



## Bloomfield Elementary School News March 2021

### Words of the Week:



Each week a word of the week is introduced to the school community through the daily announcements. This year's words all relate to social-emotional learning and trauma informed awareness. The following words have been introduced since the last newsletter: tolerance, courage, respect, multicultural, bullying, upstander, assertive, and belonging.

### School Hours:

Parent and bus drop off begins at 7:45 AM. Students enter classrooms as soon as they arrive and begin eating breakfast or completing morning work. The instructional day begins at 8:15 AM. Students are late for school if they arrive after 8:15 AM. Teachers start the day with a morning meeting. This includes reviewing the daily schedule and any changes for the day. Parents/guardians should pick up between 2:00 PM and 2:10 PM. Buses are called beginning at 2:10 PM. The **whole** school day is important.

### Upcoming Dates and Events:

March 19: Teacher Workshop Day—  
No School

April 2: Teacher Workshop Day—No  
School

April 19-23: Spring Vacation

May 12: Teacher Workshop Day—No  
School



### What's the difference between mean or unkind behavior and bullying?:

Some parents and students may think that any unkind action is bullying. This can lead to parents and students making a bullying report or sharing about bullying on social media. This can also lead to students referring to someone as a "bully," even though what they did was not actually bullying. Bullying is unkind or mean, **and it includes all of the following:**

- Bullying is behavior that is repeated, not just a one-time incident.
- Bullying is one-sided. It involves one person hurting another person. The person doing the bullying behavior has or feels some sort of power over the other. For example, they are bigger, more popular, smarter, etc.
- Bullying is mean – it is harmful. The target of the bullying is hurt in some way – whether it is physical, emotional, etc.
- Bullying is purposeful. For something to be bullying, it must be intentional, not an accident.

At school we are taking the following actions to prevent bullying:

- Creating a culture and climate where each individual feels seen, significant and safe.
- Morning Meetings with Greetings & Sharing to promote a sense of belonging
- Whole School and Classroom Expectations of kindness, respect, responsibility, and safety
- Whole School Positive Reinforcement System with Bloomfield Who Slips with weekly pencil, and bracelet rewards as well as monthly lunch with a staff member drawings
- Weekly Whole School Words of the Week to focus on social-emotional learning & trauma-informed awareness
- Student supervision beginning with arrival greeters and ending with bus and walker sweepers
- A layered approach to responding to students that engage in unexpected behavior including reteaching lagging social skills through one to one conferences with the principal or social worker, parent contact, and apology of words or action.

At school your child is learning to tell the difference between unkind behavior and bullying. You can help too! When you are listening to your child describe unkind behaviors that have happened, refrain from calling it bullying or calling the other child a bully. Instead, ask your child whether the action keeps happening over and over? Ask if the other student says that they are bigger, stronger, prettier, or more powerful in some way. Ask if the mean behavior is hurting your child's body or feelings? Ask if the unkind person has a plan to hurt them or if what happened may have been accidental. If you are concerned that it is a case of bullying, please call the office at 474-6221 and ask to speak to Mrs. Pillsbury or Mrs. Mattens. One of us will get back to you within 24hrs. of the report. For more information about bullying please visit:

<https://confidentcounselors.com/2020/10/18/definition-of-bullying/>

<https://www.stopbullying.gov/bullying/what-is-bullying>

<https://www.stopbullying.gov/bullying/roles-kids-play>

One year ago on March 13, 2020 staff and students left for the weekend knowing that a virus called COVID-19 was beginning to spread across the country. We did not know that we would not be able to return to school for the rest of the year. Life changed and we all had to adjust quickly. Students, families and teachers have been through so much. We all deserve to be acknowledged for working together to make the best of a very challenging time. Having the option to be in-person this year has been wonderful for our young people, and I hope it has allowed some of you to return to some of your normal routines. We have missed our children that have been participating through remote instruction, but feel so proud that we were able to provide this choice. We really have all made things happen that we might have thought were impossible. Imagine what we can accomplish in better times!

Thank you for all you've done to support your child, his/her teacher, and our school!

Sincerely,

Jean M. Pillsbury  
Principal