



**THE PRIMARY NEWS**  
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER/JANUARY  
2018-2019

**FROM THE DESK OF THE PRINCIPAL**

**Mr. Staples**  
**@BSDThirdStreet**



The building is bursting with holiday spirit throughout the last few weeks. Our kindergarten classes held a fantastic Thanksgiving celebration led by Mrs. Crisafulli and Mrs. Shipley (as well as other staff and parents who helped in various ways) that told us a wonderful story. Our holiday concert was terrific and so well attended I had to open up the top row section of seating! Special thanks to Mr. Read and the rest of the staff for preparing our students to sing a wide variety of holiday favorites! Great job by all!

Ugly sweater day was a huge success! The students and staff looked wonderful and everyone seemed into the holiday spirit! We finished off the stretch run with pajama day, the polar express, a sing along and a very special visitor! It's a great time to be at Third Street!

Happy Holiday and I hope you all enjoy a well deserved rest!

**STUDENTS OF THE MONTH**

November

KC- Max Staples

KS- Desmond Ackerman

1 B – William Tarsi

2 S – Liam Johnson

2D – Kayah Sanger

MD – Jayla Stokes

The school year is flying by here at Third Street and it has been amazing to see the amount of growth our young people have made in such a short amount of time! We are well into the second marking period and students and staff seem to be relishing in the knowledge they have gained so far this year. Before we know it, it will be 2019!

Recently the Belvidere School District chose it's "Teacher of the Year" and "Educational Service Professional of the Year." I am very proud and honored to announce that this year's winners from Third Street are Nicole Ehasz (T.O.Y.) and Terri Byrne (E.S.P.O.Y). Please join me in congratulating these two on a well deserved honor!

FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE



KINDERGARTEN – Mrs. Crisafulli & Mrs. Shipley

Our Kinders had a great first marking period! We all did a great job on "The First Thanksgiving" as Pilgrims and Native Americans! We were very busy with our reading groups practicing emergent readers. We are also very excited each time we get a high five in Espark. We are in full swing with Foundations as we are tapping out our sounds, blending CVC words and learning trick words as we go! In Math, we had fun making 10 as we decorated our Christmas trees. We also celebrated our 50th day of school with a special visitor Zero the Hero! He comes every 10th day with a fun activity as a challenge. We took a step back in time with the 50's and learned that root beer floats, poodle skirts and record players were popular back then!

In December, we were busy little elves making lots of holiday decorations. We also learned about Holiday Traditions around the world! We "traveled" to Germany, Sweden, Poland, Portugal, and Australia. Each class had the opportunity to teach other classes about their country. We even had our own passports! We were also busy learning a lot of new songs for our first concert!

We will be starting addition in math and continuing to strengthen our reading skills with our daily reading groups. We look forward to seeing our Chelsea friends again and sharing a craft with them.

*"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go" -Dr. Seuss*



MD – Mrs. Ehasz

Hello from Mrs. Ehasz's class! We have been very busy with our Joe on the Go coffee cart. We have serviced Oxford Street and Third Street for the holidays! Our students have mastered taking orders, making the orders, and making change. The smile we bring to each teacher is worth every moment! In January, we plan on expanding our community based instruction and exploring the diner business; as a patron, a server, and cook. Happy Holidays!



FIRST GRADE – Mrs. Belet (& Ms. Alexis Smith Student Teacher ☺)

First Grade would like to thank Miss Alexis Smith for being a wonderful student teacher. The kiddos and I really enjoyed having her here with us and learning from her.

We are working hard on our reading and writing skills. We kept "Elf Journals" to keep track of our classroom elf's adventures, wrote about our reindeer selfies and retold Chanukah stories.

In Math, we finished up addition and subtraction. Then, we move on the graphing and counting on a hundreds chart by 1's, 5's and 10's.

Did you know Christmas trees began in Germany hundreds of years ago? We traveled to Germany to learn about their Christmas traditions and discovered many of their customs are the same as ours here in the United States. We shared what we learned by presenting to kindergarten and second grade.

Frohe Weihnachten und ein gutes neues Jahr!  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you!



### SECOND GRADE - Mrs. Debenedetto

It's incredible how the months go by so quickly. The children have been focusing on regrouping in both addition and subtraction in mathematics. We are quickly becoming Math Wizards! In Science, we learned about the stages of matter and even learned a rap song about it. In Social Studies, we traveled around the world learning all about the traditions of other countries. We researched Poland and were able to present to the entire school everything we learned. We were also lucky enough to have special "Polish Cultural Consultants", LOL. In Writing, the children are writing longer and more descriptive paragraphs, using exact details to make a more interesting piece. The children are working very hard and are progressing in all areas! Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to our entire Second Grade Family!

