

THE BEYESTANDER



Mr. E by Lincoln B.

WILLIAM BEYE
ELEMENTARY
JANUARY 2017

Where will you be seen in 2017?

That was the motto that greeted students and teachers as they returned from winter break. A new year always reminds us there are new possibilities waiting for us. This year, I am hoping we'll all pause to consider what we are showing people about what we believe, what we're striving for and what we intend to be about this year. These are observables. They are things we can show our classmates, our teachers and our parents. Am I where the learning is? In mind and body, am I present? Am I making choices that will lead to greater and greater success? I hope that this year is one that helps each of us to consider the ways we can be the change we wish to see.

I remain committed to being seen **in classrooms more than ever**. If you ask your child, I hope they already will be able to say they've seen me visiting more often than ever. As I pop in, I am so excited to see the things our students are learning and the ways they are learning. I see students exhibiting a great deal of independence but also a willingness to collaborate. I see more writing than ever and students seeing themselves as

writers who can build their skill and hone their craft. I see balanced literacy meeting students at their current reading level to propel them forward. I see our math curriculum helping to build mathematical thinkers who can be flexible in finding multiple ways to solve problems, and I see our hands-on science approach continuing to give students interactions with materials and ideas that are engaging and fun. Add to that our Second Step work building students' social/emotional skillset, and you have a learning menu that is varied and rich.

As we approach our second round of **parent/teacher conferences**, the journey toward June 7th comes into focus. That's the last day of school. As we stand roughly halfway through this school year, we should all be thinking about what adjustments are appropriate and necessary if the second half of this learning adventure is to be the best part! In some instances, that means staying the course and doing what we've been doing. In others, it means identifying those things we need to stop doing or some things we need to embrace and start doing consistently. No matter what, this is an

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occasion for clear communication, deep listening and collaborative goal setting. There are things we can only know about by hearing from you, and of course, there are things you can only know as we share them with you. If there is ever a reason you'd like me to join you for your conference, or a reason you'd like to conference with me separately about something that's bigger than the classroom, I am always happy to make a connection. Contact Mrs. Harlan to set something up.

As we start the new year we have a renewed **focus on attendance**. As you read in my back-to-school email on January 8th, the first step toward learning at high levels is being at school on time, every day. We are looking at a grand target of 90% of our students having a 95% attendance rate or better. Knowing that without a way-back machine it'll be hard to do something about our fall attendance, we are looking at each week and trying to build momentum and enthusiasm. As you enter the building, check out the display across from the office to see how we're doing. Class by class, we're charting out our attendance week by week. We never want a students to come to school sick, but we do want students to stay well so they can attend. The School Improvement Team will update you in the coming weeks to be sure you know how we're doing. Once we feel we have a good push toward better overall attendance, we will turn to tardiness, which for some families is an even greater challenge. Thanks for helping your student to know that showing up is the first step toward accomplishing the rest of our goals.

To stay well this time of year (or anytime, really) **hand washing** is an essential skill. Nurse Shilpa is our number one cheerleader and instructor on this front, and recently, she has been reminding the faculty and students about, when and how they should be taking care of this in accordance with district guidelines. With classrooms being nut-free and students throughout the building with a variety of allergies, there is also an important safety component to our hand washing regimen. There are times (like when we're all heading in to eat lunch) when the sheer number of students outstrips our supply of sinks. Those are times when we use hand sanitizer, but we limit those occasions to a few times a day, as we know that more frequent usage diminishes effectiveness. Please reinforce for your

child how this important habit is a key component to staying well and ready to learn.

Recently, the school board voted to present **two referendum questions** on the April 4th ballot. More information will be flowing your way in the coming weeks, but if you missed it, in one of the district updates, we learned that **one question will be an operating funds question**. This money pays for programs and salaries and without additional money, fund balances will dip below the minimums required by the state. As envisioned by the board and administration, a **yes vote** will not only allow D97 to continue the kinds of programming we prize and cherish already, it could also allow for new commitments. The **second question on the ballot will be aimed at facilities, adding capacity** in buildings already bursting at the seams and renovating and updating buildings across the district. Knowledge is power and we will certainly be sure that you have good information to make a good decision come April.

Please email, call or make an appointment to drop by with questions, concerns, ideas or causes for celebration. As always, I greatly appreciate and need your support and partnership.

