

# Bobcat News



## A Note From Our Principal

March / April 2023

Dear Families,

Starting last year, our students began using something called a 4-Square for writing. This is not the 4-Square that is played on the playground, though they do look similar. This is a graphic organizer that can be used at any grade level in any subject for any kids of writing to help students organize their thoughts. The topic sentence or idea goes in the middle, then there are 3 boxes for reasons or supporting ideas for the topic. The 4th box is for the conclusion or a feeling. Students have been using this organizer to organize ideas, write paragraphs, and even write essays. Through use of this organizer, we have watched our students abilities in writing flourish. Ask your child to see their 4-Squares.

We will start Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) in April right after Spring Break. This is the statewide assessment based on the Illinois Learning Standards. Our third and fourth graders will take multiple sessions of the IAR test over a two week window. Your child's teacher will inform you when their class is testing.

Please consider these three steps to supporting your child through testing.

1. Encourage your child to work hard and try his/her best to show how much he/she has learned. Be cautious not to over stress doing well, but continually encourage to try hard.
2. Limit night time activities on testing eves. Being out or up too late can affect how kids do on tests. To the extent possible, stick to normal bed-times and set an alarm in the morning to not be too rushed.
3. There is something to be said for a good healthy breakfast on the day of the test. Choose energy boosting foods with protein, such as eggs, milk, or yogurt, and healthy carbohydrates, such as fruit, oatmeal, or toast.

Thank you to all of the families that have filled out the 5 Essentials Survey so far for us. The survey is open until March 31st. We appreciate your feedback and support. <https://survey.5-essentials.org/illinois/>  
As always, thank you for everything you do! We love having your children with us every day.

### Upcoming Events:

- ✓ Mar. 3—End of 2nd Trimester
- ✓ Mar. 10—Report Cards Sent Home
- ✓ Mar. 12—Daylight Savings Time Begins
- ✓ Mar. 15—Late Start- 9:30am
- ✓ Mar. 16—MES Spring Picture Day
- ✓ Mar. 22—4th Grade Breakfast Buddies
- ✓ Mar. 27-31—Spring Break-NO SCHOOL
- ✓ Apr. 7—Good Friday -NO SCHOOL
- ✓ Apr. 10—Emergency Day Make-up—SCHOOL IS IN SESSION!
- ✓ Apr. 21—Institute Day—NO SCHOOL
- ✓ Apr. 26—Late Start- 9:30am

Respectfully, *Mrs. Lija*

## 2023-24 Student Registration and Preschool Screenings

Registration for ALL students will open on March 22, 2023. More information will be sent home with students soon, as well as Snapcodes for returning students. Stay Tuned! Preschool screenings are March 15th and April 26th. This is open to all 3 and 4 year olds who live in the North Boone School District. Parents must make an appointment for their child and must call 815-569-2314 between 8:00am-3:30 pm to set this up. Preschool screenings are held monthly throughout the school year.

## Student of the Month

Manchester Elementary honors one student from each class as Student of the Month. These students are nominated by teachers and staff for his/her outstanding achievement in citizenship, academics, leadership, and for being caring students who are role models for others. Our recent recipients are:

**January:** Decorah W., Wynn A., Andrea A., Liam G., Liam V., Starlyn S., Lia N., Irelyn O., Jacob J., Joey P., Vivian V., Peyton E., Payton L., Daniel D., Bella T.

**February:** Hannah M., Audrey T., Mason B., Poppy M., Stanley S., Ben B., Oliver T., Abi V., Carter B., Bristol B., Regina V., Gabe C., Alex G., Connor C., Austin P. Congratulations!

## News From the School Nurse's Office

### March is National Poison Prevention Month

- **National Hotline Number - 1-800-222-1222 - (add number to your cell phone)**
- *Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning - Place detectors on every floor of your home. Mark date of installation on unit & place date to replace on a calendar.*
- *Check that medicines and household cleaning products are safely stored. Lock supplies and medicines when able. Place in high areas that can't be easily reached by children.*
- *Teach children never to eat or drink anything without asking a trusted adult first.*
- **"Stop! Ask First"** (Poison Control Video)...<https://youtu.be/3VVMP8BKqHQ>

**Parent/Guardian Reminder - Dental exams are due by May 15, 2023.**  
**This is an Illinois State requirement for all Kindergarten and 2nd graders.**

Reminder letters have been sent home to parents/guardians of students who need to complete required dental exams. Completed dental forms can be faxed to school at 815-292-3334, sent with your child to school and turned into the front office, or email to [szarndt@nbcusd.org](mailto:szarndt@nbcusd.org) (School Nurse - Sue Zarndt, RN).

**Dental Forms - can be downloaded from the link below.**

[https://www.nbcusd.org/wp-content/uploads/parent\\_Dental-Exam-form-for-Students.pdf](https://www.nbcusd.org/wp-content/uploads/parent_Dental-Exam-form-for-Students.pdf)

### Playground Safety Month

As the weather warms up and trips to the park become frequent, take a moment to familiarize yourself with the risks on playgrounds and how you can prevent injuries.

Nearly 80% of playground injuries are caused by falls. Watch out for these potential hazards when taking kids to the playground, and report any hazards observed.

The [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) cautions that children should not wear or play with anything that could get caught on equipment and become a strangulation hazard.

Stay hydrated and drink fluids before you get thirsty. Take time to rest and cool down. Avoid peak sun/heat times to prevent overheating, heat exhaustion and sunburns.

## PTO Meeting

The next Manchester PTO meeting will be held virtually on Thursday, March 9, at 6pm. Thank you, to all of our parent volunteers!