



Jamie Dudley, Principal

As we bring the 2017-18 school year to a close, I am encouraged and excited by the growth BES had made. Teachers and support staff alike have worked hard each day to maximize learning opportunities for our students. Each day I am amazed by the ingenuity, creativity, and durability of the students at BES and, while I'd like to take all the credit for that, I believe these characteristics are due in large part to the support and efforts of our parents and community members. Please know that your hard work is noticed and greatly appreciated.

I look forward to what the new school year will bring. Please remember to stop by and register for the 2018-2019 school year August 6-10, and we'll see you for the first day of school, August 20th!

Mike Nuñez, Assistant Principal

Holy, Moly! What a wonderful 1st year at Ballinger Elementary! Hard to believe we are a few weeks away from the end of school. What a tremendous group of young people attending BES. I have witnessed and enjoyed a different type happiness from these wonderful young students! I saw quiet bashful young ones become super involved in conversation and excited to be with friends. Students who could not leave mom at the beginning of school began running out of the car to come school, with smiles on their faces- no more tears! And most importantly, I saw students become more compassionate, humble and appreciative towards others.

I know we still have a long way to go, but I am super proud of the progress I see on a daily basis in these students and on this campus. This has been a very blessed year, and this could not have come without the wonderful and determined guidance of our Ballinger Elementary Staff! Teachers, Aides, Secretaries, and Cafeteria, Custodial and Maintenance staffs make this campus Amazing! All of the BES students and members allowed me the opportunity to see the wonderful world of "Elementary Life"! Thank you for a great year and I look forward to many more!

Jennifer O'Donnell, Elementary Counselor

Just a few more weeks until the 2017-2018 school year will be one to remember in the books. As the end of the school year approaches, we reflect on what we have learned over the year including how to make friends, keep friends, self control and problem solving during conflict and resolution opportunities.

The end of the school year can be exciting yet tiring as the need for rest is on the horizon. As a school community, we keep Bearcat qualities such as kindness and leadership as our focus. Thank you for your support this year. We look forward to seeing you next year!

Pre Kindergarten- Mrs. Faubion and Mrs. Skelton

Only a few weeks of school left! Can you believe how the time has flown? We have watched this little bunch grow mentally and physically, and it is time now to give them back to you. We hope you have a great summer and enjoy them as much as we have.

There are some things you can do this summer to help make the transition to Kindergarten a smooth one: read to your child; practice the letters and sounds; practice the numerals and counting; learn something new with your child- their brains are forming pathways and are still growing, so learning something new is helpful to them AND to you! Most of all, just love on them and have fun with them. They're only little once!

Kindergarten- Mrs. Bean, Mrs. Drennan, Mrs. Jarvis, Mrs. Smith

We are well into the 6th Six Weeks!! 2017 has been a busy year. A big thank you to all who helped with our Easter Egg Hunt. We had a great time!

Springtime has arrived, and the last six weeks will be packed with activities! We went on our field trip to the Nature Center in San Angelo on April 27. Thank you all who joined us to play at the park. We will also be gearing up for Kindergarten Graduation on May 11. If you have questions about graduation, please contact your child's teacher.

Thank you for all you do to support your child. Please continue reading the decodable readers and word lists at home as well as studying the sight words. Each kindergartener is expected to be able to read 25 words by the end of the year. Your child will become a more fluent reader with this practice. Thank you for sharing your precious Kindergartener with us this year!

First Grade- Mrs. Stapper, Mrs. Ueckert, Mrs. Cavazos, Mrs. Gunyon

Math: During the 5th Six Weeks, we learned about two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes, as well as fractions – halves and fourths. This six weeks we have continued to learn about time to the hour and half hour, measurement with non standard units such as string, paperclips, color tiles, and linking cubes, and financial literacy. We have discussed earning an income, spending and saving, wants and needs, goods and services, and giving to charity. We will be having our end of year test this week covering everything we have learned in first grade. The kids have done a great job, but we would appreciate you practicing math during the summer when you have a chance. Your children should be able to recognize any number up to 120, add and subtract numbers up to 20, tell time to the hour and half hour, count by twos, fives, and tens, place value and expanded form up to 120. It will benefit your children to continue to practice these concepts over the summer so they will retain it and be ready to go for second grade.

