

ELEMENTARY SPELLING BEE

Bennett County Elementary School (BCES) is trying something new with our school spelling bee. We have partnered with the Scripps National Spelling Bee this year. As part of that, the first-fifth grade classrooms took a written spelling test in December. The top three spellers in each grade are moving onto our schoolwide oral spelling bee. On Wednesday, January 10, 2024, fifteen kids will compete for the top spots at BCES. Those three super spellers will get to travel to Rapid City for a regional competition on February 10, 2024.

There will not be a first grade oral competition followed by a second grade contest, and so on. There will be only one oral spelling contest on January 10 at 8:30 a.m. in the Activity Center. It will be a mix of kids from 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade. The top three spellers from BCES, regardless of grade level, will advance to the regional competition. If you have any questions, please contact Molly Kuxhaus (molly.kuxhaus@k12.sd.us) or Donna Rae Harris (donnarae.harris@k12.sd.us) for more information.

Upcoming Events

January

- 2- School Resumes January 2, 2024
- 5 - Teacher In-Service
- 15 - School Board Meeting
- 17 - 1st Grade Parent Breakfast
- 19 - Staff In-Service
- 31 - 3rd Grade Parent Breakfast

Happy
New Year
2024



SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IS KEY TO SUCCESS

Student attendance is a critical part of their success. If you're having trouble getting to school, we want to help! Please call the school office. This is the time of year when winter weather and children's illnesses can take a toll on school attendance. But it's important to get your children to school every day possible. Too many absences can make it hard for students to stay engaged, connected and learning. This is as true in kindergarten and elementary grades as it is in high school. Children who miss too much school in kindergarten are less likely to read well by third grade. By middle school, absenteeism can predict who will graduate from high school.

There's not much we can do about the weather, but there are steps parents can take to help avoid absences.

- Do what you can to keep your children healthy. Dress them warmly for the cold weather.
- Encourage students to eat a healthy diet, be physically active, get enough sleep and wash their hands regularly.
- Schedule a yearly physical for each child and make sure students are up to date on vaccines, including flu and Covid.
- If your child is unable to get to school due to illness, ask the school for materials to keep learning at home. Help your child stay connected to classmates and teachers.
- Help your children learn to persevere. Today, they learn to overcome wintry weather. In the future, they will have the confidence to triumph over other obstacles to reach their dreams.



FFA CHILI COOKOFF

The Bennett County FFA is having a Chili Cook Off on Sunday, February 18th at 4:00 at the Martin Fire Hall. The competition will be judged by the public. Tickets will be for sale to vote for the best chili. For more information and to sign up, please contact FFA President Lily Cotten at 605-454-0216 or email [BennettCountyFFA @ k12.sd.us](mailto:BennettCountyFFA@k12.sd.us).

FAFSA PORTAL OPENING SOON

The FAFSA portal will open up on December 31st. Be on the lookout for the Parent FAFSA night coming in the next few weeks. A meeting night will be posted on the BCSD website and Facebook page.

FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAM AT ELEMENTARY

The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) provides all children in participating schools with a variety of free fresh fruits and vegetables as a snack. The program is particularly beneficial for children who depend on schools for their daily nutrition. It is an effective and creative way of introducing fresh fruits and vegetables, and creates opportunities for kids to try nutritious foods they otherwise may never taste. A Fresh Fruit or Vegetable snack is offered at BCES each day to students in the afternoon. More information about the program can be found at: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/ffvp/ffvp-fact-sheet>

