According to Punxsutawney Phil, spring and warm weather is on the way … I’ll keep my fingers crossed for all of us! However, the last few days have been very nice. If you’re a baseball junkie, pitchers and catchers report next week!

Now that January is over (seems like it lasted 12 months), the anticipation of spring sets in - longer days, warmer weather, fish start biting, and recess is outside! I can also drop the phrase “put your hood down” from my vocabulary for a few months. We’re still in the midst of the winter grind, but yesterday has reminded us all better weather is on the way. Jon Gordon wrote in his book, The Shark and the Goldfish: Positive Ways to Thrive During Change, ‘If you believe your best days are ahead of you, they are.’ To me, this quote is perfect for this winter grind we are in the midst of, and it all comes down to your mindset - what do you want out of today? What do you want in the coming days? Remaining positive and maintaining focus go a long way. Why am I mentioning this? Our kids have shown they are capable of doing both. It shows in their behaviors and their academics. Our staff does both - daily. Some days are tough for all of us, but our best days are coming!

**Students of the Month** *be on the lookout for our new Student of the Month yard signs*

- **Beckemeyer**
  - Kindergarten - Rylee D
  - 1st Grade - Daniel T

- **Breese**
  - 2nd Grade - Aiden V
  - 3rd grade - Rhys M
  - 4th Grade - Beckam B
  - 5th Grade - Alisha K
  - 6th Grade - Leyla L
  - 7th Grade - Cara C
  - 8th Grade - Chelcey R

**Sports**

- The Boys' Basketball team won the Carlyle Regional and will play in the SIJHSAA State Tournament 2/7 at 4:45 versus Goreville.
- Volleyball is underway and games begin this week!
- Girl’s Basketball season recently wrapped up. Congratulations to the girls on a great season!
- Track season is approaching - get signed up tomorrow (2/4)!

**Music**

- We recently hosted the Clinton County Music Festival. The turnout was excellent and all of the participating students gave an excellent performance.
This Saturday, 2/8 at 7:00 PM, there will be a Trivia Night benefiting our music program. Adults and students (grades 5-8) are welcome to attend!

There will be an all day music fundraiser 2/19 at El Arado.
Solo and ensemble contest is 2/29.

**Math Team**
- Math Team practices begin tomorrow, 2/4.

**Chess Club**
- The Chess Club has been competing in their intramural chess tournament over the last few weeks. Championship matches will be this week!
- The Chess Club will conclude on 2/26.

**PTC**
- We will be hosting a dance for students in grades 6-8 on 3/20!
- Next meeting is 4/21.

**Student Council**
- Blood Drive 4/29, 2:45-7:00 in the cafeteria. You can sign up online, redcrossblood.org.
- Smencils will be for sale soon!
- BCMW drive was a great success … thank you for your generosity!

**Other News**
- IAR testing is quickly approaching - testing will begin in March.
- Please complete the 5 Essentials Survey. A link to the survey can be found on our website, d12bobcats.org.
- The History Fair was held at D12 last week.

**Upcoming Dates**
- 2/7 Midterms go home
- 2/8 Band Trivia Night starting at 7p
- 2/14 No School - Teachers’ Institute
- 2/17 No School - Presidents’ Day
- 2/28 Teachers’ Institute - 11:30 Dismissal
- 2/28 Yearbook orders due to office
- 3/2 No School - Casimir Pulaski Day
- 3/6 End of 3rd quarter
- 3/7 Sports Booster Bash at Breese Legion