: Jocelyne at [beye.discovery@gmail.com](mailto:beye.discovery@gmail.com) or visit our Beye Discovery webpage at <http://www.beyeschoolpto.org/beye-discovery.html>.

## BEYE DISCOVERY CONTINUED...



Top L: Zachary-  
Shape Monster



2nd L: Valen-Elf  
Village



3rd L: Mekhi-Mixed  
Media Collage



Bottom L: Salma-  
Reindeer Winter  
Wonderland



Top R: Zander-  
Winter Wonderland



2nd R: Morgan-  
Mixed Media Collage



Bottom R: Charlotte  
Winter Wonderland

## BEYE DISCOVERY CONTINUED...



Top L: Max-Shape Illustration, Top R: Lucy-Polar Bear Winter Wonderland,  
Middle L: Harrison-Collaborative Illustration, Middle Center: Hank-Winter Won-  
derland, Middle R: Dakin-Shape Illustration, Bottom L: Collaborative Illustration,  
Bottom R: David-Shape Illustration

# HEALTH FAIR

## DECEMBER HEALTH FAIR: A GREAT SUCCESS!

This is my third year in charge, and I would like to thank the many Beye staff and parents who were all instrumental in making the health fair run smoothly last month, starting with Mr. Ellwanger, Mr. Withers (DJ and station announcer), and the office staff, Mrs. Harlan and Ms. Cooper, and of course, Mr. Plaza.

Gustavo de Fraga went to McDonald's and obtained the donated packaged apple slices and helped me to count them out and distribute to the stations for a healthy mid-morning snack. Ms. Sweeney, a Beye resource teacher, helped to take water and hand sanitizer to each station.

During the snack break, Ms. Steinke, Ms. Logan, Conrad Robinet (Mrs. Robinet's son and former Beye student), and Ms. Sundquist, along with volunteer students – Anika G., Ariana B., Maisie C., Lucinda W., and Ryan S. – all read stories about either Asthma or Type 1 Diabetes. These stories teach children about these health conditions and raise awareness about health differences that are prevalent in our very own school and community.

Beye children and staff moved through 10 stations for the first part of the morning. Transcend Dance Studios of Oak Park led an exciting dance lesson for hip hop moves. The kids love this every year.

--**Jennifer Solomon, From F.A.R.E,** came to lead an informative and interactive talk about food allergies and how to be proactive in helping those with food allergies safe.

--Our very own kindergarten teacher, **Ms. Sigunick,** led a yoga station in which students were very engaged.

--**Victoria Novotny of the IWS Children's Clinic** in Oak Park spoke to the kids about dental hygiene, as dental disease is the number two health concern for children.

--**Gina Orlando, a wellness coach** and consultant, led the children through stress-relief and relaxation techniques.

--Our resource teacher, **Ms. Kiolbasa,** taught us about the use of technology and movement, to help kids understand the importance of exercise and how and why to keep moving through the winter months.

--Our social work intern, **Noelle Hirsch, supported by Mr. Gray and Ms. Janu-Chossek,** led a "healthy communication station" to help child learn assertiveness skills and how to self-advocate and stand up for others.

--The **Tennis and Fitness Centre/The Yoga Centre** in Oak Park, with guest professional fitness specialists Laurie Berggren and Lisa Tanzer, helped the children power through some strength and conditioning drills.

--Beye parent and PTO co-president, **Denise Franta,** used video and lecture/discussion to teach children about bacteria, viruses and germs and how to be a flu detective to stay safe from illness.

**Children danced to music** in the halls during their three minute transition periods, with the skill of **Mr. Withers as our mixmaster/DJ.**

Everyone here contributes to our school successes. A big thank you to all!

--Submitted by Nurse Shilpa Advani

## VOLUNTEER AT BEYE

Beye School's PTO fundraising team is looking for volunteers! Time commitments vary. Get involved as much as you would like. Meet new people and show your kids your school spirit. Visit the PTO home page and scroll down to the bottom of the page to indicate your interest(s): [www.beyeschoolpto.org](http://www.beyeschoolpto.org); [www.beyeschoolpto.org/volunteer.html](http://www.beyeschoolpto.org/volunteer.html).

## CONNECT WITH US



[www.op97.org/beye](http://www.op97.org/beye)



Beye School Families



Mr E: @BeyeTheWay

## ABOUT BEYELINES

The Beyelines is an online and hard copy newsletter of Beye School that is distributed monthly in an effort to highlight activities and events that have already occurred at Beye School, both in the classroom and outside the classroom. Articles may be written by Beye School Parents, community members, teachers, and students.

All articles should be submitted to [beyelines@beyeschoolpto.org](mailto:beyelines@beyeschoolpto.org).

**BeyeBytes Newsletter:** If you are not currently receiving BeyeBytes email newsletter and would like to be added to the list, please send and email to [beyebytes@gmail.com](mailto:beyebytes@gmail.com).



### Editors:

Jennifer Alten and Sara Neuner

### Graphic Designers:

Blake and Lindy Novotny

The new design of the BEYELINES is inspired by the Blue and Green Line trains which run through Oak Park. The small circles on the blue and green lines are representative of the train stops along those lines which pass through our town. The fonts used are DIN Condensed, Chosence, and Times New Roman.