

# BLACKHAWK PARENT NEWS

December 2023

## Blackhawk Mission

Blackhawk is committed to partnering with families and the community to provide a welcoming, safe, and engaging environment where all students feel a sense of community, accountability, and purpose as they grow and develop into critical thinkers who desire to solve problems and have fun while learning.



## Important Dates

- 12/8 - Rehearsal Permission Slip Due
- 12/12 - 12:30 Early Release
- 12/13 - Full Dress Rehearsal for Holiday Show - Permission Slip needed
- 12/14 - Fall Picture Retake
- 12/15 - Last day of Xsteam
- 12/15 - 2nd Qtr. Midterms go home
- 12/18 - Silent Party \$5.00 Due
- 12/18 - Board Meeting Regular Session 7:00
- 12/19 - Blackhawk Holiday Show @ 1:30 at Michelle Obama
- 12/20 - Silent Party (\$5.00)
- 12/22 - Student of the Month
- 12/25-1/5 - Winter Break (No School)



## Parent Communication



## Blackhawk Means of Communication

I will upload flyers, important dates, and upcoming events on the Blackhawk page on our district website. We will also send flyers home with students of upcoming events. You can click on the School District 163 logo, which will take you to our Blackhawk page.



### Blackhawk Primary Center

Excellence in Education

[sd163.com](http://sd163.com)

## How Blackhawk Communicates with Parents

- Thrillshare messages from Principal
- Monthly Blackhawk Parent Newsletter (**Located on the Blackhawk page on the district website**)
- Flyers
- PTO Meetings
- Phone Calls
- Emails
- Classroom DOJO

## Attendance Matters

Let's continue to ensure our students come to school daily and on time. Students who attend school regularly have been shown to achieve higher levels than students who do not have regular attendance. This relationship between attendance and achievement may appear early in a child's school career. If your child(ren) cannot attend school, please call our secretary, Ms. Albright, at (708)668-9502.

Our School Day:

8:15 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Breakfast Begins:

7:50 a.m.

Early Dismissals

8:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

## Every Day Counts!

\*% = YTD Attendance Average

9 days absent = 2 weeks absent = 40 lessons missed! (\*95%)

19 days = 4 weeks = 80 lessons missed! (\*90%)

29 days absent = 6 weeks absent = 120 lessons missed! (\*85%)

38 days absent = 8 weeks absent = 160 lessons missed! (\*80%)

48 days absent = 10 weeks absent = 200 lessons missed! (\*75%)

57 days absent = 11.5 weeks absent = 230 lessons missed! (\*70%)

▶ 67 days absent = 13.5 weeks absent = 270 lessons missed! (\*60%)

## Every Minute Counts!

5 minutes late each day = 3 days lost!

10 minutes late each day = 6.5 days lost !

15 minutes late each day = 10 days lost!

20 minutes late each day = 13 days lost!

▶ **30 minutes** late each day = 19 days lost!

#AttendanceMatters

# ATTENDANCE MATTERS EVERY DAY!

Students who attend school regularly have been shown to achieve at higher levels than students who do not have regular attendance. When students are present or remote on Google Meets at Menchaca Early Childhood Center, they are...

- Engaging in relevant instruction and learning!
- Creating meaningful relationships with caring adults and friends!
- Participating in a GREAT school culture!



## CHRONIC ABSENCES 18 OR MORE DAYS

- Excused and unexcused absences represent lost time in the classroom and lost opportunities to learn.
- Missing just one day every two weeks can add up to 18 days in a year. Absences add up before you even know it.



## WARNING 10 - 17 DAYS

- Students who are absent an average of 15 days a year miss a year's worth of school before their senior year.
- When students miss a day of school it actually puts them two days behind their classmates.



## GOOD ATTENDANCE 9 OR FEWER ABSENCES

- Students with good attendance generally achieve higher grades and enjoy school more.
- Children benefit and make the most of their educational opportunities if they attend school regularly and on time.