### SECOND GRADE - Mrs. Smith

Mrs. Smith's class has been having fun studying the traditions and customs of Sweden at the Christmas season! We have learned so much. Even how to speak some fun Swedish words. Ask us to say one of our favorite words!

We have been studying subtracting in Math recently. We use breaking apart, hundreds charts and other ways to help us subtract bigger numbers. We love playing First in Math!

Reading continues to be fun! We have read many different genres, most recently an informational text about jellyfish! Very interesting!

### RTI - LANGUAGE ARTS/MATH

#### Mrs. Francheschino and Mrs. Kane

Session I of RTI wraps up in December. When we return from the holiday each student will be given the second benchmark assessment to see if they qualify for Session II. If you have any question and or concerns feel free to contact me at [kkane@belvideresd.org](mailto:kkane@belvideresd.org) anytime.



### ART – Mrs. Angus

Square One Art orders are coming in and will be distributed to the classes in time for the holidays!

### MUSIC – Mr. Read

The students are singing, performing instruments and learning new musical concepts.

Great job performing at the concert. The concert was filmed from the balcony. DVDs will be available for \$8 each.



### SPANISH - Senora Tominac

Felices fiestas (Happy Holidays) & Feliz Navidad to all!!!



First and Second graders are practicing how to order food in a restaurant in Spanish - good manners included :)

Kindergarten classes are learning their numbers. Our goal is to count to 30 and beyond!

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION – Mrs. White

Parachute unit to develop direction-following and cooperative skills within a group

- The Crazy Games of Christmas to work on cardiovascular fitness, cooperation, core strength, and motor skill development.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Happy New Year!

### SPEECH – Mrs. Kozlowski, M.S. CCC-SLP



#### 8 Tips for Helping Kids with Social Skills Issues Cope with the Holiday Season

Holiday events are supposed to be fun. But for kids with Social Skills Issues, these events can pose challenges and create stress. Use these eight simple tips to help your child successfully navigate this very social season.

1. **Practice hellos and goodbyes.** The more you practice with your child, the easier it will be for him to call up the right words when he needs them. He doesn't have to say much: "Hi, it's nice to see you!" and "Thanks for having me-I had a good time" will usually do it. Remind him to look people in the eye, and that when people extend their arm it means they want to shake hands.
2. **Tell your child what to expect.** Let your child know how the day will unfold. You might say something like, "When we get there, the kids will be watching football or playing downstairs. Your child may feel more relaxed if he knows what's going to happen next. You can also **brainstorm ways he can handle certain situations.**
3. **Script some conversation starters.** Help your child develop some general questions to break the ice with other kids. He might ask, "Do you play any sports?" or "What shows do you like to watch?" With older kids, come up with a few news items about sports or celebrities he can talk about
4. **Help your child join a group.** Before you head off to mingle with the adults, help your child get settled. If the kids are playing football- and your child doesn't enjoy the game- ask if they need a scorekeeper.
5. **Role-play opening presents.** If there's going to be a gift exchange, have your child practice opening presents and saying thank you. You can take turns acting out how to sound grateful no matter what he gets.
6. **Help your child make conversation with adults.** It's natural for adults at holiday gatherings to ask your child what he's been up to. Kids with social issues may not like talking about school or find it easy to talk about their achievements. Set your child up to have something positive to say in response to these questions. For example, "Why don't you tell Aunt Emma about how you trained our new puppy?"
7. **Go over hosting duties.** Having the get-together at your house can be a plus. Your child may feel more comfortable on his own turf. You may want to give him a job, like answering the door and showing people where to put their coats.
8. **Point out what your child did well.** If he did a nice job, or held his own during a conversation with his cousins, let him know you noticed. Recognition can mean a lot- and give your child more confidence going into the next holiday event.\*



motor skills, and increases motivation and cooperation.

### CHILD STUDY



Please consider joining our Special Education Parent Advisory Group (SEPAG)! The SEPAG is designed to serve as a method for parents to



From the

of:

desk

[Julianne Kearns, OTD, OT/L](#)  
[Occupational Therapist](#)  
[Belvidere School District](#)

Occupational Therapy has been working with the teachers to create Sensory Break stations for the students! Sensory breaks, also known as “break breaks,” are designed to provide calming or active input to help a child concentrate. Engaging in regular sensory break activities throughout the day helps students gain the sensory input needed to stay alert and focused. They also challenge strength and coordination which support other skills in the classroom. These stations are spread throughout the school and labeled with colorful posters. Students can ask to visit a station or their teacher may determine a need at an appropriate time. Need to get the wiggles out? These stations provide structured way to give students’ brains a rest and allowing them to engage in a few minutes of physical activity. This improves attention and focus, increases retention of material being taught, improves emotional regulation, reduces behavioral problems, improves gross