



**February 2016
Berney Elementary
Principal Update**

Hello Berney Families,

It's hard for me to believe it is already the second week of February and the end of our first semester is upon us. Thank you in advance for making time in your schedules to meet with you child's teacher during **conferences**. The Berney staff is deeply committed to your child's education and looks forward to the opportunity to connect with you in person. We need your partnership, and knowledge of your child, to best support their growth. Mrs. Shaul, our amazing librarian, will also be hosting the Scholastic Book Fair. "Feelin' Groovy" is the theme this year! Check out this link to preview books, order online, and see the hours it will be open and times when volunteers are needed. <http://www.scholastic.com/bookfairs/findafair>

This is also an important month because we are **interviewing candidates for superintendent**. I encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity to accept the School Board's invitation to provide feedback on who our next superintendent. Public meetings will be held on February 29, March 1 and 2 at 5pm at the district office.

In November we had planned to **practice an offsite evacuation**, but the weather was unfavorable. We are going to try again this month on Friday, February 19th. Here is the information again about this drill.

This month we will be practicing an off-site evacuation drill should we need to leave our campus for a high risk event, which includes a gas leak, major fire, or other catastrophe. Our evacuation site is Blue Mountain Community Church. In the event of a real emergency you would be contacted through the district notification system because we would be out of the building, but in close contact with Mark Higgins at the district office. If we were unable to return to Berney, all students and staff will be bussed to the Walla Walla Fairgrounds. No student reunification will occur at Blue Mountain Community Church, and staff will not be allowed to release students anywhere, but the Fairgrounds, even if they know the parent. Only releasing students at the Fairgrounds ensures we are able to follow a detailed plan to ensure we keep all students safe.

Upcoming Parent and Family Events:

- **PTA Meeting:** Thursday, February 11, 7pm in the Berney library.
- **Conferences:** Wednesday, February 24th and Thursday, February 25th. No students Thursday and Friday, February 25th and 26th.

A HUGE thank you to those of you who were able to join us for McTeacher Night. Your support helped us raise \$1080.00 for technology!

Best wishes for a fabulous February and please contact me at any time with questions, concerns or suggestions.

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