## December SEL Strategy: Responsibility



### Are We Teaching Responsibility or Just Obedience?

What Parents Can Do

Be a Good Role Model

The old adage **“Do as I say, not as I do” unfortunately does not work.** One of the most powerful ways that parents can influence the development of their children is by behaving in the way they want their children to behave.

There is good news and bad news here. The good news is that by behaving in a positive way, your children are likely to do the same. The bad news is that the power of modeling puts pressure on you to act as you want your children to act.

So consider the following:

- Do you clean up after yourself, hang up your coat, keep your belongings neat?
- Do you meet your obligations, pay your bills on time, follow through with commitments?
- Do you admit when you make a mistake?

You get the picture . . . you can help your children to be responsible by being responsible yourself.

### **Give Choices and Opportunities to Make Decisions**

Children are more likely to go along with plans and be responsible when they have had a say in making the plans and decisions. They will have a chance to see how they gain more independence and feel a sense of pride as they show more responsible behavior. Conversely, you will see how giving children increased independence can lead to their being more responsible.

### **Use the Language of Responsibility**

Praise and encouragement will foster a positive relationship with your children and promote responsibility.

Telling them you believe in them, that you think they can accomplish a task, that you believe they can follow your rules and meet your expectations and their obligations goes a long way toward helping them to believe in themselves. Your belief in them can become a self-fulfilling prophecy.

- **Focus on what they did well** rather than on what they didn't do. Highlight the positive by 'catching them being good.' Find little pieces of responsible behavior to comment on and praise.
- Be sure to **celebrate progress and efforts as well as achievements.** You don't always have to reward progress with something tangible; giving recognition is a huge motivator for children.
- You can **remind your children of past successes** to motivate them to persist and follow through with something.

Remember: **Children need praise when they succeed and encouragement when they fall short.** “Yay, you did this!!” or “I know you will be able to do this next time.”

Parting Thoughts

Learning to be responsible takes time, and just like learning how to walk or ride a bike, a child may need your help. Picture your child as being responsible and capable of changing and growing – your children will live up or down to your expectations of them.

## **December Reading Strategy of the Month**

# DETERMINE IMPORTANCE

When getting dressed in the morning, some things you put on are **IMPORTANT**. Other things are **INTERESTING**.

## IMPORTANT

Needed



## INTERESTING

Not Needed



A book has many details. Some are **IMPORTANT** in understanding the story. Others are **INTERESTING** and fun to read, but are not as important.

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Our reading comprehension strategy for the months of December and January is Determining Importance. In this strategy the reader focuses on what's most important in the text. Being able to determine the most important information in a text is crucial because mastering it will lead to greater success in mastering other concepts and skills. For example, in order to summarize a text, a student first needs to be able to determine the important information. Likewise, to infer something about a text, students first need to have the ability to pick out important information that informs their inferences.

Young readers tend to think that everything that they read is essential. As they become more proficient with this strategy, they are more able to decide what is most important to remember. Students should understand that additional details provided by the author may make the text more interesting, but being able to pick out the most important details will help them better comprehend the text and will lead them to greater retention of new information.

This week, we will discuss how to introduce this strategy to your students. In the following weeks, we will address how to teach determining importance first in fiction and then nonfiction texts. As with any new concept, you'll want to introduce this reading strategy with concrete examples that are simple for students to understand. To begin, play a fun game of "Pick 3." In this game, present students with several scenarios where they are required to pick the 3 most important things related to that topic. Take a baseball game for example. Provide students with several items that are related to going to a baseball and have them identify and justify the 3 most important items.

Ask students to choose the three most essential items needed to play in a baseball game. Require students to justify their answer. Students most likely will decide that the mitt, bat, and baseball are the 3 most essential items because you need all 3 of those to play. The hat and shirt are nice to help you identify which team someone is playing on, but aren't essential to actually playing the game. Likewise, popcorn might be a fun snack to have while watching a baseball game, but is certainly not essential.

