



# THE DISTRICT

## Bernalillo Public Schools

www.bernalillo-schools.org

January 2024

### From The Superintendent's Desk

Dear BPS Families,



I hope this letter finds you well as we start 2024 with a spirit of optimism and determination. As a district, we are committed to enhancing the outcomes for our students, creating an environment where each individual can reach their greatest potential.

Our steadfast belief in the ability of every student drives us to maintain high expectations for academic and personal growth. We are dedicated to providing the support and resources necessary for each student to thrive and succeed. By holding high expectations, we aim to create an educational experience that prepares our students for a future filled with opportunities.

In this journey towards excellence, we recognize the invaluable role that partnership with our families and community plays. Collaboration is key to achieving our shared goals, and we deeply appreciate the support and engagement of our families and community members. Your involvement is critical in shaping the learning environment and ensuring that our students receive the best possible education.

We look forward to strengthening our collaborative efforts with you, enhancing open communication, and working together to create a positive and enriching experience for our students. By building strong partnerships, we can collectively contribute to the success of each student and the overall excellence of our educational community.

To start this semester, let us embrace the possibilities that lie ahead and approach the challenges with a united spirit. Together, we can make a significant impact on the lives of our students and continue to strive for excellence in education.

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to the success of our students.

Best,

Matt

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## La Escuelita Pre-School



**December 2023**—What a fun holiday season it was at La Escuelita. Students arrived each day to be welcomed by the “Ginger Pup Village”. The hallways were festive and absolutely magical! Santa Clause and his Elves visited our school and brought a book or toy to each student. To see the faces of our students light up as they received their gift was heart warming. Every day at La Escuelita is special, but the month of December was truly magical.

We would like to thank the BHS Student Council for all of their hard work and support for making this Holiday Season special for our students.



## Santo Domingo Elementary-Middle School



**We proudly introduce the 2023-24 Santo Domingo School Royalty Court:** Lorenzo Pacheco, King; Lakisha Quintana, Queen, Riley Magdalena, Prince; Delisa Garcia, Princess; Tyrese Quintana, Duke; Solei Pacheco, Duchess.

Dressed in their Indigenous regalia, each member of the royalty court gave introductions in Kewa and performed their unique talents during the pageant that took place on November 29th. The Royalty Court will engage in leadership training and will serve as SD ambassadors for the year. All pageant participants are now members of our Student Advisory Council. Congratulations!



**Native American Spirit Week**—Our Kewa community planned a Native American Spirit Week to celebrate our heritage. On Rock Your “Mocs” Day, all students participated in an “Honoring Our Ancestors Walk”. The walk culminated with a school-wide circle on our field with words of wisdom. The week also included “Fried Bread Friday”, which we think should be a weekly event.

This was a great opportunity for our students, staff, and community to celebrate our rich and beautiful culture. We can't wait to do it again next year!





# Algodones Elementary

**Gardening at AES** — The cold weather is no obstacle for our gardening teacher, Ms. Lujan, and the AES students. Throughout the winter students continue to participate in gardening classes. They work hard to maintain the greenhouse by cleaning any debris or leaves. Students are currently using the greenhouse to plant winter crops, but they are also preparing the soil to have it ready for the Spring. Students rake the beds, add compost, and rid them of any weeds or leaves.

Great job AES students and Ms. Lujan for doing such an excellent job taking care of the garden. We look forward to the healthy food this garden will produce.



**November 28, 2023**— The New Mexico Young Actors visited AES and performed *Stuart Little* for our students. After the play, students had the opportunity to meet the young actors and get a closer look at the set.

It was a great opportunity for our students to see other young people performing and doing something they love. Who knows, maybe this experience will spark an interest in acting for some of our students.



**AES Christmas Performance a HUGE Hit!** - Algodones Elementary hosted their K-3 Christmas program at Black Mesa Casino. Performances varied from Christmas songs, recorders, bells, and Navajo dances. There was even had a special performance by our music teacher John Yuan, our social worker Mary Schmauss, and THE DISTRICT'S Deputy Superintendent of Business Services, Dr. Eric James. It was a magical event and the students did an amazing job.