Science: In Science, we finished up all the lessons on Objects in the Sky. We learned that the earth is moving around the sun. We drew our shadows at different times of the day, and we looked at the moon phases and what the moon would look like each night. Next we moved on to Living and Non Living Things, Where Plants and Animals Live, Life Cycles, and Plants. The kids always enjoy learning about science, and we usually take the time to google their questions. We also kept up with the life cycle of a chick for twenty-one days. On May 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, we enjoyed watching our eggs hatch into thirteen cute chicks!! We will now keep them for a week and watch them grow and start getting feathers.

Reading/Language Arts: We have completed our End of the Year testing and will have parent conferences with those who need to attend summer school or at parent request. Look for a conference note/appointment in your child's folder. During the 5th- 6 weeks, we researched a student interest topic chosen by the class and explored the topic using different types of media including both print and digital. During the 6th six weeks we are comparing and contrasting fiction and non-fiction texts. We learned all about the zoo to prepare for our class field trip we had on Friday, May 11th. We are continuing to monitor your child's fluency rate (accuracy and speed in reading). The expectations will increase with each grading period to ensure that your child is reading at the rate expected for 2nd grade. At the end of the 1st grade year, students are expected to read at a rate of 60 words per minute. Encourage them to continue practicing at home over the summer! Just a friendly reminder, the Carnegie Library has some wonderful children's literature, and students can use their library cards they received during our field trip.

Social Studies: We have studied Wants and Needs; Earning, Spending and Saving; Goods and Services; Earth Day; Easter; and Mother's Day

Thanks to everyone who has helped with parties this year and especially those who helped their child read, study for spelling tests, and look over their papers when they go home. We couldn't do it without your help! We also want to thank First National Bank for hosting our annual first grade tour, the Carnegie Library for our tour and library cards, The Masonic Lodge for our toothbrush and supplies, and Marlene Harrell for providing eggs for us to hatch.

Second Grade- Mrs. Schaefer, Mrs. Holden, Mrs. Pelzel, Mrs. Lange

Math: Boy, have we been busy! We have been learning about what you have been doing with your money! The children have learned the difference between a deposit and a withdrawal. They have learned about saving money and spending it, as well as calculating savings or spending over certain lengths of time. We are practicing our multiplication facts with 0, 1, 2, 3, 5, and 10. Above all, we are trying to get them ready for 3rd grade! They are working hard and doing an excellent job.

Science: We have been concentrating on plants and animals, their needs, the different animal groups and what characteristics put them in that group, hibernation and migration. Now the students are doing animal research projects with dioramas. We will also be growing plants and learning about plant parts and growth. Thank you for supporting your child this year and for all the hard work you put in to help make them a successful student. Also, thank you for supporting us! We really do appreciate you!

Reading/Language Arts: We are almost done! End of Year Testing has been completed, and we would love to share the results with each of you. Your students have all worked hard this year. Fluency and comprehension have increased greatly. Keep them reading this summer. It will be easier for them to transition into third grade if they keep up their reading skills over the summer. The students have worked on two plays in which they performed for each other. We have also received several Flat Stanleys and Stellas who made it back from their vacations. The students look forward to hearing and learning about all of their adventures. If your child hasn't brought his/hers back to school, there is still plenty of time in the next few weeks. The students have also been working on the writing process in which they complete a pre-write, edit, and then a final draft.

Social Studies: We have been learning a lot about economics this six weeks. Students now know the difference between goods and services and needs and wants. They worked with a group to create their own business and persuade consumers to use it. We had some very creative ideas and the students loved it! We will be closing out the six weeks revisiting some of the famous people and places that have made America great. I hope your child has learned some interesting facts about our country and has a greater appreciation for U.S. and Texas history.

