

Pierce School News



October 2019

Principal Newsletter

FIRE PREVENTION DAY at PIERCE!

Thank you to the Bennington Fire Department for making our recent visit with them so rewarding...full of important information and safety reminders such as reminders to practice fire escape routes at home, know how to “stop, drop and roll” and to keep maintained smoke and CO2 detectors in the house at all times.

Each grade walked to the fire house and had the opportunity to learn about fire safety first hand by experiencing what it would look like to see smoke in their homes and to practice how to escape out the window (with the help of our trusty fire fighters!). It was a very exciting and educational, hands-on experience. To end the day, students were all given a gift of a learning packet to read and color, fire department water bottle and fire hat! Thank you Bennington Fire Department for all you do to keep our children safe at home and school!



Nature Walking Club 2019

Third Grade Teacher Jennifer Sutton along with Harris Center Naturalist Expert and Teacher, Susie Spikol have hosted a morning walking club for students at Pierce School!

In a community partnership with our friends from the Harris Center, students, staff and families are welcome to join us for a brief walk in the woods to start our day in a calming way – outdoors! ‘Tis the season to smell earthy scents such as mushrooms, enjoy the sounds of a waterfall and hear the wind gently blowing falling leaves through the air – what a wonderful way to start the day! The walks have been very successful and we are even collecting data to show evidence that starting in nature helps our body and mind prepare for the learning day ahead – look for more information soon! We look forward to a few more walks before the snow flies. Come join us, the last two are on 10/25 and 11/1.



Upcoming Events:

- 10/25/19 - Morning Nature Walk with Suzie Spikol
- 10/25/19 - After School Bike Club
- 11/1/19 – Make Up Rain Date – Morning Nature Walk with Suzie
- 11/4/19 - PTO Meeting - 6p.m... PLEASE COME!
- 11/5/19- Parent/Teacher Conferences; 11/8/19 Report Cards sent home
- 11/13/19- Leadership Team Meeting, 7:45am-8:30am
- 11/14/19 – Student Leadership Meeting, 8:20am

Title I at Pierce School

What is Title I?

Title I federal funding provides opportunities for children in eligible schools to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to meet the State proficiency standards. Staff members in Title I funded schools provide **supplemental** support through enriched and accelerated education programs.

Two different Title I programs exist to meet students' educational needs- "Targeted" (students are selected through eligibility criteria) and "SchoolWide" (all students are eligible). At Pierce School, Title I funds are used to support a *schoolwide* program, where the analysis of schoolwide data drives decisions for addressing student service needs. Our support staff supplements the CORE curriculum and provides direct, explicit instruction to small groups of children in all grade levels. These groups remain flexible to best serve all students, when and how they need support in reading, writing and/or mathematics.

Meet Our Educational Support Teacher ~ Brienne Bastarache



Hello Pierce Families! My name is Brienne Bastarache and I am a part-time Title I teacher at Pierce School this year. I've been a teacher in the ConVal School District for the last 18 years. I spent the first 15 years as a classroom teacher and the last 3 years as a Title I interventionist. I have a passion for learning and LOVE working with children. I love to read and bring the joy of reading into the lives of my students and families.

I also enjoy going to the beach, traveling to new places, playing board games, and spending time with my family. I'm "beary" excited to be a Bennington Bear this year and look forward to a great year here at Pierce!

Talking About Race—

October 24, 2019 6:30 p.m. at the Tuttle Library (45 Main Street) in Antrim

By Robin Gregg, School Counselor

School counselors teach students about empathy and about listening to and respecting other people in all of our differences and similarities. In classroom counseling lessons we encourage students to acknowledge and appreciate human diversity. At school we teach children to listen to and respect other people in all of our differences and similarities. These lessons often are reinforced and supported by children's family members. Adults, too, benefit from education and open conversations about human diversity. A workshop at Antrim's Tuttle Library on Main Street on the evening of October 24 is an opportunity for adult and teenage family members of AES and Pierce School students and other community members to explore how we can learn to appreciate and understand experiences and perspectives different from our own.

Facilitated by educator Allen Davis, the evening's focus will be on the experiences of three local African American residents: Grace Aldrich, Jim Guy, and Doug Sutherland, who have generously offered to share what it means to be an African American person in the U.S. today.

All adults and teens are welcome to attend this event. *For more information:* Contact Tuttle Library 588-6786

Pierce School Mission Statement:

"The mission of Pierce School is to provide a personalized education, cultivate independent thinking, promote building of character, and foster the desire to learn."

Visit us on the web at: bes.conval.net