# Bernalillo Elementary

**BES Holiday Extravaganza**— Students performed at the Lil Spartan Holiday Extravaganza! They did an amazing job singing, playing instruments, and dancing to holiday songs they learned in their performing arts class with Ms. Tessa. We discovered we have very talented and musically inclined students in our school.

It was a fun day it was to celebrate with classmates and family. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend. Your presence made the day extra special.



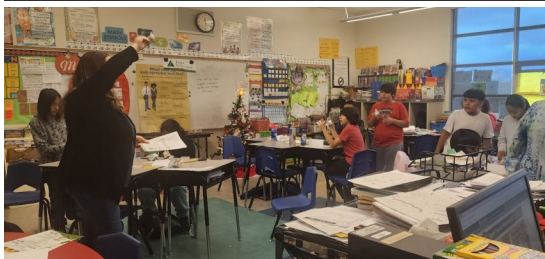
**BES All School Reads**—Every Friday BES does an “All School Reads” and has been reading the book, “Because of Winn Dixie”. Students had a celebration after reading the entire book and watching the movie. Students rotated through activities that connected to the book and celebrated by eating peanut butter sandwiches, pickles, and drinking punch.

Thank you to our reading interventionists Ms. Amanda Herman and Ms. Crystal Madrid for organizing this amazing event!



When children have a home library, as little as **20 books** of their own, they achieve **3 more years** of schooling than children who don't have any books at home.

READING FOR **6 MINUTES A DAY** REDUCES STRESS BY 68%.



**Junior Achievement at BES** - Junior Achievement volunteers came to visit each class for the entire day to deliver proven, hands-on programming on financial literacy, work readiness, and entrepreneurship that inspires students to understand the opportunities provided by education.

Junior Achievement at BES is changing the game for our students by providing them with relevant, experiential education that will prepare them for real life in the real world. They are learning concepts that they will expand upon when they attend SLA and BHS. These concepts will ultimately inspire and prepare them to succeed in a global economy.

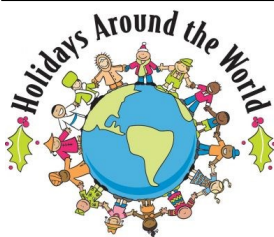


Dear Parents/Guardians, if you do not have a **PowerSchool Parent Portal account**, or you need your password reset, please email the BPS Data Team at [BPSPowerSchoolSupport@bernalillops.org](mailto:BPSPowerSchoolSupport@bernalillops.org).





# Placitas Elementary



**Holiday Traditions from Around the World**— Placitas Elementary School students recently had the opportunity to explore cultural and holiday traditions from around the world. Each grade conducted research and learned about the culture, geography, traditions, resources, and economies of their assigned countries. Students demonstrated learning through presentations, book reports, dioramas, and research projects. They also learned songs and dances, representative of their country, and performed them on stage for their families.



# W.D. Carroll Elementary

At W.D. Carroll Elementary we have been doing a lot of celebrating during the month of December.

- \* Great Attendance—Our attendance team celebrated the class in each grade level with the best attendance by bringing them delicious cookies!
- \* Staff of the Month —We celebrated staff and student of the month by providing them each with a gift and a certificate! Staff of the Month: Erika Licano, Maura Murphy, and Stacy Kuhn.
- \* Student of the Month: Layla Saenz!

We also had a huge turn out for the amazing Dual Language and Keres Christmas Program! Lastly, we are finishing out the last few days with the “Whoville Experience”!!







# Spartan Learning Academy

## December 2023 at SLA—

**iMSSA Awards**—iMSSA testing for the MOY assessment at Spartan Learning Academy was a success on December 5-6th. To motivate and encourage students to participate and do well on the assessment, students were offered incentives. Classes with 100% attendance on both days of the assessment were awarded a Pizza Party. SLA had 12 classes reach 100% attendance on both days! In addition, students who received the highest scores and students who showed the most growth in the three subtests received a Sonic Drink of choice delivered to them on campus. Way to go SPARTANS!