Jonathan Ellwanger
Principal



Dear Beye School Family,

Can you believe that one half of the school year is already done?! Neither can we. Time is flying by. That means that we're having fun, right? The New Year brings new beginnings, new connections, new adventures, and new learning opportunities. As you make your New Year's resolutions (as so many of us do), please consider adding to the list your involvement in PTO meetings and events. And not just your involvement, but consider your entire family. While the PTO has traditionally been viewed as an organization that stay-at-home moms participate in, our society has had to reexamine and broaden to be inclusive of our evolved society. Today, the PTO is for dads and working moms as well as stay-at-home moms, single parents, family friends, grandparents, and even community business partners. This is the new "family" face of the PTO who all come together to form our school community and have taken responsibility for all our children's education. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to be a part of this vibrant community.

In the upcoming months, mark your calendars for these important events. Sign up to help and be sure to attend!

- 4th Annual Pancake Breakfast! Saturday, February 11
- Spring Book Fair, Feb 15-17
- Beye Bobcats Classic 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament, Saturday, February 25
- Spring Fun Fair, April 8th
- Additionally, there will be numerous Beye In parties over the next few months. (Some are for kids and some are adults-only)

We encourage you and your family to join us as we continue to make "Beye School, So Cool!"

Sincerely,

Kelly Simkowski and Stephanie Kloster-De La Rosa, PTO Co-Presidents

Beye School Talent Show is coming soon!

While it's cold outside right now, spring will be here before you know it. And, that means it's time to start planning for our annual Beye School Talent Show! The talent show is open to all students, K-5th grade.

All students who want to be in the show will be included! We will hold auditions, but all that means is that we want to get an idea of what your child (or your child and a few friends) are planning to do as their performance.

We'll work with the students throughout the rehearsal process to refine and perfect their performance.

We'll have much more information coming out over the next couple of months. In the meantime, below are the dates for auditions, rehearsals and performances. There are two performances and all performers are required to perform in both shows. Mark your calendars now!

Auditions: Wednesday, April 5 — 2:00PM in Beye Auditorium

Rehearsals: ALL Wednesdays, 4/12, 4/19, 4/26, 5/3 — 2:00 PM in Beye Auditorium

DRESS REHEARSAL: Wednesday, May 10, 2:00 – 5:00 PM in Beye Auditorium

PERFORMANCES: May 11 & 12, 7:00 PM in Beye Auditorium

We look forward to working with our amazing and talented Beye kiddos! Please contact DiAne Boese with questions, diboese@gmail.com.

--Submitted by DiAne Boese, Monica Saydah, Lisa Kozinski and Wendy Negrón, Talent Show Directors





BEYE DISCOVERY, Beye PTO

After School Enrichment Program with a Focus in Art and Science,
Beye PTO

For information about Beye Discovery, please visit <http://www.beyeschoolpto.org/beye-discovery.html>
or contact Jocelyne Adkins, Program Director, at beye.discovery@gmail.com.

Happy New Year Beye Families!

In the spirit of exploring innovative ways to approach art making, Beye Discovery students were introduced to the work of several inspirational artists: Joan Mitchell, Marisol, and Karel Appel. On our first day back from winter break, Joan Mitchell's "City Landscape" captured the students' attention, as they looked deeply within this abstraction. Influenced by their imaginations and interests, students found trees, snakes, a bridge, a person falling, a dog, and more within the collection of lines and shapes that Mitchell painted.

What is compelling about Mitchell's process, in light of her abstractions, is that she carefully studied nature and objects of interest for some time before a painting emerged. However, rather than seeking representation, she communicated a poetic response to the things that captivated her. Her abstractions were not impulsive, and her lines, shapes, and colors were thoughtfully considered before being placed on the canvas. With this in mind, students selected subject matter of special interest to them, and painted their own thoughtful responses. Eddie, a first grader, provided an excellent example: he painted the sound of a dragonfly in flight, expertly visualizing poetry in motion!