Third Grade Reading/Language Arts- Mrs. Hatler

We have been busy reading, reading, reading! The 3rd graders have been focused on strategies to help them think about what they are reading. They have learned how to find the main idea and details, identify cause and effects, draw conclusions, predict, summarize and use inferencing to read between the lines. These concepts are difficult for many students, and we have worked hard to prepare for the STAAR Reading test on Tuesday, May 15th. Students have been working in small group centers to reinforce the concepts and get more individualized instruction. Learning the concepts and being able to apply them is the main objective. We want your child to be a fluent successful reader who can understand what he/she is reading. Reading is a skill they will need for the rest of their lives. Our hope is that they also love reading as much as we do.

Our third graders have done an outstanding job of meeting their AR goals. This six weeks goal is 9 points and an 85% average. Remember, the big trip is coming up and they need 85 points for the year with an 85% average to qualify. Keep reading! Also remember to keep collecting Box Tops during the summer. This helps to fund those AR trips and prizes.

School will be out before we know it, and this last few weeks will be extremely busy for all of us. The last six weeks we have been doing research and oral presentations as well as lots of writing. This is always a fun and exciting time of year, and we look forward to a great end to the school year.

We have planned a special field trip to Frontier Texas in Abilene on May 17th, and you should have received information in your child's Bearkitten folder.

Third Grade Math Blasters- Ms. McNaley

What a busy time of the year! As we enter the sixth six weeks, third grade will be learning about time and many types of measurement. We will also be reviewing all concepts learned throughout the year as we prepare for the end of year and moving on to fourth grade! The STAAR Math Test was on Monday, May 14th.

Third Grade Science and Social Studies- Mrs. Wilson

In Science, we studied how plants and animals adapt to their environments. We have learned how camouflage, mechanical defense, mimicry, hibernation, and migration all help an animal survive. I have challenged students to notice what is happening around our community of plants and animals. Ask your child to show you some of these adaptations.

We have also studied life cycles of plants and animals. We had the privilege to observe the lady bug, painted lady butterfly, tiger swallowtail butterfly, and the tomato plant life cycle. Students have been coming to school telling me all about the insects, animals and plants that are changing and growing in our community. I love seeing the spark of curiosity in our students!

Fourth Grade Math- Mrs. Dankworth

This year is coming to an end, and I'm very excited for the future of these students. This class has been an amazing group of students! I've seen a lot of progress among each student. We will be reviewing for the STAAR test soon with in depth word problems. Please continue to work on math skills at home during this time. 4th grade will take the STAAR Math Test on Monday, May 14th. The students have really persevered in reaching their goals, which has allowed them to gain a better understanding of each concept covered in 4th grade. The future is looking bright for these shining stars!!!

Fourth Grade Science- Mrs. Freeman

We finished up Earth science and jumped straight into life science! We created monsters with learned behaviors and inherited traits. We learned about different adaptations animals and plants have to help them survive in their environments. We are finishing up the year with life cycles! After STAAR testing with math and reading, we will finish the year with some fun hands-on STEM projects! Hope you all have a wonderful summer!

Fourth Grade Reading/Language Arts- Mrs. Burrell and Mrs. King

As we enter the final stretch of the 2017-2018 school year, fourth graders are staying very busy! With the writing STAAR test behind us, we continue to move forward in preparation of the Reading STAAR Test on May 15. We are preparing by engaging in rigorous lessons and re-teaching important reading skills such as making inferences, drawing conclusions and summarizing main ideas. We are also doing quite a bit of passage practice to make sure we are fully prepared to ace that reading STAAR! To help support your student at home, you can have your child read to you and ask them questions about what they're reading. Don't forget to always check your kiddo's Bearcat folder on Thursdays, so you always know how your child is doing in class.

Fifth Grade Science- Mrs. Busenlehner

Fifth grade students are completing their study of life science and are busy reviewing for the upcoming test. Our STAAR Science Test is May 16th! These students have done a fantastic job this year learning about everything from electricity and energy to ecosystems and caring for our environment. Working together in the lab and seeing all the excitement about science has been amazing. I know there are several future scientists in this group.

Fifth Grade Reading and Social Studies- Mrs. Cook

It has been a great year!! It seems like the fun just started and now it's time to end. The students have worked very hard and accomplished so much. I feel that they have made great progress in their development of skills and abilities. I have enjoyed working with and learning more about each and every one of them. I wish them the best in all that they do in Junior High and in the future. Just remember - - "Never Settle For Less Than Your Best!" Have a great summer!!!!

