



Sisters Elementary School
Joan Warburg, Principal
611E Cascade Ave., Sisters
joan.warburg@ssd6.org 541-549-8981

Principal's Message

Sisters Elementary is a special place, with a community that is invested in our schools and a staff that shows a tremendous amount of care and joy working together to meet the needs of each individual student. As 2019 is coming to a close, and as we return from a holiday of thanksgiving, I want to express our sincere gratitude to our families for your continued partnership and collaboration with us.



Here at Sisters Elementary we rely on our parent and community volunteers to provide the enhanced opportunities our students enjoy. I want to extend a big thank you to our community partners, Sisters Science Club, the Forestry Service, the Astronomy Club, and Central Oregon STEM Hub. Through their impressive efforts, we had a wonderful STEM night in conjunction with our Book Fair. A big thank you to our SPTC parents and Erin Borla for facilitating an incredibly successful Book Fair. Thank you to our families for your generous support of our Veterans Day breakfast and assembly- it was a wonderful day of honoring our local Veterans.

We have a small group of dedicated parent volunteers who are vital to our success as a school community. We would love to have more parents come and invest into our school, as there is so much more we could do with more support. It takes a lot of manpower to keep our school moving forward. As we look towards the New Year I would like to encourage you to consider ways that you might invest a small piece of your time into making special opportunities happen for our students. With each of us investing a little, we can make a significant impact. One upcoming opportunity will be participating in our Career Day on Friday, February 21. If you are interested in sharing your career with our students that day, please contact our counselor, Kate.kuitert@ssd6.org.

I want to personally thank you for your generous support of our school and our SPTC. We exceeded our un-fundraiser goal and had wonderful contributions of candy to send to Operation Gratitude. We are currently collecting socks to support our FAN program- our goal is 600 pairs (about 2 pairs per student). We will continue to seek opportunities for our students to give back to our community.

As a part of our arts focus, we are excited that all of our students will have the opportunity to perform musically this year with their grade level in the coming months. We also invite all of you to join us as we musically celebrate the holidays together on December 20. Additionally, our fourth graders are sharing their artistic talents throughout the community as they paint windows. We are excited to have our students giving back to our community through their artistic talents and generosity.

The staff at Sisters Elementary would like to wish you all a safe and relaxing holiday season and hope you all have the opportunity to share time with your family and friends. 2020 promises to be an exciting year of growth and adventure for our students and school.

Thank you for your partnership.

My door is always open,

Joan Warburg

****REMINDER:** We welcome your input and questions concerning your student and seek to partner with you. We want to remind you that if you need to talk to your child's teacher, please call or email and set up an appointment. Morning drop off is not an appropriate time to talk to your teacher about concerns, as this is the time when they are connecting with each student and starting the day off with their class as a community. They can't provide you with the focused concentration for your concern or question at that time. With an appointment, you can have your child's teacher's undivided attention and collaboration.

SES December Calendar

Monday, Dec. 2-Friday, Dec. 20: Sock Drive

Tuesday, Dec. 10: SPTC General Mtg. @ 6:30-8:30 pm-SES Loft

Thursday, Dec. 12: Coffee with the Principal @ 8:30-9:30 am

Thursday, Dec. 19: Kindergarten Holiday Performance @ 8:45 am-SES Commons

Friday, Dec. 20: Winter Family Musical Event @ 8:45 am

Monday, Dec. 23-Friday, Jan. 3: Winter Break, No School

Monday, Jan. 6: Students Return from Winter break

Tuesday, Jan. 14: SPTC General Mtg.

Thursday, Jan.16: Coffee with the Principal



Classroom Parties

Classroom Winter Parties will be held on Friday, December 20.

If your child is not participating in Classroom Winter Parties please notify the classroom teacher.

A fun alternative will be provided with our school counselor.



Holiday Window Painting

As is tradition in Sisters, Our 4th graders will be decorating store windows throughout the downtown area. Please look for these holiday works of art as you are shopping downtown Sisters this holiday season.



Battles begin in January, but reading starts now!