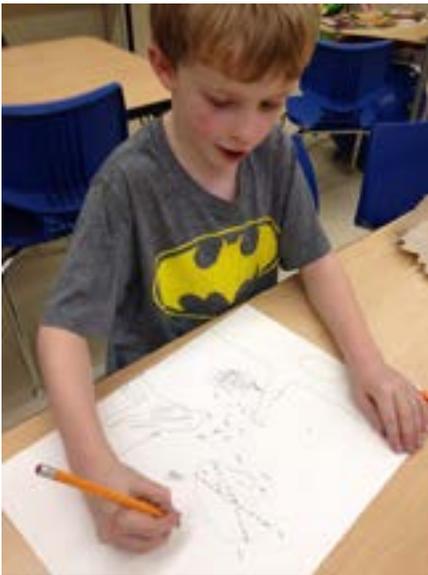
In another project inspired by Mitchell, students created diptychs using oil pastels, again with a focus on abstracted imagery. Mitchell preferred to paint on multiple panels to create larger art works because it was easier for her to transport them both inside and outside of her studio. While our diptychs are much smaller, this process introduced our students to the idea of working in a series.

On Wednesday, we presented Marisol's "Jazz Wall", a wall relief/assemblage composed of five musicians and three large wooden block forms, two of which completely define the forms of two of the musicians and the third block suggesting the side of a piano. Included in the work are actual instruments, clothing and accessories. However it is the box-like forms that take center stage and to which all else conforms, even the musicians' suit coats.

For our first Marisol-inspired project, students were given a variety of items, such as hardware, broken toys, and other plastic disposables to "up-cycle" into low relief assemblages. Several students created carefully conceived aircrafts and other examples included a tidy, evenly spaced forest and a campsite complete with tents, trees, and a campfire.

For our second Marisol-inspired project, students viewed her sculptures titled "The Family" and "The Kennedy Family". Each family member occupies a single box form, except for the twins, who share their box within a functional baby carriage. Students were asked to consider what it may feel like to be "boxed in". We shared how it felt uncomfortable to be confined in elevators, within airplanes or in the el at rush hour. Using small wooden blocks, students collaged and drew into these blocks to create a boxed in version of themselves. The results are more lighthearted and comical rather than confining or uncomfortable, echoing the response one might have when viewing Marisol's work.

On Friday, students viewed the work of Karel Appel, who sculpts and paints brightly colored and abstracted figures and animals. These are playful, due to the unique way that Appel distributes multiple areas of



Top L: Asher, Illustration for "Favorite Smell" painting, (honey), Middle L: Eva, dog painting, inspired by the work of Karel Appel, Bottom L: Ellian, dragon painting, inspired by the work of Karel Appel



Top R: Morgan, oil pastel, Inspired by the work of Joan Mitchell, Middle R: David, low relief assemblage, Bottom R: Free play- Building with city blocks- Ellian, Valen, Zachary, Dakin, & Miles



Middle Top: Block figures, inspired by the artist Marisol. Left to right, Jamia, Savannah, Morgan, Lucy, & Daisy, Middle Center: Hank, "Favorite Smell" painting (bananas and jelly doughnut), Middle Bottom: Block figures, inspired by the artist Marisol. Left to right, Valen, Dakin, Zander, Hank, & David

color within the forms. These areas of color do not relate to the object and are not “designed”, but more random in placement. It’s a terrific balance between color and form and one that the children enjoyed experimenting with in their paintings.

On Teacher Institute Day, we are looking forward to our visit to the Art Institute of Chicago, where we will view the work of Mitchell, Marisol and Appel in person in the Modern Wing’s Contemporary Galleries!

This week, we focused our attention on the science of smell. We began by examining the structure of our nose, identifying each part and then sculpting it with clay. Other highlights included conducting smell tests to see how well our nose could identify 16 different scents, including Brussels sprouts, vanilla, and chili powder. Several children associated vanilla with ice cream, and even though they couldn’t name the scent, their memories and associations aided them in getting closer to doing so. We also conducted experiments with taste to demonstrate that this sense is greatly magnified by our sense of smell.

Please check in with us for more of our creative adventures to come this February.

Beye Discovery is an enrichment program of the Beye PTO that offers elementary school children opportunities for exploration and growth through creative project-based learning in art and nature based science. It is facilitated by Jocelyne Adkins, Program Director and Morgan Richardson, Teaching Assistant.



Clay nose sculptures, Jamie, Sonia, & Anika

Clay bull, Elise



Phillip, low relief assemblage



GREEN TEAM NEWS:

The Beye School Green Team has been working toward making 2017 a year of waste-free celebrations. Each classroom should now have a replenished supply of reusable dishes, bowls and flatware.