**GOING TO A BASEBALL GAME:**  
Which 3 items are most important?

 team shirt	 mitt
 popcorn	 baseball
 bat	 team hat

### How can you help your child with this strategy at home?

Next, you can give students a different scenario to talk through.

To prepare for the activity, write the scenario on the front of an envelope (ex: going bowling) and write several items on index cards to be placed in the envelope. Provide each small group with an envelope and have groups decide on the 3 most important items as they relate to the scenario. When groups have had a chance to discuss, have each group share out their thinking. Possible scenarios might include:

- going bowling: bowling ball, pizza, bowling shoes, bowling pins, soda, music
- making an ice cream sundae: ice cream, bowl, sprinkles, ice cream scoop, hot fudge, cherry
- going camping: tent, sleeping bag, frisbee, firewood, s'mores, matches
- things to bring to school: bookbag, homework, lunch, pencils, paper, iPad

Depending on the age of your students, your item choices may be more or less obvious as to which 3 items makes the most sense. For older students, choose items for each scenario that will spark a greater debate, while with younger student, you might want to make it more obvious as to which 3 items are the most important.

# Blackhawk Primary Reading Night



We had our "Let's Glow Read" on November 16, 2023. Our students and parents participated in fun glow-in-the-dark activities. Families also received a book to take home with them. Congratulations to those families that could go home with a raffle gift.



# Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-Bullying Week was from November 13th to November 17th. Blackhawk Primary Center had a Kindness Assembly where students listened to the story "Tala," which focused on kindness, read aloud. Students could also spread "Kindness" by sharing special notes with other students.





# School Menus



## December Breakfast and Lunch Menus

December 2023

District 163

Breakfast

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				<b>1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bagelful Strawberry Cream Cheese (240 Cal, 42g Carbs) 🍞</li> <li>• Seasonal Fruit</li> <li>• Cereal Option Offered Daily</li> </ul>
<b>4</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lucky Charms Breakfast Kit (110 Cal, 23g Carbs) ⚠️</li> <li>• Seasonal Fruit</li> <li>• Cereal Option Offered Daily</li> </ul>	<b>5</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pancake sausage on a Stick (200 Cal, 17g Carbs)</li> <li>• Seasonal Fruit</li> <li>• Cereal Option Offered Daily</li> </ul>	<b>6</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pull Apart Donut (240 Cal, 31g Carbs) ⚠️</li> <li>• Seasonal Fruit</li> <li>• Cereal Option Offered Daily</li> </ul>	<b>7</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WG Mini Waffles (200 Cal, 35g Carbs) 🍷🍷🍷</li> <li>• Seasonal Fruit</li> <li>• Cereal Option Offered Daily</li> </ul>	<b>8</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Danimals Strawberry yogurt (70 Cal, 14g Carbs) 🍓</li> <li>• Granola (129 Cal, 25g Carbs)</li> <li>• Seasonal Fruit</li> <li>• Cereal Option Offered Daily</li> </ul>
<b>11</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cocoa Puff Breakfast Kit (110 Cal, 25g Carbs) ⚠️</li> <li>• Seasonal Fruit</li> <li>• Cereal Option Offered Daily</li> </ul>	<b>12</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WG Mini Confetti Pancakes (220 Cal, 36g Carbs)</li> <li>• Seasonal Fruit</li> <li>• Cereal Option Offered Daily</li> </ul>	<b>13</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WG Blueberry Bread (270 Cal, 46g Carbs) 🍷🍷</li> <li>• Seasonal Fruit</li> <li>• Cereal Option Offered Daily</li> </ul>	<b>14</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turkey Sausage (70 Cal, 1g Carbs)</li> <li>• Sliced American Cheese (70 Cal, 1g Carbs) 🍷🍷</li> <li>• English Muffin</li> <li>• Seasonal Fruit</li> <li>• Cereal Option Offered Daily</li> </ul>	<b>15</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WG Cake Donut (150 Cal, 23g Carbs) 🍷🍷🍷</li> <li>• Seasonal Fruit</li> <li>• Cereal Option Offered Daily</li> </ul>
<b>18</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WG Cinnamon Pop-tart Breakfast (350 Cal, 72g Carbs) ⚠️</li> <li>• Seasonal Fruit</li> <li>• Cereal Option Offered Daily</li> </ul>	<b>19</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• French Toast Sticks (210 Cal, 26g Carbs) ⚠️</li> <li>• Seasonal Fruit</li> <li>• Cereal Option Offered Daily</li> </ul>	<b>20</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WG Blueberry Donut Hole (260 Cal, 39g Carbs) ⚠️</li> <li>• Seasonal Fruit</li> <li>• Cereal Option Offered Daily</li> </ul>	<b>21</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turkey Sausage (70 Cal, 1g Carbs)</li> <li>• WG Biscuit (100 Cal, 14g Carbs) 🍷🍷</li> <li>• Seasonal Fruit</li> <li>• Cereal Option Offered Daily</li> </ul>	<b>22</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apple Cinnamon Breakfast Round (310 Cal, 50g Carbs) ⚠️</li> <li>• Seasonal Fruit</li> <li>• Cereal Option Offered Daily</li> </ul>
<b>25</b> <p>Merry Christmas</p>	<b>26</b> <p>Merry Christmas</p>	<b>27</b> <p>Merry Christmas</p>	<b>28</b> <p>Merry Christmas</p>	<b>29</b> <p>Merry Christmas</p>