Sisters Elementary is again looking forward to participating in the Oregon Battle of the Books competition this year. OBOB is a *voluntary* reading incentive program developed for 3rd-5th graders. OBOB provides a reading list of 16 (fabulous!) books to be read by each 4-5-member team. Teams then “battle” other teams by answering questions in a quiz show-type competition.



Check out the website for more details and a list of books: <http://oboblsta.pbworks.com>.

SPTC (Sisters Parent Teacher Committee)

Drumroll please....

Collectively we brought in a total of \$7,858.72 for the Un-Fundraiser! Of that amount, \$703.72 was from our student coin drive. Second Grade won the competition, bringing in a total of \$238.07 in change. They earned an ice cream party to celebrate. Thank you to all who participated. EVERY donation counts!



Candy Drive: Once again, our students have outdone themselves. Over 100lbs of candy was brought in to give to our active duty military. It is sure to bring smiles to their faces knowing our students contributed in this way. Be looking for info on our next community service project, our annual Sock Drive, which kicks off on Dec. 2nd.

Book fair: We had another VERY successful book fair. Thanks for your purchases! With total sales of \$7,105.23, our school will receive \$3,907.88 in Scholastic dollars, which will go toward the purchase of new books for our school library as well as copies of OBOB books for our 3rd and 4th graders. How great to be able to raise funds for our school while simultaneously getting students excited about reading! As always, we extend a huge thank you to our volunteers. Without their help these events wouldn't be possible.

Box Tops: Download the Box Tops app and scan your receipts in order to earn money for our school. Don't worry, you can still turn in clipped box tops, as long as they aren't expired, and they'll still count as well. If you need help or have questions, please contact SPTC! So far we have earned \$32.30 this year. Last year we earned a total of \$1,400. Let's start scanning and clipping!

Next meeting: Dec 10th at 6:30PM in the Loft space above the gym. We hope to see you there!

English Language Development News

Services for English Language Learners continue at Sisters Elementary School. If you have any questions about services, please call Dawna Spencer at 541-549-8981 or email dawna.spencer@ssd6.org. It is a pleasure to work with such amazing students!



Latino Family Connections News

We are excited to introduce Gabriel Cobos, our new Latino Community Liaison. He will be working from 9:30 am - 2:30 pm daily and will rotate between the three schools.

Outside Recess During the Winter Months

Please be sure to dress your child appropriately as the weather begins to cool down. Warm clothing is important for students as they do go out for recess throughout the day. Students will go outside for recess if the temperature is 20 degrees or above. We would appreciate it if you would write your child's name in his/her clothing so that if it is lost we can return it to them. If you need assistance obtaining winter clothing for your child, please contact our FAN advocates Dawn Cooper or Theresa Slavkovsky. They can be reached at 541-549-0155.



School Snow Rules (Clothing & Play)

What to wear to play in the snow:

- Boots, Snow Gloves/Mittens, Coat and Hat

If you do not have the proper snow clothing, you will need to stay on the black top areas where it is plowed. Dawn Cooper or Theresa Slavkovski, our Family Advocates, can assist people who need winter clothing-please contact them at 541-549-0115.



How to play safely in the snow:

- Snow and ice stays on the ground; you may roll large snowballs for a snowman or a fort.
- No kicking, throwing or shoving snow at anyone or anything.
- If some games that we usually play become unsafe due to snow, the people on duty will cancel them for the day.
- Work Cooperatively - Do Not Destroy other's work
- **Snow is community property.** If you built it; share it.

If you need help, please see a duty teacher.

Any student wearing snow boots, snow pants and a snow coat may do the following activities:

1. Roll around in the snow and be safe and have fun.
2. Slide down snow hills or mounds on their bottom, feet first, **with adult approval.**
3. Make snow angels.

4. Create snowmen of various sizes, snow forts or any structure they choose made of snow.

The purpose of these rules is to keep students dry and safe. Appropriate outside gear keeps people dry. No snow or ice flying through the air keeps people safe. We will have outside recess unless the temperature (with wind chill) is below 20 degrees. Game time (inside) recess rules are reviewed by classroom teachers for students. **If a student gets wet during recess, they will stay wet as we do not have loaner clothes for them.**

School closures and Delays: Weather Delays and Closures (*See attachment*)

When the weather is bad (usually extreme snow or ice), our auto-dialer calls families in the morning to ensure they know of schedule changes. In addition, be sure to tune into the local television and/or radio stations to see if the schools in the Sisters School District are closed. If schools are closed or delayed, the decision is made by 5:15 a.m and communicated by 5:30 a.m. by district officials and reported to the news media.