The first grade classes recently used their combined sets for their New Year's Potluck Breakfast, which was a big success. Three parents volunteered to take home the plates, wash them, and return them to each teacher. The kids knew exactly what to do with the Green Team plates by stacking up the dishes instead of throwing them in the garbage cans. They should be proud that the amount of trash diverted from landfills was significant. This was also the case in Ms. Brett's kindergarten holiday party, which was completely waste-free! If your child's class has a celebration coming up, please ask their teacher or room parents about using this great resource.

Coming up in February, the Green Team is hosting, "Sun Love: A Solar Valentine's Celebration". This will take place on Valentine's Day at lunch recess during all lunch periods. We will have solar exhibits and a craft project to write thank you and love notes to our sun. Students are asked to wear YELLOW to celebrate their love for our sun and all things solar.



--Submitted by Ariel Schick, Green Team Member

BEYE OUTDOOR EXPLORERS GET OUTSIDE:

Hello Winter! **Beye Outdoor Explorers** (also known as the **Green Club**) have been using their **SENSES** to enjoy time outside.

First, we used our "Deer" listening. We learned how we could tune up our hearing to block out human-made sounds and listen to nature. To do this, cup your hands around your ears next time you are outside and hear what more you can hear.

Next we used "Owl" vision. An owl uses at least 180 degrees of vision and can sometimes move its head beyond that to capture its prey. We tried to see what more we could see pretending we were owls, which normally seek their food at dusk and nighttime.

In December and January, we tried out our "Scorpion" touch. We did this by making snow angels with full body immersion in the snow.

In January, we blocked out our sight with bandanas. Our group was inside just once to focus on using our touch. We did this by exploring a Box of Winter with rocks, leaves, evergreen branches, acorns and pussy willows (so soft!).



In January, we had two new students interested in joining! Please come join us. Lastly, get outside this winter! You will never know what nature bring. Use your senses to explore.

For details on how to join the Outdoor Explorers or for more information, email Laura Derks at lcderks@gmail.com.

--Submitted by Ariel Schick, Green Team Member



Oak Park Education Foundation News

It's time to think about Summer BASE Camp!

BASE Camp offers exceptional summer and days-off enrichment in a fun, collaborative environment! By January 30th, the details and schedule for the 2017 BASE Camp schedule will be available. Our rave-worthy camps are built around hands-on projects covering STEAM (science, tech, engineering, arts and math) for all 1st-8th graders from any school. The camps feature small groups led by passionate, experienced and friendly teachers. Kids have so much fun, they forget they're learning! To sign up for updates, go to www.opef.org/sign-base-camp-summer-2017-news-updates/

Here are a few exciting new changes for 2017!

- Paying for four weeks of camp can be a challenge for some working families. That's why we are now offering payment plans, in addition to our existing comprehensive scholarship program for D97 students. Want to know more? Contact the BASE Camp director, Lindsay Bruce: lbruce@opef.org.
- Need to get to work by 9 a.m.? No problem! We're offering early drop off this summer at 8 a.m. for kids in K-5!

We're growing again! We have more camps than ever before. Here are some examples of new, exciting camps:

FAIRY TALE ENGINEERING CAMP (1st-2nd grades)

Want to design modern endings to classic fairy tales? Get creative and engineer new solutions to old problems. Build a strong, sturdy house so the wolf (a.k.a., hair dryer) doesn't blow down your piggie's house. Re-design baby bear's bed for Goldilocks. Create a raft for the three billy goats to cross the river and escape the hungry troll. If at first you don't succeed, try, try again!

CODING WITH OZOBOTS (3rd-5th grades)

Ozobots are the latest craze in robot-building where kids explore STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) projects with small, smart toy robots. They'll learn to code, play, create and connect the physical and digital worlds.

GWENDOLYN BROOKS COMMUNITY MOSAIC CAMP (6-8th grades)

BASE Camp is partnering with OPRFHS art teacher Tracy VanDuinen to create a multi-week, multi-age, mosaic mural-making camp that is themed around the life of Gwendolyn Brooks and will get the community involved in creating the mural over the next 8 months.

