

From the principal's desk: Board Report



March 9, 2021 Issue 7 "When the Geese Return" sāa*aiks öttsiötö"pi

BES Dates to Remember!

March 1: Scenario 1 starts
March 18: Scenario 2 starts

February Focus

Last month our focus at Browning Elementary was focused on 1) Assessing English Language students for WIDA , 2) professional development on the science of reading, and 3) finalizing preparations for students returning back to school.

EL testing



Testing English Language Learners

Last month we did Access for ELLs WIDA testing at the school to assess students identified as English Language Learners (EL). At BES we have 139 EL students. Of those 139 students, 51 students completed the testing. Some families elected to not have their child participate due to safety reasons.

The Access for ELLs test measures EL students toward English language proficiency in reading, writing, speaking and listening. Three of the assessments are on the iPad and the writing assessment is completed with paper and pencil.

Mrs. Heavy Runner coordinated the testing for the Access for ELLs WIDA testing. The staff that assisted with the completion of the assessments are Jimi Champ, Shawnee Momberg, Michele Calftail and Calvin Lang.

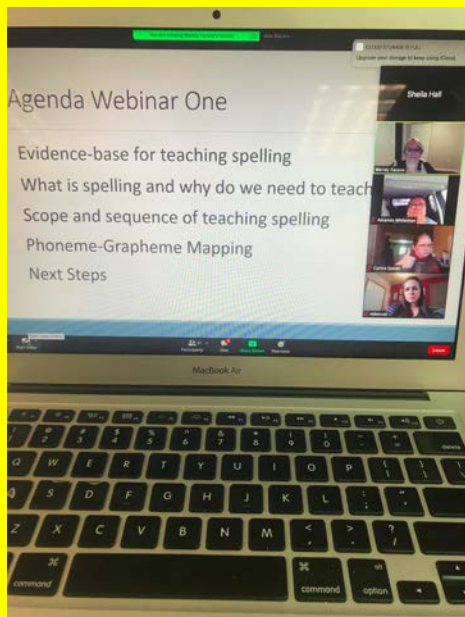
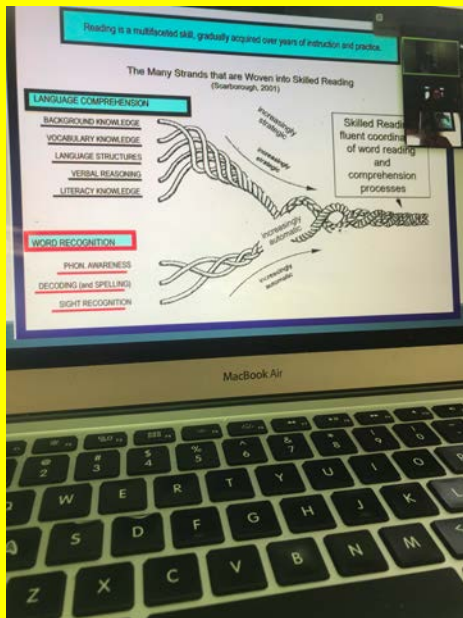
All families were called in advance to inform them of the testing and to schedule a day to bring their child to the school to test. Letters were also mailed home to all the families to notify them of the scheduled testing date and time.

All Safety precautions were followed throughout the testing process.

Here are the assessment dates we followed for WIDA testing::

Staff PD learning about the Science of Reading

Staff learning the science of reading from reading consultant Wendy Farone via Zoom.



- Feb. 1- 5: Training and preparation and call families to schedule assessment, mail letters.
- Feb. 8-24: Assess students at the school (1 morning group/1 afternoon group)
- Feb. 25: Pack up materials and distribute gas cards to families.

Instructional Coaches

The staff has been receiving Professional Development from Wendy Farone, Instructional Consultant on the Science of Reading. The focus has been on; The Foundations of Spelling as it relates to phonology and phonics, Spelling Principles of Orthography 1 and 2. The PD reviewed the history of words, phoneme grapheme mapping, Scarborough's reading rope and much more.

The coaches also attended the virtual reading conference called Plain Talk About Literacy. One learning track focus was about the Science of Reading in which PD was given about the importance of foundational skills. The coaches and representatives from the grade levels attended Aimsweb training about reports and setting up students for progress monitoring for math.

The coaches continue to support teachers with the implementation of the science of reading as it relates to our current Wonders program, assisting 3rd grade to include Foundational Skill instruction during reading and supporting the implementation of Eureka math.

Attendance

Attendance for Students

Percentage of whole school:

-76.97%

Percentage by grade level:

-2nd Grade: 76.55%

-3rd Grade: 77.48%

Monthly Perfect Attendance of whole school:

- 2nd Grade 43 students

- 3rd Grade 26 students

Perfect Attendance by grade level:

-2nd Grade: 13 students

-3rd Grade: 10 students

Dropped Students and Home Visits:

Ten students were dropped in February and the BES Attendance Committee

BES Clubs:

The BES STEAM and book club: This club was busy the month of January engaging in various learning activities via Google Meet.



is attempting to re-engage the families with 10 or more absences. We are following the BPS Court Referral checklist for attendance.

BES STEAM and Book Club by Jimi Champ

The BES STEAM and Book Club has had 11 meetings this year. Each meeting, I incorporate a non-fiction, informational story and a STEM activity. On average about 5-6 students come to the actual noon time meetings. But because I know our students and parents are busy, I make a video of the lesson and send it to the STEM club students so that they can try the experiment on their own. I also upload the video to my social media pages so that other students can try.

I currently have students from all over the world following along. One school on the Blood Reserve in Canada, emails each Monday morning and asks what materials they will need for that week's lesson. Several students in our own district (not just BES students) follow our experiments and have joined in on our virtual club.

All of the experiments we have done (and will continue to do) use household ingredients that are easily accessible to our students such as food coloring, baking soda, vinegar, paper towels, and coffee filters. I try to give the students a heads up on materials so that they can gather them before the meeting. By giving them access to the instructions on the video, it ensures the students can get the materials next time they go to the store.

I have had a lot of positive contact with parents during these lessons as well. Throughout the day and the week, parents email, message or call to see what materials they need to get, asking for clarification, and letting me know how much their students enjoy the lessons.

Each lesson incorporates: Science, Technology, Engineering, Math and Art...as well as reading! The lessons have taught students how to read a recipe, how to use measuring spoons and cups, chemical reactions, density, volume, color blending, and so much more.

Preparations for scenario 2

For the last few months we have been preparing the school for preparations of moving into scenario 2 the Blended Learning model.

All hallways have social distancing floor decals on the floor that are marked 6

Preparing the school



feet apart. Three touchless thermometers have been installed in the school for taking temperatures for students and staff. Hand held thermometers have also been placed in each classroom for staff to take a student's temperature in the classroom. Desks in the room are spaced 6 feet apart and have student desk dividers on each desk. Signage has been placed throughout the building for proper handwashing, social distancing for 6' and maximum capacity labels in bathrooms. Water fountains have been replaced with water filling stations for students and staff to fill up water bottles. Personal protective equipment (PPE) such as masks, face shields, and gloves are stocked for use. Air purifiers have been installed. Hand sanitizing stations have been installed by every room in the building.

All families have been called to determine what families will be sending their child for blended learning or who will remain 100% distance learning for the fourth quarter. Rosters have been reorganized to place blended learning students with a blended learning teacher at the school. Rosters for distance learning have been reorganized to place remote learning students with a remote learning teacher.

