Dear Buffalo Parents,

Happy Holidays! Winter break is just a few short weeks away. While that is an exciting thought, it means that half of our instructional year has passed!

The instructional cycle has four components: instructional outcome, planning, teaching/student learning, and assessments. Our teachers monitor and observe your child and his/her responses, work products, reading ability, etc. These on-going assessments give us a complete picture of your child’s strengths and growth areas.

Along with informal assessments, teachers also administer formal ones as required by AISD. For our primary students, teachers in January will administer the middle of the year TX-KEA (kindergarten), Istation, and the Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA) to assess reading progress. For intermediate students, teachers in January will administer Istation and middle of the year (MOY) benchmarks in writing (4th), reading, (3rd-5th), math (3rd-5th) and science (5th).

Whether your child is in kinder or 5th grade, these middle of year assessments are important. They help teachers know what instruction has been effective and for whom it has been successful. They also help teachers plan interventions which will be provided during the day and others which will begin after school in late January.

As we end 2019, I would like to thank you for all you do every day to support your child(ren) and for your commitment to Baranoff Elementary School. I wish you a restful and safe winter break and hope you enjoy this time with your family. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

Beth Cantu
Proud Interim Principal of Timy Baranoff Elementary

We are always here and happy to help in any way possible. Our main Baranoff phone number is 512-841-7100.
We hope you had a happy and healthy Thanksgiving Break, and welcome back! Students will begin our Hand Dribbling and Substance Abuse Awareness units as we move into December.

Hand Dribbling Expectations:

**K**- dribble continuously in self-space using one hand.

**1st**- dribble in self space for 2 minutes using either hand.

**2nd**- dribble in general space with others using either hand with continual control.

**3rd**- deliver catchable bounce and chest passes to a stationary partner five times.

**4th**- deliver and receive bounce and chest passes in a dynamic situation.

**5th**- demonstrate competence while dribbling in a dynamic game-like situation.

The health topic is substance abuse for this grading period.

Our 4th and 5th grade students will participate in an introduction to lacrosse with coaches from the Bowie Boys Lacrosse teams.

Students are continuing to complete laps during their W.O.W. time every day to meet our state mandated physical activity minutes AND earn MarathonKids rewards. Students should have completed their first marathon by mid-November. Marathon #2 target date is January 31, 2020.

On a related note, students should be wearing athletic footwear to Wellness Class and for W.O.W. time activities. Shoe calendars, as well as other pertinent Wellness information, can be found on our website: [www.baranoffwellness.weebly.com](http://www.baranoffwellness.weebly.com)

You can also find us on Twitter @BaranoffWellness

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### Cafeteria News

[www.Schoolcafe.com](http://www.Schoolcafe.com) is our online app to add money to your child’s account, as well as to check our daily menus. Please be aware it can take up to 24 hours for money to transfer from Schoolcafe to our servers within AISD and to our POS/cash registers. This 24 hours also works for removing or adding restrictions. Breakfast is served from 7:05 - 7:35 am, and the bell rings at 7:40 am to go to class. Lunch is served from 10:42 am - 1:00 pm. We sell snacks (crackers, cereal, popcorn) Monday through Thursday, and GoodPops (popsicles) are only sold on Fridays.

Sharon Stevens, Cafeteria Manager
Baranoff Elementary
Baranoffcafe@austinisd.org
Follow us on Twitter @AustinISDFood
The holidays are a great time to catch up on your child’s reading goals. Currently, our students are participating in two reading programs that are intended to promote literacy at all ages: Read to Succeed sponsored by Six Flags and Waves of Pages sponsored by Schlitterbahn. The following provides more information about each program. Additional reading logs may be picked up in the library in case your child has misplaced the one sent home.

**Read to Succeed** – Students must complete 6 hours (360 minutes) of reading to earn a FREE six flags ticket that can only be used at Fiesta Texas in San Antonio, Texas. Parents must add their child’s recorded reading time using the link and special teacher code provided on the reading log. Students will have until the end of March to complete 6 hours of reading. Tickets will be sent via email to classroom teachers in May.

**Waves of Pages** – Students must complete 10 hours (600 minutes) of reading to earn a FREE admission to Schlitterbahn Waterpark in New Braunfels, Texas. Students must complete the reading log and have a teacher or parent sign off on it. The deadline for Wave of Pages is **January 24, 2020**. Tickets will be distributed in May 2020.