Fifth Grade Language Arts and Social Studies- Mrs. Phillips

In just a few short weeks fifth graders leave Ballinger Elementary behind. Each student will begin a new chapter in Ballinger Jr. High. We have worked diligently on our grammar skills, the writing process, writing poetry, and learning about our great American history. Remember to always work hard, be kind, and never give up on your dreams.

Fifth Grade Math- Mrs. Tucker

Wow! This year has flown by. As we enter the final six weeks of the year, the fifth graders will be learning new math concepts, like exponents, and practicing multiplying and dividing decimals to prepare for sixth grade math. Your student has access to a math program called Prodigy. This program can be accessed on their laptop and assigns math problems based on what we are currently learning. The students love to play because it presents the information in the form of a game. I am so proud of each one of our students and the wonderful progress they have made this year!!

Physical Education- Coach Hope

We've almost made it through another year; it's hard to believe! We have been busy in PE this spring, 3rd-5th have completed their yearly Fitnessgram testing.

Fitnessgram consists of 5 components:

- Cardiovascular endurance
- Muscular strength
- Muscular endurance
- Muscular flexibility
- Body composition

Our 4th and 5th graders are busy preparing for Little Olympics, which consists of 14 track and field events. This is the 49th year for Little Olympics! Little Olympics will be Thursday, May 17, at 4pm at Bearcat Stadium. The cost is \$2 for adults and \$1 for students. The participants will get in free. The gate will open at 3:30. Our PTO will be running the concession stand, please support this organization that does so much for our students and staff. Please encourage your kids to get out and play this summer!

Accelerated Reader News- Mrs. Duke

Congratulations to the students who earned the end of year AR Treat. Thirty-six third, fourth & fifth grade students headed to Primetime in Abilene for a day of fun & food. Fifty first and second graders spent the day bouncing and playing games!

Three-Tier Math- Mrs. Cauley

This semester Ballinger Elementary 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders have been competing in a Multiplication Fact Challenge. The challenge involves mastering a different set of math facts each week. Students take a 50 question timed test on Monday and Wednesday. They chart their progress and study everyday. Friday is the big 100 question timed test. We have seen our students make tremendous growth by accepting the challenge and mastering their facts each week! Students who master their multiplication facts the first time will be treated to a Prime Time field trip in May. The students who re-test to master their multiplication facts will enjoy a fun afternoon at the Skate Palace. The challenge will continue next year so be prepared to conquer your multiplication facts and earn that Prime Time field trip!

Library- Mrs. Pratt

Wow! I can't believe it is already May, and the 2017-2018 school year will soon be history. With the warmer weather, I know many of our students are involved in various sports activities, but school isn't over yet. Please encourage them to keep up their assignments and reading. We are on the home stretch of this school year. Let's finish strong!

In January schools across the state voted for the winner of the 2018 Blue Bonnet Award. This year's winner is The Last Kid On Earth and the Zombie Parade, by Max Brallier. A graphic novel full of zombies, suspense and lots of laughs, this book is sure to appeal to most juvenile readers.

We hosted another Scholastic Book Fair in March. Our students always look forward to this fun event. The Family Fun Night was well-attended, and 40 lucky students were the recipients of door prizes. This year's Book Fair netted the highest sales ever. Thanks so much for your continued support of this event. Special thanks to our many volunteers who make it possible to host the Book Fair, and to our PTO who schedules our volunteers. This is the only fund raiser that the Library hosts. It gives students the opportunity to buy some great products while helping to support the BES Library. Thank you again for your fantastic support!

It has been a pleasure helping your children in the Library this year. I hope they will continue to read through the summer. The Carnegie Library will be available to meet their reading needs. Please take advantage of their summer reading programs. Have a wonderful summer!!!!

Head Start News- Julie Collier

Head Start is currently accepting applications for the 2018-2019 school year. Children must be 3 years old by September 1, and meet income and/or disability requirements. For more information, call Julie Collier at 325-365-3527 EXT 3058.