If we do have a delayed start, buses still run, just 2 hours later than usual. So, if your child is picked up at 7:30 am they will be picked up at 9:30 am instead. School will start at 10:30 am; lunches are served and dismissal is as usual.

From the Nurse

Greetings from the school nurse!

Happy Holidays! A few reminders from the nurse. As the weather changes and is colder please remember to send your children with appropriate cold weather clothing! Also I am seeing several kids with painful chapped lips, please remember to send them with water bottles to stay hydrated while at school and chap stick that they can keep in their backpacks. Also if your child is not caught up on immunizations or if you have questions regarding what immunizations are required for them to be in school, in Oregon, please contact me at 541-549-8981 as soon as possible! February 19, 2020 is exclusion day in Oregon. This means if your child is not up to date on his or her immunizations or they do not have an exemption certificate/note from their doctor by this date, they will not be allowed to be in school. Have a great winter!



Nurse Beth RN

Reminders From the Front Office

- If you will be traveling for the holidays and your student will be gone for more than 5 days, please stop by the office so that you can fill out the appropriate paperwork.
- Our lost and found is growing, please check it for items that your little ones may have left behind. Also, a car key has been turned into the office. Please contact us if you believe this may be yours.



Physical Education

Students at Sisters Elementary have been doing DrumFIT in Physical Education and wow have they been having fun. DrumFIT is a cardio drumming program that gets the entire body and mind working together in unison, allowing students to focus and become fully engaged for a full body workout! Ask your child about DrumFIT and play the song Trojan along with many others and have them show you what they learned!

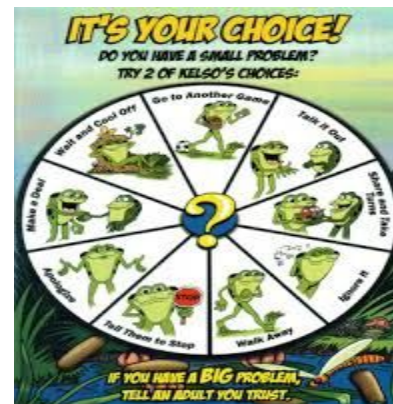


Mrs. Thomas

Counselor's News

SES Families-

We have continued to focus on Habit #1 this last month. In most grades I have moved from being proactive in knowing how to handle different emotions to being proactive in knowing how to solve small problems. We use Kelso's Choices to help us learn problem solving strategies and conflict management. These are great ideas for both home and school!



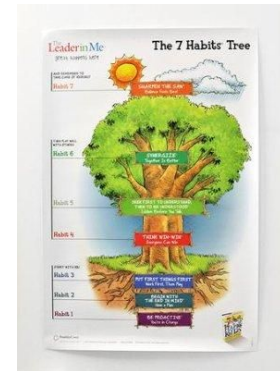
Talking it Out is a wonderful way to problem solve with others, and it is important to teach our kids how to do this. Using "I messages" is a way to assertively communicate how we feel, why we feel that way, and what we would like or an idea to solve the problem. It is the opposite of "you messages" which can be blaming and can cause someone to become defensive and escalate the situation. This takes practice! See the outline below to help your child with this important conflict management skill at home.

I feel _____
when you _____.
Could you please _____?

Example: I feel sad when you say unkind words to me. Could you please stop?

Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

We will be celebrating students on December 13th who have demonstrated Habit #1-Be Proactive. At this time we will also be introducing Habit #2-Begin with the End in Mind. Habit #2 focuses on having a plan.



- ★ I plan ahead and set goals for myself.
- ★ I am prepared.
- ★ I think about how the choices I make will affect my future.
- ★ I do things that have meaning and make a difference.

You can use this habit at home with your children in multiple ways...

- ★ Maybe there is something special your child would like to buy. They need to know how much they need to save. How will they earn this money? How long will it take?
- ★ Maybe your child wants to be involved in an activity or sport. What steps do they need to take? Is there certain equipment needed? How can I prepare for this? What kind of time commitment is involved?