**Bully Plays**—On December 7th our Middle School students were privileged to have the opportunity to watch the Bully Plays put on by the New Mexico Young Actors. This performance took place in the main gym and was an interactive experience, as it allowed SLA students to respectfully express comments and ask questions about bullying and the effects it has on a school community.

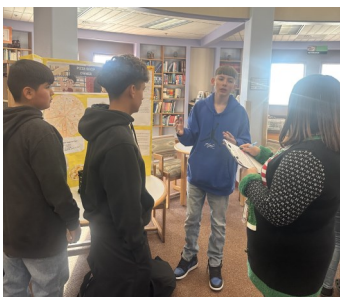


**Winter Program**—The Winter Program put on by Ms. Felicia’s class on December 8th was a HUGE success! Student performers sang and danced, there was a surprise guest violinist, John Yuon, and the SLA Cheerleaders showcased their talents. All in all it was a great time!



**SLA’s Winter Music Concert** took place on the evening of December 14th. Students in guitar, beginning band, and advanced band, displayed their musical talents and dedication by delighting the audience with a beautiful blend of holiday music led by instructors Russell Turek and Tristan Tucker.

**Project-Based Learning Exhibition**—On December 18th, students in Mr. Macapuno’s Honors Math Class put on a Project Based Learning Exhibition where students explained their math projects to invited guests. Guests were able to hear students explain their math reasoning and how it related to real-life experiences such as planning a park, managing a campaign, developing a game, and food truck entrepreneurship. Students expressed their pleasure at being able to use their math skills to create these real-life experiences.







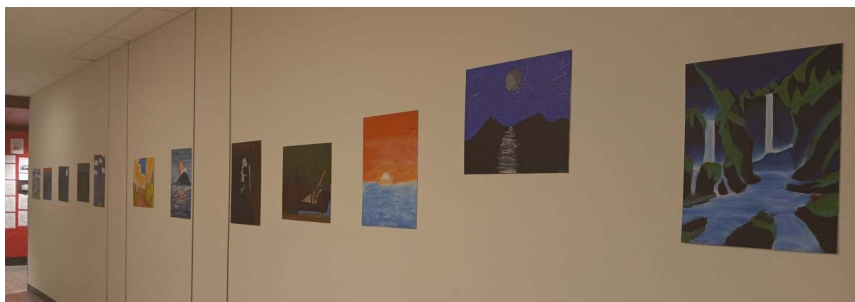
# Bernalillo High School

**Fine Arts Night** - Many people may not know this, but BHS has a successful and robust Fine Arts program. Some of the courses we offer include:

- Intro to Art
- Art 2D
- Ceramics I, II, and III
- Creative Art—Drawing and Painting
- Food Stylist
- Media Arts and Animation Collaboration
- Photography
- Band
- String Band
- Drumline
- Wind Ensemble



In December, students had the opportunity to showcase their talents at the BHS Fine Arts Night.



**Holiday Book Drive and Toy Drive** - The associated students of BHS hosted a very successful book and toy drive for the preschool students in the BPS district. Through this drive they were able to collect over 150 books and 75 toys to give to the little boys and girls!

The BHS students were so excited about this event that they organized every aspect of it from start to finish. The students communicated with pre-school administration and teachers to ensure every student received a toy and book. They collected all of the books and toys, they sorted them, and wrapped them in beautiful paper for the pre-k students to tear open. The BHS students were even were able to arrange a special delivery by Santa!

Thank you BHS students for your hard work in making this holiday special for our beautiful pre-k students! This is a perfect example of how loving, caring, and thoughtful our BHS students are. Also, thank you to the teachers and school administration that supported their efforts to make this event a success.





