



Bowen Elementary Newsletter

January 2025

A Letter from the Principal

Dear Bowen Families,

Happy New Year and welcome to 2025! We hope you had a restful holiday break and are ready to jump into an exciting new year of learning and growth. As we begin the second half of the school year, we have a lot of exciting activities and important dates to share with you.

We are looking forward to a fantastic start to 2025 and are excited for the continued learning and growth that lies ahead. Thank you for your ongoing support and involvement in your students' education!

Educationally Yours,
Mary Campione
Bowen Elementary Principal



Family Engagement

- **Volunteer Opportunities:** We are always looking for volunteers for classroom activities, field trips and special events. If you are interested, please reach out to the Bowen Office (616)455-5220 for more information.
- **PTC Popcorn Sale:** Many hands make light work. The PTC members meet at 9am to begin popping popcorn, and fill student orders. Please contact the Bowen PTC if you are interested.
- **Chuck E Cheese Family Night:** - Coupons for family meals and tokens will be distributed at the door. Join us for a fun night of games and pizza on January 24th!



Centerpoint Mall
3671 28th Street SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49512



Dates to Remember



- January 6 - School Resumes after Winter Break
- January 10 - Reports Cards (Go Home)
- January 14 - Kids Food Basket Field Trip (Grade 3)
- January 20 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day (No School)
- January 21 - Lollipops Concert (Grades Young 5s - 2nd & MoCI)
- January 21-23 - Kent County Hearing & Vision Testing
- January 24 - Chuck E Cheese Family Night 4-9pm
- January 31 - PTC Popcorn Sale

Winter Weather Reminders

As the colder months continue, please make sure your student is dressed appropriately for the weather. We go outside for recess unless the weather is severe, so ensure that your student has a warm jacket, hat and gloves. If there is snow, don't forget boots and snow

pants!



Attendance Reminders



Regular attendance is strongly linked to higher academic performance. Students who attend school consistently are more likely to engage in lessons, retain information and perform better on assignments and tests. Adversely, missing school can create anxiety or feelings of isolation.

If your child is going to be absent, please notify the Bowen Office (616)455-5220 as soon as possible.

Spotlight on our Specials Team

PE

PE with Mrs. Hibma: In the new year, students in Grades 3-5 will continue learning about basketball, and start a unit of study on volleyball. Mrs. Hibma will lead a volleyball clinic for students in Grades 2-5 (see flyer). Students in Young 5s - Grade 2 will continue to build their locomotor skills, cooperative play with dribbling, throwing and striking.



Music

Music with Mrs. Bendert:

- Kindergarteners will continue to explore percussion instruments, find their singing voices, and move safely in self space to different styles of music.
- First Graders will work on performing patterns alone and as a class with their voices and on instruments, match pitch, and learn whole-class dances.
- Second Graders will perform repeated patterns on instruments in songs, sing with solfege, and learn partner-change dances.
- Third Graders will explore basslines on pitched percussion instruments, sing with solfege, improvise tonal patterns, and traditional folk dances
- Fourth Graders will learn more notes on the recorder, sing in rounds, and learn reels and folk dances.
- Fifth Graders will explore more chords on the Ukulele; singing and playing at the same time. They will also learn reels and folk dances.

Art



Art with Mrs. Endres: Our young artists at Bowen have been busy creating in the Art Room! They have explored a variety of mediums. With pencils, they learn to sketch and outline, discovering the magic of shading and texture. Markers and tempera paint sticks bring bold, bright colors that are used to experiment with lines and patterns. Paint allows for blending, layering and creating colorful artwork. Collage adds a great dimension as children cut, tear and arrange different materials to build landscapes and visual stories. During art class, students are developing their hands-on skills and gaining confidence, communicating ideas and emotions through art. In the new year they will begin lessons on ceramics and sculpture. They'll create unique pieces that come to life in space, learning about form, texture, and structure.

STEM



STEM with Mrs. Meyer: Bot Bonanza is the newest theme where students will explore the world of robotics; examining how robots function in everyday life and solving problems through programming. Students will learn how to code robots to perform tasks, applying computational thinking (CT) and key math and science concepts. Be sure to ask your student about Bee Bots (Young 5s - 2nd Grade), Dash Bots (Grades 3-5), and Ozobots (all students)!

Library

Library with Mrs. Gombert: Mrs. Gombert added more books to the Library in the month of December. We had several students submit a guess for the number of books used to create the Holiday Book Tree. The closest guess was 732, submitted by a 4th grader. The tree was created using 731 books! We'll start January with books about resolutions and Asian New Year. Stop by anytime to volunteer and see our collection.