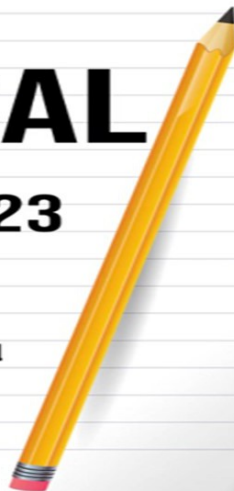
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				<b>1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Turkey Sausage Pizza </li> <li>Romaine Garden Salad (19 Cal, 4g Carbs)</li> <li>Grape Tomatoes (30 Cal, 7g Carbs)</li> <li>Seasonal Fruit</li> </ul>
<b>4</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BBO Pulled Chicken on Bun (300 Cal, 34g Carbs)</li> <li>Creamy Coleslaw (180 Cal, 19g Carbs) </li> <li>Fresh Cucumber Slices (10 Cal, 2g Carbs)</li> <li>Seasonal Fruit</li> </ul>	<b>5</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walking Taco</li> <li>WG Doritos (130 Cal, 20g Carbs) </li> <li>Shredded Cheddar Cheese (110 Cal, 1g Carbs) </li> <li>Corn (67 Cal, 16g Carbs)</li> <li>Refried Beans (110 Cal, 20g Carbs)</li> <li>Seasonal Fruit</li> </ul>	<b>6</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Buffalo Boneless Chicken Wings WG (200 Cal, 12g Carbs) </li> <li>Fresh Celery Sticks (0 Cal, 1g Carbs)</li> <li>Fresh Carrot Sticks (50 Cal, 12g Carbs)</li> <li>Seasonal Fruit</li> </ul>	<b>7</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BBO Meatballs </li> <li>Mashed Potatoes (102 Cal, 17g Carbs)</li> <li>Peas &amp; Carrots (50 Cal, 10g Carbs)</li> <li>WG Dinner Roll (100 Cal, 19g Carbs) </li> <li>Seasonal Fruit</li> </ul>	<b>8</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WG Cheese Pizza (296 Cal, 33g Carbs) </li> <li>Romaine Garden Salad (19 Cal, 4g Carbs)</li> <li>Grape Tomatoes (30 Cal, 7g Carbs)</li> <li>Seasonal Fruit</li> </ul>
<b>11</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cheeseburger (240 Cal, 20g Carbs) </li> <li>WG Burger Bun (100 Cal, 19g Carbs) </li> <li>Oven Fries (120 Cal, 21g Carbs)</li> <li>Fresh Cucumber Slices (10 Cal, 2g Carbs)</li> <li>Seasonal Fruit</li> </ul>	<b>12</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cheese Calzone (250 Cal, 33g Carbs) </li> <li>Broccoli (26 Cal, 5g Carbs)</li> <li>100% Apple Juice (50 Cal, 13g Carbs) </li> <li>Seasonal Fruit</li> </ul>	<b>13</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chicken Tenders (260 Cal, 16g Carbs) </li> <li>Buttermilk Waffles (170 Cal, 22g Carbs) </li> <li>Fresh Celery Sticks (0 Cal, 1g Carbs)</li> <li>Fresh Carrot Sticks (50 Cal, 12g Carbs)</li> <li>Seasonal Fruit</li> </ul>	<b>14</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beef Spaghetti</li> <li>Seasoned Green Beans (19 Cal, 4g Carbs)</li> <li>WG Garlic Breadstick (140 Cal, 14g Carbs)</li> <li>Seasonal Fruit</li> </ul>	<b>15</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Turkey Sausage Pizza </li> <li>Romaine Garden Salad (19 Cal, 4g Carbs)</li> <li>Grape Tomatoes (30 Cal, 7g Carbs)</li> <li>Seasonal Fruit</li> </ul>