# Bernalillo High School

**BHS Honor Roll and Perfect Attendance** — On Friday December 15th BHS celebrated over 300 students who received a 3.0 GPA or above and/or perfect attendance for quarter one!! Each student received a certificate along with a special cookie and cocoa social.

A very special thank you to Chef Vazquez and the culinary students for making such yummy cookies. Also, CONGRATULATIONS to our Spartans for awesome grades and/or attendance!

To see a complete list of students that made the Honor Roll and had perfect attendance, click [HERE!](#)



## Bernalillo High School Alumni Corner

THE DISTRICT of Bernalillo Public Schools would like to honor alumni that are doing great things.



In this edition of the Alumni Corner we would like to honor and recognize Daniel “DC” Casillas. Daniel is a Class of 2001 BHS graduate. In high school Daniel was a quite, hard-working, and respectful student. In his spare time at home he would design very cool Halloween costumes that were the envy of his friends and classmates. Little did he know at the time that his creative passion for designing costumes would lead him into a successful career as an American Makeup EFX Artist, Producer, Director, and Entrepreneur.

Daniel has an impressive resume. If you ever visited the local Slaughter House Haunted Attraction during Halloween, you have seen his work. However, what Daniel is best known for his work on the movie Logan (2017), Sicario (2015), Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials (2015), and Finch (2021). Click

[HERE](#) for more information on Daniel’s professional projects.

Daniel is also a great role model for our students. Last school year Daniel and his stunt crew visited with our BHS film production class. There Daniel and his team talked to our students about their career experience and training. Daniel displayed some of the props, masks, and costumes he created for various movies. In addition, his stunt crew modeled for students how actors are set on fire in movies safely without sustaining any burns or injury. What was most exciting is his willingness to mentor and work with any of our students that are interested in developing costumes, or production, in the film industry.

Congratulations Daniel on following your dreams and we wish you continued success!





# The Spirit of Outstanding Service Award



**THE DISTRICT of BPS** — To honor the diligence and dedication to our students is a privilege. Through the employee and student of the month award, employees and students are recognized for their efforts in making Bernalillo Public Schools one of the best educational institutions.



Alexis Prairie  
Senior (12th grade), Bernalillo High  
*Sponsored by Circle B Ranch*



Christine Skloss  
Math Teacher, Bernalillo High  
*Sponsored by Ashley Duran Insurance Agency*



Ken Trujillo  
Operation Support, Bernalillo High



Viola Perea  
Instruction Support, Bernalillo High



Lynette Deuel  
Administrator, District Office  
*Sponsored by MA Strategies*

*Congratulations!*

If you would like to nominate someone please use the link or QR code below. Thank you!



<http://bit.ly/3YJbpqi>



DATE	Event
January 9, 2024	Students return to school
January 9, 2024	Native American Family Night at Santo Domingo School Where: Cafeteria      Time: 5:30—7:00 PM
January 11, 2024	BHS Gear Up FAFSA Night—Students and their families can receive assistance submitting the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Where: BHS Library      Time: 5:30—7:30 PM
January 15, 2024	Martin Luther King Jr. Day—NO School
January 31, 2024	BHS Gear Up FAFSA Night—Students and their families can receive assistance submitting the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Where: BHS Library      Time: 5:30—7:30



**A Powerful Must See TED Talk**

**“How Every Child Can Thrive by Five”**

by Molly Wright

Please click below to watch this short video.



**IMPORTANT**

**>>> ANNOUNCEMENT <<<**



**GYM NOTICE**

BHS will NO LONGER be accepting OUTSIDE FOOD and DRINKS into the gymnasium.

Refreshments will be provided by the concession stand of BHS.

Thank you for your cooperation, Spartan fans.

**#GoSpartans**



*Speak to your children*

AS IF THEY ARE THE WISEST, KINDEST, MOST BEAUTIFUL AND MAGICAL HUMANS ON EARTH, FOR WHAT THEY BELIEVE IS WHAT THEY WILL BECOME.

