

Homedale Elementary School Memo



To: Homedale Board of Trustees, Superintendent Rob Sauer
 From: Tate B. Castleton, Principal
 Date: January 5, 2021
 Re: Report to Board of Trustees

COVID-19 UPDATE AT HES: Currently there are no COVID-19 related challenges at Homedale Elementary School. While we continue to take every precaution possible to prevent the spread of the virus and to keep all students and staff safe, we are able to operate normally. We do not have any students or staff who have tested positive or who have a need to quarantine at this time, to our knowledge. Our hope is that this will continue until the end of the school year. We firmly believe that in-person learning is the best way for our students to learn, grow, and progress. We will continue doing all we can to ensure we can keep our doors open and continue learning together each day.

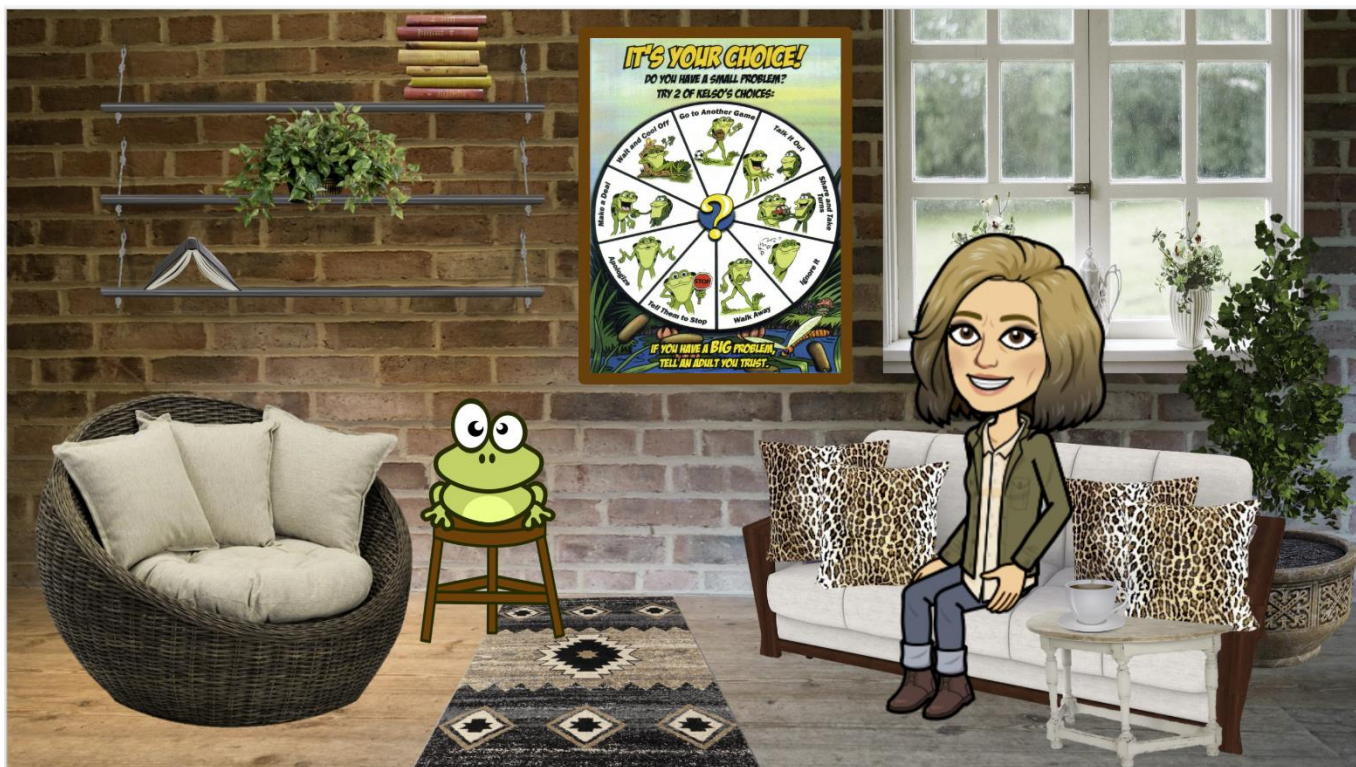
ONLINE LEARNING UPDATE: While we are still offering our families a choice to learn online, our numbers continue to drop as more students are returning to learn here in-person. Here are our current online numbers by grade level:

Kindergarten: 7
 1st Grade: 5
 2nd Grade: 8
 3rd Grade: 3
 4th Grade: 2

Total: 25

Our online teachers (one at each grade level) work so hard to make online learning meaningful and effective and do all they can to connect with these students and foster positive relationships. Here are a few examples of some of the online “classrooms” our teachers use as their learning platforms:

Mrs. Blackstock’s 3rd Grade Homepage



STAFF HOLIDAY CHALLENGE: This year we wanted to do something a little different as a gift to each of our staff members for Christmas. In an effort to promote acts of kindness and to encourage acts of service to others, our staff were each gifted a large fleece blanket. All of us were challenged to look for an opportunity to give the blanket away to someone in need. Yesterday, a teacher shared with me that she and her fiancé were able to give their blanket away to someone who had been in a car accident and who was waiting on the side of the road in the cold for police and other emergency personnel to process the scene. This teacher noticed this individual, pulled over their car, and offered the blanket to this person in need.

So many of us are so blessed to have all we need, or at least the things we need to keep us safe and warm this winter, especially on those coldest of days and nights. Kindness is at the heart of everything we do as part of the Homedale Way and my hope is that it's something we think about and try to act on each day.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

January 15th Staff In-Service

January 18th No School – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

February 5th Staff In-Service