<b>18</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mini Chicken Corn Dog (270 Cal, 30g Carbs) </li> <li>Tasty Tots (186 Cal, 32g Carbs)</li> <li>Baked Beans (140 Cal, 29g Carbs)</li> <li>Seasonal Fruit</li> </ul>	<b>19</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nacho Supreme (291 Cal, 23g Carbs) </li> <li>Cheese Sauce (49 Cal, 3g Carbs)</li> <li>Corn (67 Cal, 16g Carbs)</li> <li>Refried Beans (110 Cal, 20g Carbs)</li> <li>Seasonal Fruit</li> </ul>	<b>20</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Orange Chicken (262 Cal, 22g Carbs) </li> <li>Vegetable Fried Rice (184 Cal, 29g Carbs)</li> <li>Seasoned Green Beans (19 Cal, 4g Carbs)</li> <li>Seasonal Fruit</li> </ul>	<b>21</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chicken Drumstick (220 Cal, 4g Carbs)</li> <li>Macaroni and Cheese (325 Cal, 33g Carbs) </li> <li>Sweet Potato (90 Cal, 21g Carbs)</li> <li>WG Dinner Roll (100 Cal, 19g Carbs) </li> <li>Seasonal Fruit</li> </ul>	<b>22</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WG Cheese Pizza (296 Cal, 33g Carbs) </li> <li>Romaine Garden Salad (19 Cal, 4g Carbs)</li> <li>Grape Tomatoes (30 Cal, 7g Carbs)</li> <li>Seasonal Fruit</li> </ul>



# **12:30 PM EARLY DISMISSAL**

**12/12/23**

**Students will be served  
lunch and dismissed at  
12:30 pm.**



**BLACKHAWK PRIMARY CENTER**

# **PICTURE RETAKE**



**Thursday,  
December 14, 2023**



**Ms. Pumphrey - Principal  
130 Blackhawk Drive  
Park Forst, Illinois 60466  
708-668-9503**

# THE *Nutcracker in Harlem*

1:30 PM  
DECEMBER 19TH

LOCATION:

MICHELLE OBAMA SCHOOL  
530 LAKEWOOD DOOR 13



Blackhawk Primary Center  
PRESENTS

# SILENT PARTY

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER  
20TH, 2023

Headphones  
cost \$5

K/1st grade 12:30 - 1:30	2nd/3rd grade 1:30 - 2:30
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Kelli Pumphrey,  
Principal

130 Blackhawk Drive, Park Forest  
IL, 60466

**Kelli Pumphrey**

Email: [kpumphrey@sd163.com](mailto:kpumphrey@sd163.com) Phone # 708-668-9503