*Brooke Hampton*



STORYTELLING SESSIONS - CRAFTS - GROUP TIME

**EVERY TUESDAY**  
START AT 10:00AM

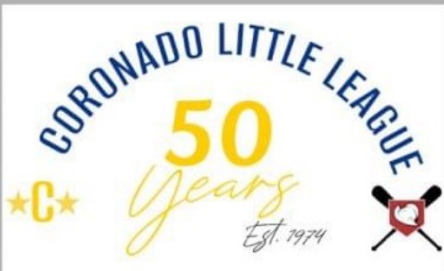
**IN THE CHILDREN'S AREA**

124 CALLE MALNICHE  
BERNALILLO, NM 87004

TICKETS, PROGRAM AND  
MORE INFO :

**505-867-1440**

STORIES WITH ALICIA ● [BERNALILLOLIBRARY.ORG](http://BERNALILLOLIBRARY.ORG)



**2024 Spring Registration**  
**December 1 - February 1**

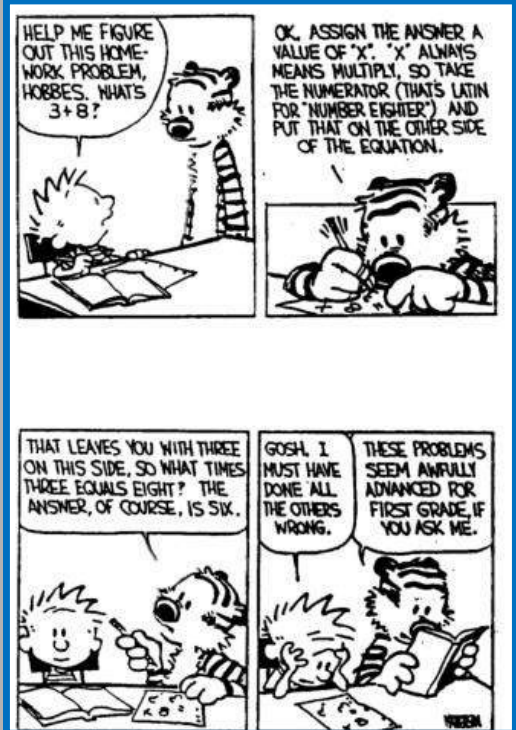
Phone: 505-967-1345  
Email: [playballcoronado@gmail.com](mailto:playballcoronado@gmail.com)

- Tee-Ball & Rookies \$80
- Baseball/ Softball Minors and above \$160
- Sibling Discounts
- \$25 late fee applies after February 1st



**League Website and Registration**

When you register, consider making a donation to the "Coronado Strong" fund to provide support to the family of Coronado Minor BB player De'Ago Paquin in his fight against cancer.



**What does "Rockin' Rob-in" do when she's bored?**  
**Tweet.**

# ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW

© Rectangular Snip

## GOOD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MEANS...



**ELEMENTARY STUDENTS**  
read well by the end of third grade



**MIDDLE SCHOOLERS**  
pass important courses



**HIGH SCHOOLERS**  
stay on track for graduation



**COLLEGE STUDENTS**  
earn their degrees



**WORKERS**  
succeed in their jobs

Too many absences—excused or unexcused—can keep students from succeeding in school and in life. How many are too many? 10% of the school year—that's 18 missed days or 2 days a month—can knock students off track.



Advancing Student Success By Reducing Chronic Absence

[www.attendanceworks.org](http://www.attendanceworks.org)