**Upcoming Events in the Library**

**Bluebonnet Voting in January** – All 3rd - 6th grade students that have read five or more of the Bluebonnet Nominees will be voting on their favorite book from the Nominee list. The results from our school will be counted with other students from the state of Texas to determine the Bluebonnet Award winners for 2019-2020. Please encourage your child to continue reading the Bluebonnet Nominee books. Students who read eight or more of the books will receive a ticket for the Bluebonnet breakfast that will be held the last week of January.

**Library Inventory** - January 6th – 10th the library will be closed to conduct inventory. We will need many volunteers to help with this massive project. Please use the sign-up below if you are able to help. [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0B45A8A62B0-library4](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0B45A8A62B0-library4) (You may need to copy and paste in new browser.)

**Scholastic Jungle Book Fair: Lions, Tigers, and Books** – We will hold our spring book fair February 17th – 20th. Thursday night, February 20th, the book fair will stay open late to coordinate with the Special Area Collaboration Night.

**HELP YOUR CHILD SUCCEED IN SCHOOL: BUILD THE HABIT OF GOOD ATTENDANCE EARLY**

**School success goes hand in hand with good attendance!**

**DID YOU KNOW?**
- Starting in kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day, is important. Good attendance will help children do well in high school, college, and at work.

**Lost and Found** Please have your child check the lost and found for any lost items (jackets, water bottles, lunch boxes, hats, etc.). All unclaimed items will be donated to Goodwill on Thursday, December 20, 2019.
**Music**

**Kindergarten** has been learning songs and rhymes to prepare fast/slow, and we have been practicing the concept of steady beat and loud/soft dynamics.

**First grade** has been preparing “quarter rests” and practicing reading and writing “so and mi”, as well as quarter notes and eighth notes.

**Second grade** did a great job on their November program! We are continuing to explore the rhythmic concept of half note, and practicing the first scale degree of a diatonic scale “do”.

**Third grade** has been preparing two sixteenth notes followed by one eighth note, or “takadi”. They will also be practicing reading and writing the solfege syllable “low la”.

**Fourth and Fifth grade** has been preparing the rhythm “dotted quarter note followed by an eight note” and practicing the rhythmic concept of syncopation.

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**MUSIC CHOIR NOTES**

On **Thursday, December 5th at 6:30pm**, we invite you to our Winter Choir concert in the Baranoff cafeteria. Students will sing hits from holiday movies and other winter songs! **Student call time is at 6:00 pm in Mr. Richards’ room.**
In December, we are well into guidance lessons with kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade classes, and we will wrap up our guidance groups for the fall. We will begin another round of guidance groups in the spring.

**No Place for Hate**
Our first activity, *Stitching Together a Community*, will continue through December. Students will meet up with their buddies and learn about communities. Each class will create a quilt representing the different communities they belong to. Start talking to your child about what a community is, how they help us, and the different communities they belong to.

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**Student Council**

We have installed new members for this year's Student Council. We have many fabulous leaders in 2nd - 5th grade.

Student Council Officers 2019-2020:
Morgan - President
Clover - Vice-President
Olaya - Treasurer
Isabela - Secretary
Ella J - Sergeant at Arms

Student Council Dates:
December 5th
January 30th
February 20th
March 5th
April 23rd
May 20th - End of Year activity.

All meetings will be held in the library and start at 3:10 pm. Our first meeting will end at 3:50 pm, but all other meetings will end at 3:40 pm. We ask parents to please be on time to pick up our little leaders.

Please continue to collect and send any **box tops** you have collected through the summer to your child’s teacher. Also, try out the new and improved Box Tops mobile app which uses state-of-the-art technology to scan your store receipt. Find participating products and instantly add Box Tops to Baranoff’s earnings online.
Grades Kindergarten – 5th: Over the winter break, continue to support your child's literacy progress.

Here are a few ideas to participate in during the winter break:

1. Take your child to a public library or a local bookstore.
2. Have your child keep a daily journal of events or thoughts from the day.
3. Write a letter/card to a friend.
4. Listen to an audio book.
5. Play a board game that incorporates literacy (reading, spelling, writing, etc).
6. Read a book with your child.
7. Have your child read a book to you, a sibling, and/or relative.
8. Sing karaoke with the words.
9. Play Gestures with nouns and verbs.
10. Read a recipe/directions to make/cook something.
11. See a movie and read the book and compare and contrast them.

December 9th - 15th is Computer Science Week and the annual Hour of Code. All grade levels will participate in computer coding in December!

Kindergarten - 2nd: Scratch Jr, Code & Go Mouse & Botley
3rd: Code.org, Cody and Dash & Dot
4th: Code.org, Dash & Dot and Sphero
5th: Code.org, Sphero & Ozobots