



Baxter Elementary School - - We Build Foundations

**Baxter Bugle Trimester One
School Year 2023-2024**

**From:
Dr. Stellmach**

Dear Baxter Families:

How is it already near the end of October! The first half of this trimester has flown by here at Baxter School. We have been busy. Our entire staff puts forth amazing effort each and every day to help our students have the best learning environment possible. Our cooks begin the day with breakfast and serve our students lunch as well, following nutritional guidelines for every meal, including local farm sourced foods when possible. Our custodians keep our building clean and shiny. Our school nurse administers medications, assesses many injuries daily, and hands out doses of bandaids and hugs to kiddos who need comfort from life's little boo-boos! Our secretaries run the front office and the library, and believe me when I say, we could not function without them! And all of our other staff - teachers, education assistants, behavior management specialists, our support staff from the PBEC work incredibly hard every single day, every moment, to strive forward with the goal of helping all of our students reach academic success, while attending to social and emotional needs along the way. If you are never inside these walls, you might not know all that they do. But believe me, it is everything from reading to writing, from math to science, STEAM to PE, music to art, social studies to friendships, and so much more.

This is the BEST STAFF EVER!

Warmly,
Dr. Tammy Stellmach

PTO

Our next PTO meeting is Tuesday, November 14th, from 1:30-2:30 in the large conference room here at Baxter School. Please join us if the meeting fits into your schedule.

Baxter Together We Grow

As you likely know from previous communications and our school shirts, the Baxter Leadership Team selected “Together We Grow” for our theme this year. Trimester One: Putting Down Roots. This means we are working to be Rooted in Respect, Rooted in Responsibility, and Rooted in Relationship Building.

For a Putting Down Roots, we have done the following so far:

♥ We connected with Book Buddies from another grade and meet with them at least once a month, with most classes connecting more often. We are teaching students the importance of relationship building - truly putting down roots with others!

♥ Schoolwide Tree mural in the cafeteria, students each made a leaf. Some grades used handprints for leaves, some used watercolors, others used markers and colored pencils, and some did leaf rubbings. It truly looks amazing. Stop in to take a look!

♥ We continue to emphasize the Baxter 3Rs - putting down roots in our expectations. Please consider having conversations at home to help support our efforts.

♥ Stuffing collection and potato collection coming up - rooting in our community (you can send items in November 20-December 4)

Common Expectations

Schoolwide we focus on common expectations and common language. This helps to make our school environment more successful.

We refer to The Baxter 3Rs, following the district behavior matrix. We also use a voice levels system so everyone has a common reference point.

**Be Respectful
Be Responsible
Build Relationships**



Student Council

I'd like to introduce our first semester fourth grade student council members. They have been working hard to plan both school spirit events and service projects. Tuesday, they will set up for Kindergarten bingo by decorating and organizing prizes. They will also help the Kindergarten students check cards. In the afternoon, they will help on the stage with bingo prizes for grades 1-4.

Our next project is a collection for the local food shelf. This year Baxter School is assigned stuffing and boxed potatoes. This group is in charge of making posters and will keep a daily count of our collections. All students and staff are invited to bring in boxes of stuffing or boxed types of potatoes. Our goal is 50 boxes per grade level of stuffing and 30 boxes per grade level for potatoes.. We will begin collecting boxes of stuffing on Monday, November 20 and our collection

**Be Respectful
Be Responsible
Build Relationships**



**Be Respectful
Be Responsible
Build Relationships**



runs through Monday, December 4. Student council also sponsored **Orange & Blue** Day earlier this month to support No Bullying, Relationship Building. In addition, they have selected extra recess time for the first schoolwide prize when we reach **100 Baxter Grow Slips** on the wall.

Dates to Remember

October 31: Halloween Bingo

November 1: Picture retake Day

November 9: Veterans Day Program ~ Third grade performs to the student body in the morning and also has an evening performance for family members to attend.

November 9: **Red**, White & **Blue** Day (Students and staff are encouraged to dress in any or all of these three colors.).

November 13: School Board Meeting
November 17: Together We Grow Day - wear school theme shirt
November 17: Book Buddy Day
November 20-December 4: Stuffing & Potatoes Collection(boxes)
November 23-24: No School
November 27: No School, Staff In-Service Day
December 1: Together We Grow Day - wear school theme shirt
December 1: End of Trimester One
December 1: Student Of The Trimester Awards
December 7: Second Grade Music Program ~ Second grade performs to the student body during the day and also has an evening performance for family members to attend.
December 8: Report cards will be posted
December 8: Kindergarten Gingerbread House Decorating
December 22: Winter Break Begins

Grow Towers

The Tower Gardens are up and running!

We had some awesome 4th graders using their green thumbs as we chose seeds, got them planted in rock wool, and into the towers. We're so excited for more conversations around hydroponics and the growing process! 🌱

#TogetherWeGrow



(Mrs. Clements, our STEAM teacher, works with this group as an enrichment activity)



Awards

Two of our staff members have received very prestigious awards this fall.

Kari Champion, third grade teacher, ISD181 Above and Beyond Award Recipient

Kelli Hanson, educational assistant, Education Minnesota Support Staff of the Year, semi-finalist award

Congratulations to these amazing individuals. I always say that nothing is deserved, but rather it is earned through hard work, dedication, and effort. Kari and Kelli are perfect examples of these characteristics. They each show up at their best every day, and put forth amazing effort and energy to help ensure that Baxter students get the very best. We are fortunate to have them on staff.



Volunteer

We sure love our family members and community volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, please complete the forms on the District website, located in the Community Education tab under volunteering.

If you have completed the forms but have not yet heard from anyone at Baxter regarding how you can serve as a volunteer for us this year, please reach out to your student's homeroom teacher or contact Dr. Stellmach and she will help you get set up.

We definitely have things for you to do, including listening to students read 1-1, listening to students practice high frequency words, help with math facts, junior great book leaders (special training required), special events helpers, lunch room connection volunteers, and more.

Lost and Found

A pile of items has built up on the Lost & Found rack. There are many sweatshirts, jackets, water bottles, and more.

Please stop in to look through the items if your child is missing something.