December Character Award Theme: Be Proactive

**Fridays are school spirit day- Show Outlaw pride by wearing black and white on Fridays.

Musical Notes

Join us for an "All-American Christmas" as our entire student population comes together to sing about the various ways that Americans have celebrated Christmas since our country began; from traditional carols to rollicking Santa songs - we have a little bit of everything! We will perform for our community in the SES Gym on **Friday, December 20th at 8:45am..** We can't wait to share with you what we've been working on!



3rd Grade Families - Our 3rd Grade Musical "Compose Yourself" (premiering on February 13) is all about studying famous composers. We have a need for a few crafty construction folks to help design the sets for our show - if you'd be interested in helping, please email sara.miller@ssd6.org with your name and contact info and she'll send you some plan ideas!

Dates to put on the Calendar for future musical events:

- **DATE SWITCH:** 3rd grade performance is now on February 13; 4th grade performance is now on April 28th. Please notate this on your calendars.
- **3rd graders** will begin rehearsing during their music time for their upcoming performance on Thursday, February 13th at 5:00pm of **COMPOSE YOURSELF** (a musical bridging years of history as students have the opportunity to interact with famous composers like Bach, Beethoven and Mozart!) This 40-minute long musical will feature all 3rd graders singing, in addition to a dramatic cast of 30 actors. If your student is interested in auditioning for a speaking role, please discuss the responsibility of practicing and memorizing their lines from home as we won't be running lines in class. This will be a team effort at home (*thank you, parents!*)

Deschutes Public Library – Sisters

Explore the digital collection at Deschutes Public Library! Download an audiobook on the Libby app over the holidays or stream a children's movie on Kanopy. All free with your library card! Or visit the library Tuesday – Saturdays, ask Paige for a new book recommendation.



We also have a family winter program on Saturday, December 14th :

Winter Wonderland

Stories and activities to celebrate Winter. Bring the whole family!
Saturday, December 14, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.



Sisters School District

“Home of the Outlaws”

Ryan Stock
Director of Operations

Howdy Outlaw Families,

11/6/2019

A culture of Student Safety is a top priority at Sisters School District. In Central Oregon, Snow Storms are the most common cause of school closures or delays. The District takes extra precaution when inclement weather strikes to ensure the safety of our students and their families.

When a forecasted storm arrives overnight, members of the district team are up before 4:00 a.m. checking road conditions from Redmond to Black Butte. We are also communicating with the City, County Road department, and other school districts to determine if roads are safe for bus travel. Decisions regarding inclement weather delays or school cancellations are made early in the morning. The decision to cancel school for the day, or delay start times are made by 5:15 a.m. and communicated by 5:30 a.m.

How Decisions are communicated.

Once the decision to delay and/or close has been made, that information is communicated to parents and staff using the district’s automated phone system, and immediately through local media outlets.

We understand that decisions about school schedules and bus route changes have an impact on families. We appreciate your patience and understanding during these situations. While we know that students and families are best served when the school is in session, our main concern is the safety of students and staff. If you feel that current weather conditions are unsafe, the district respects your decision to keep your student(s) home for the day.

In the event of inclement weather or emergency notifications. Sisters School District uses an auto dialer system that calls the phone number you have on file at your child’s school. Please ensure that your phone numbers are up to date by logging into Tyler SIS parent portal, or by completing the attached form and sending it to your child’s school.

Click the link below to log into Tyler SIS. You will log on with your email that is registered with the school district. Your password is what you would have created upon first sign in. If you don’t have a password or need technical assistance, please contact SIS coordinator *Dawn Cooper* 541-549-8521 x5053 or by email dawn.cooper@ssd6.org

<https://sdm.sisk12.com/ORSS360x3/login>

It’s always a good idea to prepare for inclement weather. If you have any questions, please contact the District Office at 541-549-8521.

All the best,
Ryan A. Stock

Ryan A. Stock
Director of Operations
Sisters School District

525 E. Cascade Ave. • Sisters, OR 97759 • Ph. (541) 549-6282 • Fax (541) 549-8951