



BELL TOP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

East Greenbush Central School District
39 Reynolds Road, Troy, New York 12180-8695
Telephone: (518) 207-2600 • Fax (518) 283-1184

Martin Mahar
Principal

August 11, 2017

Dear Bell Top Parents, Guardians, and Children,

Summer is winding down, and a new and exciting school year is quickly approaching. I hope you have taken time to relax, read something interesting, visit special places, and spend time with family and friends. My summer was filled with gardening. Our garden has been in full bloom this summer as we harvested raspberries, squash, cucumbers, peppers, tomatoes, and soon, peaches.

I am excited and honored to serve as the new Bell Top Elementary Principal. One of my goals this year is to further develop the integration of technology in the classroom. This summer I attended a technology conference that was enlightening. I plan to share ideas and encourage ways to use technology as a supplemental tool to the everyday instruction.

Our summer maintenance crew has been diligently working to prepare Bell Top for the return of students and staff. The staff returns to work on August 29th, however the first day of school for our students in **Grades 1 through 5** will be on **Tuesday, September 5, 2017**. For our **Kindergarten students** there is a letter enclosed which lists a 30 minute appointment time for parents and their child to briefly meet with their teacher on September 5th. Our **Kindergarten students'** first full day of school will be on **Wednesday, September 6, 2017**. Please contact our main office if you have any questions or need any additional information pertaining to the opening of the 2017-2018 school year.

Bell Top Elementary School was ranked by the Albany Business Review as the ninth best elementary school in the Albany area for 2017. We continue to excel as a school-community, while the East Greenbush School District ranked 6th out of 84 K-12 public school districts. I am proud to be part of this collaborative and supportive community. Learning in an environment that is supportive and nurturing provides the best opportunities for academic achievement. The link to the article is on the East Greenbush website:

<http://egcsd.org/2017/06/19/east-greenbush-ranks-6th-out-of-84-capital-region-school-districts/>

I am a strong believer that all children and families feel welcome here at Bell Top School! My utmost concern for your child, as well as all individuals, is their safety and well-being.

I encourage you to use our district's website: <http://egcsd.org/>, the district's Facebook page, and Twitter (@EGreenbushCSD) to stay informed of district news and school information. My

monthly newsletter will be posted on the Bell Top website:

<http://egcsd.org/bell-top-elementary/principals-corner/>.

There will be many opportunities for you to be involved in your child's education. One avenue is the PTO. Parent involvement has many benefits for child success. If you should need to contact us prior to the opening of the 2017-2018 school year or any time throughout the year feel free to call the school at 518-207-2600, or you may email me at maharma@egcsd.org.

I look forward to seeing all of the children in September. I will host Open House events for parents which are scheduled on:

- Tues. Sept. 19th (Grades 3, 4, 5, and 3-5 Language Concepts) 6:30-8:00 PM
- Mon. Sept. 25nd (Kindergarten, Grades 1, 2, and K-2 Language Concepts) 6:30-8:00 PM

Respectfully,

Martin Mahar

"Believe you can and you're halfway there." ~Theodore Roosevelt.





Important Dates to Remember:

- 8/29/17: Superintendent's Conference Day (Staff Only)
- 8/30/17: Superintendent's Conference Day (Staff Only)
- 8/31/17: Staff Professional Development Day – No Students
- 9/4/17: LABOR DAY - NO SCHOOL
- 9/5/17: First Day of School for Students in Grades 1-12 (Kindergarten by appointment only)
- 9/6/17: First Day of School for Kindergarten
- 9/15/17: Bell Top Ice Cream Social (6:30-8:00 PM)
- 9/19/17: Bell Top Open House for Grades 3, 4, 5, and 3-5 Language Concepts (6:30-8:00 PM)
- 9/21/17: HOLIDAY - NO SCHOOL
- 9/25/17: Bell Top Open House for Grades K, 1, 2, and K-2 Language Concepts (6:30-8:00 PM)
- 10/9/17: COLUMBUS DAY – NO SCHOOL
- 10/10/17: Bell Top PTO Meeting (7:00 PM)
- 10/11/17: Bell Top BOE Meeting (7:00 PM)
- 10/17/17: Bell Top School Picture Day
- 10/19/17: Bell Top Annual Pumpkin Race
- 10/20/17: K-12 Full Day Professional Development - No Students
- 10/24/17: Bell Top Fall Family Night
- 10/31/17: Bell Top's Halloween Parade (1:30 PM)