



BILL METZ ELEMENTARY  
METZ MESSENGER

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*Our mission is to  
inspire the pursuit  
of excellence, one  
student at a time.*

### Principal's Connection

Students are making great academic growth this year! I wanted to share some general highlights and I'm sure you'll hear more about your specific child at next month's spring parent teacher conferences on March 14th.

In math our students have been using a new program called Big Ideas during their core time and also I-Ready during their 30 minute intervention time. Students took their midyear diagnostic test in December. Here are some highlights:

- Our typical student is on pace to make over a year and a half's worth of growth!
- 28% of our students have already made a full year's growth!
- Over 30% of our students are on pace to meet "stretch" growth while a typical school has about 20% of their students reach this type of growth!

In reading our students continue to check their progress by testing monthly on a program called I-Station. Here are some highlights:

- 11% increase of students at grade level
- 14% reduction of students that are significantly behind

Students are making great progress and can't do it without you! We appreciate your support at home to help them succeed!

### 5th Grade Band



All 5th grade students have the opportunity to be in band for this semester. Parents were invited to an informational meeting last week. If you missed it, please contact Jason Paschal or Veronica Starcher for more information. Classes will start this week. Students are expected to attend even if they haven't gotten their instrument yet. Band is a commitment and students are asked to practice daily for 15-20 minutes.

### **IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:**

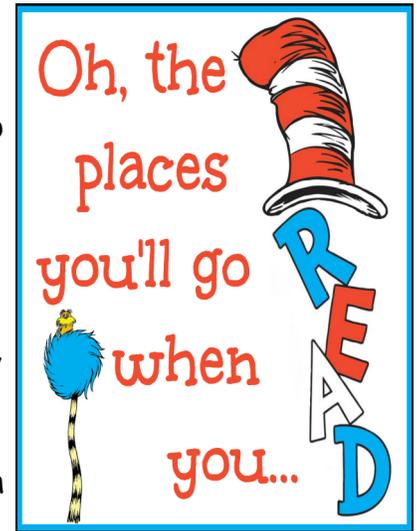
- Feb. 7th @ 6:30pm  
- Science night @  
HS for elementary  
students
- Feb. 12th @  
3:45pm - Parent  
School Improvement  
Team meeting
- Feb. 14th - Valen-  
tine's Day
- Feb. 14th @ 6pm -  
School board meet-  
ing
- Feb. 21st @ 2pm -  
BME science fair
- Feb. 28th - Regional  
science fair @ ASU
- Feb. 28th @ 6pm -  
3rd grade Music/PE  
program

### School Information

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## 4th Grade Fundraiser

Our 4th grade students will be going on an overnight field trip to the Denver Museum of Natural History and Science in May. To help pay for the trip students will be doing a Read-a-Thon February 18-21, 25-28, and March 4-5. You may have a 4th grade student ask you to sponsor them. You can give a flat rate donation or give them a certain amount per minute that they read. For example, if you sponsor them five cents per minute and they read for 200 minutes, then you would pay them \$10. Please make checks out to Bill Metz Elementary. The money raised will go toward covering entry fees, food, travel, and spending money for the museum if there is enough left over. Thank you for your support!



## Counselor's Corner



Random acts of kindness week is coming up starting February 9th-15th! Random Acts of Kindness day was started in Denver in 1995, and has spread across the world in the years since to be an internationally recognized holiday. The idea behind this week is to make the world a better place by spreading a kindness around. Lift someone else up with your words, compliment their clothing, bring in muffins to work,

hold the door for someone; just do something nice. All of these things can help to turn around someone who is having a bad day. Additionally, research has shown that the very act of doing something for someone else gives us a chemical high, a higher one, in fact, than if something had been done for us.

We have been working on empathy for quite some time and have just switched to a new topic in most grade levels. Empathy has three parts:

1. Understand how another person feels by looking at the clues on their face, body, tone of voice, etc.
2. Say kind words to others to make them feel good.
3. Do caring actions to prove to other people you care about them.

Our new topic is calming down. When we have a strong emotion (anger, jealousy, fear, sadness) we tend to react first and this gets in the way of empathy. So, we are learning some strategies to help us calm down. We have seen an increase already in unkind behaviors, so we are working on stopping to calm down first and then responding. If you would like some ideas, please feel free to call at (719) 852-4041 x4138 or email at [kimal@monte.k12.co.us](mailto:kimal@monte.k12.co.us)