



# BOSWELL BLACKHAWKS



## FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 12, 2021 MESSAGE FROM MR. TOLL

Dear Boswell Blackhawk Families,

On behalf of the staff of Boswell Elementary, I would like to express our appreciation for an entire week of in-person instruction! There is something special about students' laughter, students' voices, and the joy they bring into the classroom and building that makes Boswell the place to be!

As I mentioned in last week's newsletter, an initiative that we are tackling here at Boswell is to help all of our students learn their math facts. It is very difficult for students to tackle higher-order math when they are not fluent in their basic math facts. Students who have to use other methods to recount their math facts, take away their attention from the multiple steps necessary to solve more complex problems. Here are some helpful tips to help your child/ren learn their math facts:

- **Set a routine** - set a routine for practice and make sure it is a regular routine. This is where your judgment comes in. You know your child best and will know what routine will work best for him
- **Little and often** - you can not do it all at once. Make sure you tackle small chunks of math facts at a time
- **Only move on when they are ready** - once your child has learned one set, move onto the next. Then repeat, to make sure they are truly committed to memory
- **Practice should be cumulative** - structure the practice in a way that facts which have been previously mastered continue to appear along with the two or three new facts that are being learned
- **Use verbal chains to memorize each fact.** - Make sure your child practices by saying the whole problem and the answer aloud. In this way, students memorize a verbal chain. For example when they hear/see  $5 \times 5$ , they won't be able to stop from saying/writing 25.
- **Mastery = automaticity** - Automaticity is the ability to say the answer to a problem immediately after reading the fact. There should be no hesitation.
- **Set realistic goals** - Take into account the speed at which your child can write, on in the case of K5 Math Facts - type. The speed at which your child can write/type limits how fast they can respond to each question. Mastery means the instant recall of facts and should not be limited to your child's writing or typing skills.
- **Pay attention to corrective feedback** - You'll need to pay attention to math facts where your child hesitates or give an incorrect answer. K5 Math Facts does this automatically, but if you are learning the math facts on paper, you'll need to monitor these math facts and ensure they are provided with further tests on these facts.
- **Short practice sessions** - Realistically, your child won't be able to focus on drills for more than 2-4 minutes at a time. So keep the sessions short and succinct. This is not a race, it's a marathon.
- **Celebrate success!** - We all respond well to rewards. Set a goal with a reward attached to it and celebrate your child's success once they have reached that goal.

**When you're here, you're home!**

Phone: 765-869-5523

Email: [jtoll@benton.k12.in.us](mailto:jtoll@benton.k12.in.us)

Facebook: Boswell Elementary School

Twitter: BOB the Boswell Blackhawk

## FROM MRS. BUNCH

We ask if your student is displaying any one of the following Covid-19 symptoms, has tested positive for Covid-19, someone in your household has tested positive for Covid-19, or there has been a known exposure to a positive Covid-19 individual please keep your student home and notify me immediately here at school.

- Cough
- Fever
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Abdominal pain
- New Loss of Taste or Smell
- Chills
- Shortness of breath

We greatly appreciate your continued efforts and support as we work together to keep staff and students healthy in order to keep our doors open to in-person learning. You can reach me by calling the school at 765-869-5523 or via email at [rbunch@benton.k12.in.us](mailto:rbunch@benton.k12.in.us).

## FROM MRS. G.

We are still collecting Coca Cola codes. Any Coke product that has a code is eligible. This includes Dasani, PowerAde, Fanta, Mello Yellow, Sprite, etc. Bottles have the code in the cap and cases have it on the cardboard except for Dasani. Dasani has it on the bottom of the plastic.

Our fundraiser that was started at the beginning of the year is still going on as well. If you would like to support our school through that, the link is

<https://www.schoolstore.net/cgi/SetSchool?secheck=1&SchoolID=0000008904>. You can visit other vendors through this website and Boswell receives a small donation for it. You may also purchase gift cards for your child's class through this website.

Several families have already done this, and we very much appreciate this. It has helped our teachers tremendously. Thank you for your support!!

## LIFESKILL OF THE WEEK

The LifeSkill for this week is COURAGE. The definition that we are going to be using at school is this - to act according to one's belief. Throughout the week we are going to be discussing courage on the announcements and we will have different quotes from people about courage. We will also discuss what it means to have the courage not only in school but outside of the school environment as well.

## SAVE THE DATE

1-11 to 1-29 PIVOT Testing Window  
1-11 WIDA Testing Window Open  
1-15 Boswell Spelling Bee (broadcast via zoom)  
1-18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day - School will be in Session  
1 - 27 Planned 2-Hour Delay Day  
2 -15 President's Day - No School  
2 - 26 School is IN session (Flex Day)

## FEATURED STAFF MEMBER

*Mrs. Erin Budreau*

*Speech and Language Pathologist*

**How long have you been teaching:** 5 years

**Favorite color:** Blue

**Favorite Snack:** Caramel Trail Mix

**Favorite Restaurant:** Panda Express

**Favorite Hobbies:** Baking

**Favorite Animal:** Dogs

**Favorite Books:** Thrillers

**Favorite Vacation:** Anywhere with Sand

**Fun Fact:** I can quote every episode of The Office

**Phone:** 765-869-5523

**Email:** [jtoll@benton.k12.in.us](mailto:jtoll@benton.k12.in.us)

**Facebook:** Boswell Elementary School

**Twitter:** BOB the Boswell Blackhawk