It's Time to **Renew NM!**

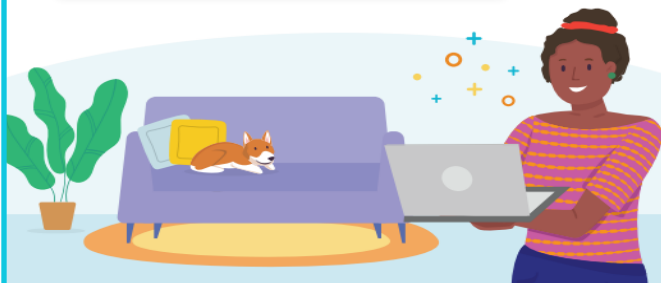
### Medicaid & SNAP Renewal Checklist

#### Renew Your Medicaid & SNAP!

- ✓ **Update Your Contact Information Now!** Go to [yes.state.nm.us](http://yes.state.nm.us) and update your contact information in the chat or call 1-800-283-4465.
- ✓ **Watch For Your Turquoise Envelope** The New Mexico Human Services Department will send your renewal notice in a turquoise envelope.
- ✓ **Get Ready to Renew!** When you are notified, complete your Medicaid and SNAP renewal at [yes.state.nm.us](http://yes.state.nm.us) by clicking **Renew My Benefits**.



Learn all about **how to renew Medicaid and SNAP** at [renew.hsd.nm.gov](http://renew.hsd.nm.gov)



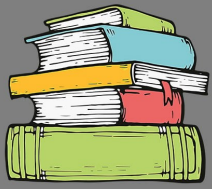
If the Silver Surfer and Iron Man teamed up, what would that make them?  
Alloys



I THINK YOU SHOULD BE MORE SPECIFIC HERE IN STEP TWO







READING IS  
FUNDAMENTAL

Dear Parents and Families,

Inspire the joy of reading by reading books with your children at home. By doing so you are creating a lifetime of opportunity. Thank you.

#Readingisfundamental  
#EveryChildDeservesTheChanceToSucceed

## THE LEOPOLD WRITING PROGRAM

invites New Mexico students in grades 6-12 to submit original essays for our 2024 Writing Contest. Please consider the following, and then respond to the ESSAY PROMPT below.

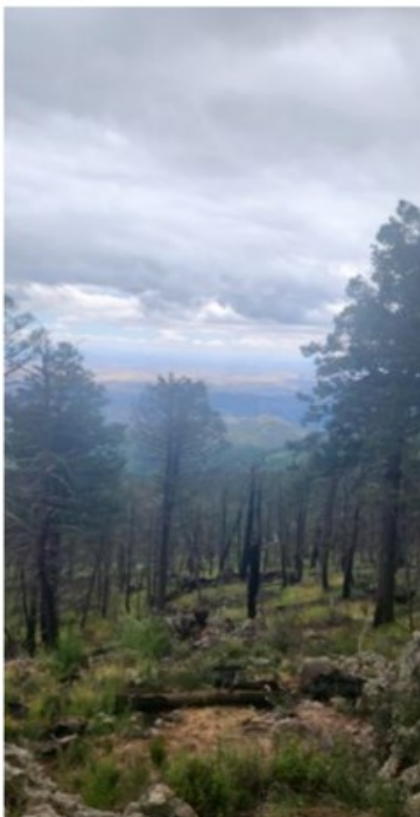
**Aldo Leopold** is most widely known as the author of *A Sand County Almanac* (1949) in which he articulates his land ethic: "A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."

Today, we can look to Leopold's writing to help guide us in addressing changing realities brought about by climate change, biodiversity loss, growing demand for fresh water, and other global environmental issues. In his essay "Engineering and Conservation" (1938), Leopold writes:

*"Our tools are better than we are, and grow better faster than we do. They suffice to crack the atom, to command the tides. But they do not suffice for the oldest task in human history, to live on a piece of land without spoiling it."*

### ESSAY PROMPT

Are our tools better than we are?  
Think about tools in your life. Do they help or hurt your relationship with our ecological community?



The Aldo Leopold Wilderness  
Gila National Forest, New Mexico  
Courtesy of AllTrails.com

Cash prizes will be awarded to the winning essayists in three grade categories: 6-7, 8-9, and 10-12

Submissions are accepted through February 15, 2024 at 6:00 pm

For complete instructions and entry form, please visit [leopoldwritingprogram.org](http://leopoldwritingprogram.org) and follow *Writing Contest* links

