

Bell Top



March 2017

From the desk of Mr. Mahar

They say March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb, and that is certainly holding true. The spring weather which we enjoyed the good fortune of having in the latter part of February was a treat. But don't put your winter coats away yet, the chilly weather has returned at least for a few days. The children will be getting outside most days as long as the temperature (wind chill) doesn't fall below 20 degrees. Please be sure your children have the proper outdoor attire.

Maple sugaring season has arrived! I look forward to being part of this science adventure at Bell Top, as this is one of my favorite hobbies, making maple syrup. Soon, the learning barn will be actively working as a sugar house.

The radio announcements at Bell Top will soon be going TV live broadcast through Google Hangouts. We are working out the logistics and should be up and running later this month, thanks to the help of many supportive and enthusiastic staff.

My days at Bell Top school have been enriching, rewarding, and fulfilling. Thank you to all the students, staff, and parents who have made Bell Top a great place to work.

NYS ELA & Mathematics Assessments

This month the students in grade 3 through 5 will be taking the New York State English Language Arts Assessment. According to Board of Regents Chancellor Betty A. Rosa, she believes the assessments, "...must be diagnostic, valid, and reliable – and they must provide timely and practical information to teachers, administrators and parents." The exams will continue to be administered over 3 days and will have no time limit as long as the students are working productively. **The days for NYS ELA Exam administration are Tuesday, March 28, Wednesday, March 29, and Thursday, March 30.** Make-up days will range from March 31 through April 5. You can prepare your child for these exams as you do every day by making sure they are well rested, have eaten a healthy breakfast, and are feeling minimal stress about the test days ahead. They should try their personal bests, as they should do every day here at Bell Top.

"The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today."

– H. Jackson Brown, Jr.



March important dates

- 3/7 - Bell Top PTO meeting - 7pm
- 3/8 - End of marking period for K-5
- 3/8 - BOE meeting - 7pm - Genet
- 3/12 - Daylight savings time begins
- 3/15 - Spring picture day
- 3/15 - Report cards go home
- 3/16 - ½ day - K-5 parent conferences - dismissal 11:30
- 3/17 - St. Patrick's Day
- 3/20 - First Day of Spring
- 3/22 - BOE meeting - 7pm - Administration Ctr.
- 3/23 - Bell Top Spring Fling
- 3/24 - No School K-12 Full day Prof. Dev. Day
- 3/28, 3/29, 3/30 - NYS ELA Exams