For the latest Summer 2017 BASE Camp schedule and updates, go to www.opef.org and click the "Summer 2017 BASE Camp Registration" checkbox.

--Submitted by Ed Vega, OPEF liaison

SAVE THE

WILLIAM C.
STASZAK

DATE

ANNUAL GALA

Benefiting the Oak Park Education Foundation

MARCH 2017
18

JOIN US!

7 O'CLOCK PM

Open bar, auction and live music!



Oak Park
Education
Foundation

NEW
VENUE

COLUMBUS PARK
REFECTORY



Donate raffle items for the Beye School Fun Fair on April 8th!

The Beye Fun Fair is a major source of revenue for the PTO – and the raffle is one of the reasons why. Please donate items for the raffle! Donations are tax-deductible and you'll be listed as the charitable donor.

Have something around the house that you're not using? We'll take it!

We are looking for gift cards, tickets to a sporting event, concert tickets, tickets to a play, season passes/guest passes at a museum or the zoo, unopened board games and oversized stuffed animals. In short, we're looking for anything in great condition that we can use as a raffle item at this year's Fun Fair.

Want to buy something specifically for the raffle? We'll take it! We're also looking for games, books, gift baskets, educational items, gift certificates and other items that would appeal to elementary school-aged children and adults, we would love your donation.

We'd also like charitable donations!

If you or your spouse work for others, ask your company or organization if they are willing to make a charitable donation. If you're self-employed, consider offering your services as a raffle item. It's a great way to gain extra exposure for your business, while benefitting the PTO.

All proceeds from the raffle go directly to the PTO. These funds support all of the special enrichment experiences for our children, such as Opera for the Young, Hubbard Street Dance Company, as well as improvements for the school such as the recent auditorium upgrade.

Your generosity and kindness is much appreciated and benefits all of our Beye school children!

To donate or with questions, contact:
Suzanne Cronacher, scronacher@gmail.com or
Jen Kellogg, jkkellogg11@gmail.com, Co-VP of Special Events

--Submitted by Suzanne Cronacher, PTO Co-VP Special Events

3rd Annual Beye Bobcats Classic 3-ON-3 Basketball Tournament

Who: Teams of 4th and 5th grade boys and girls from Beye School. Adult teams must have at least one participant from the Beye community. Parents, guardians, teachers, staff, and administrators can organize a team consisting of 3 or 4 people.

Entry Fee: \$60.00 per team for students and \$100.00 per team for adults.

Tournament participants receive a T-shirt.

- There will be 3 divisions. . . .
- Adult Teams*: Teams of 3-4 people (age 18+)
- 4th and 5th grade boys: Teams of 3-4 people
- 4th and 5th grade girls: Teams of 3-4 people
- Awards will be given to the winners in all 3 divisions!

*Adult Teams are co-ed. If registration for 4 or more all-female adult teams is received, a separate women's division will be created

4th and 5th Grade Boys and Girls Start Time: 9:00 am (arrive 8:30 am)

K-3rd Grade Halftime Show: 11:00 am (arrive 10:30 am)

Adult Tournament Start Time: 12:00 pm (arrive 11:30 am)

Teams should submit a completed registration form with payment to Jen Bonhard by Wednesday, February 15, 2017. Drop off completed forms with payment in the main office PTO mailbox or email Jen at jbonhard@hotmail.com for other options. All checks should be made payable to Beye PTO.

Attention K-3rd Graders!

Show off your skills on the court during the tournament halftime show. Compete against other students in your grade to see who can make the most baskets before time runs out! \$5 to play. Sign up at the tournament by 10:45 am to enter. Prizes for the winning boy and girl in each grade level!

If you have any questions, please contact Jen Bonhard at jbonhard@hotmail.com.

Saturday, February 25th, 2017
Beye School Gymnasium

VOLUNTEER AT BEYE:
Big or small, there's
a role for everyone!

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). <http://www.beyeschoolpto.org/>. For detailed descriptions on open positions visit the volunteer page at: <http://www.beyeschoolpto.org/volunteer.html>.



ABOUT THE BEYESTANDER

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The Beyestander is an online 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 beyestander@beyeschoolpto.org.

BeyeBytes Newsletter: If you are not currently receiving BeyeBytes email newsletter and would like to be added to the list, please send an email to beyebytes@gmail.com.