It's never too early to start developing the heart of a leader.

Every quarter, two students from each of the five third-grade classes at Brooklyn Primary are nominated for Third Grade Leadership.

The group is led by Teresa Sullivan, Britta Yates, and Megan McGuinness. Students stay for an extra hour after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays to complete projects, such as updating the school reader board with an inspirational quote. They also set up lunch for first grade, give Monday morning announcements, clean school grounds, lead assemblies, create bulletin boards, and deliver Backpack Program food bags.

Sullivan asked her first-quarter leaders to explain, in their own words, what leadership means:

Leaders are chosen because they consistently show that they are kind, responsible, respectful and safe. They are interested in doing things that support or improve the school, as well as the community.

This year, Brooklyn is focusing on kindness. Third Grade Leaders were asked to interview another student and ask what that student thought kindness meant or looked like.

These are the answers:

Ainsley in Mrs. Roberston's class said: "You don't throw stuff."

-Avery

Mason in 2nd grade said: "Help people out."

-Jeremiah

Bradley in Miss Brown's class said: "To be nice to someone."

-Cora

Max in Miss Brown's class said: "Help someone when they fall down."

-Clancey

Welker in Miss Colvin's class said: "You are not being mean to people."

-Mason

Romyn in Mrs. Welter's class said: "Be grateful, respectful and responsible."

-Jocelyn

CJ in Mrs. Stephen's class said: "You're helping people on stuff."

-Haddie

Gehrig in Miss Colvin's class said: "Just be nice and don't be mean. Just wave and smile."

-Parker

Tessa in Ms. Clausnitzer's class said: "Don't bully people."

-Romie
Mrs. Nelson is helpful

Mrs. Nelson (art teacher at BHS) is always helpful. She teaches an array of very talented students and very challenging art classes. At the beginning of the semester we’re asked to stitch together a handmade sketch book! She quickly picked up on the fact I was struggling and decided to lend a helping hand with assisting with the finishing stitches which got me up to date with her class!

Dylan Estabrooks

She's most pleasant!

I would like to give a Shout Out to Cathy Martin! She has to be the most pleasant woman that I have met in a work environment. She always has a smile and well wishes to give and treats everyone with so much respect. When you're speaking she is intently listening, waiting to see just how she can help you. She is a lovely addition to the Baker SD, I am so lucky to get to work with such an amazing lady! She is like a Random Act of Kindness on a bad day. Definitely someone to emulate.

CJ Gray

Reegan is outstanding

Reegan Hellberg is outstanding! She maintains a 4.0 GPA, is a main flyer for the JV cheer team, always on time and prepared for class, and such a kind soul! Her spirit glows all around the high school, and she’s a wonderful role model! Someday I want to be a cheerleader and she’s been giving me awesome tips and pointers! During class, she’s always willing to help out and be a good person.

Dylan Estabrooks

Shout Outs

Submissions welcome!

We welcome “Shout Out” submissions from teachers, parents, community members - anyone who wants to recognize someone for a job well done.

Submissions can be 100 words or less. Email entries to shout.out@bakersd.org.

Mr. Z makes the time

Mr. Lane Zacharias is a terrific asset here at South Baker Intermediate School. He is always willing to take the time for students (even for those that aren't in his class anymore). It's inspiring to see his interest in student success! Thank you Mr. Z!

Calli Gulick

To Amanda Carroll:

If you've driven by Brooklyn lately, you may have noticed the doors to our modulars have experienced a bit of a makeover. Along with our modular doors, the office walls at Brooklyn are now adorned with colorful and inspirational quotes. An enormous shout out to Amanda Carroll for working with our staff to decorate and bring some color and spirit to the walls and doors at Brooklyn. It's the little things like this that make our school such a special place.

Phil Anderson, Brooklyn principal

Great student help!

Thank you to Wayne Overton, who generously donated his time and talents to helping with our PTCO Dessert Auction at Haines Elementary! As our auctioneer, Wayne brings energy and laughter while moving the auction along. A natural entertainer, Wayne made the experience fun, and the Haines PTCO had the most successful auction ever! Thank you, Wayne!

Haines PTCO
Haines Elementary Staff

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Haines PTCO
Haines Elementary Staff

Thanks, Soroptimist!

Thank you Soroptimist International for helping South Baker with hygiene kits!

Lisa Davis

To Mr. Taub:

Mr. Jesse Taub, a new English teacher at Baker High, was energetic from the start! I remember walking into his class for the first time and thinking how boring English classes could be. Then I quickly picked up on how animated and kind he was! He was always willing to help and teach in style that works with everyone. He’s always cool, calm, and collected! He cares and has knowledge on all of the material and can pick up anyone’s bad mood and brighten it any day! Super cool!

Dylan Estabrooks

Shout out to Mr. Jensen

I'd like to give a shout out for one of our new English teachers, Travis Jensen. Mr. Jensen has displayed unique interest in individual students, and is not afraid to sacrifice his own time to meet their needs for attention or encouragement.

One day, I wandered into his room to see him playing a friendly game of chess with a student; this student was having a tough day and was afraid to sacrifice his own time to meet their needs for attention or encourage.

I'm glad he's able to bring middle schoolers to Brooklyn because the little kids look up to the big kids so much. My son can't wait until they come back again!

Lisa Jacoby

Inspiring leaders

My son is a third grader at Brooklyn Primary. One day at school pickup he was bubbling with excitement about the seventh-graders who came to help with math and activities. He knew their names, and talked about how nice they were. These students were from the Baker Middle School leadership class led by Jebron Jones. I am so glad he's able to bring middle schoolers to Brooklyn because the little kids look up to the big kids so much. My son can't wait until they come back again!

Lisa Jacoby

Pep week preparation

I would like to recognize Toni Zimmund and Dawna Blincoe for all of their time spent on making Pep Night a success. Each year these two women go above and beyond to get this event off the ground.

Chelsea Hurliman, BHS vice principal

Thank you, custodians

Our custodians at BHS also deserve recognition as Pep Week by nature creates more work. They are always willing to help the students as they search for art supplies, ladders or need an extra hand hanging something up. Thank you BHS Custodians of your support in making Pep Week a great community event.

Chelsea Hurliman, BHS vice principal

Shout Outs
BTI launches Esports program

Baker Technical Institute (BTI) is entering the world of Esports. BTI will enroll a Baker School District team in the National High School Esports League and begin full competitive play in January.

The new program will focus on national high school level competitions initially, with expansion to college level play as a next step.

Tryouts were held in October at the BTI campus in Baker City, where potential players from area district high schools such as Eagle Cap Innovative High School, Baker Charter Schools and Baker High School showcased their skills in several games over the course of a week.

“We currently have nearly 70 interested players with many more inquiring as of today,” says Chris Wittich, the newly hired Esports coach and program facilitator. “As soon as we put the word out we were starting this, the interest level has been incredible. We are not only anticipating all the players to show up but many more to just watch tryouts. This is a program that a whole new group of students have clearly been waiting for and now we plan to harness that enthusiasm into student engagement and success.”

According to the most recent Global Esports Market Report, the explosive growth of Esports over the past few years shows no sign of slowing. In 2019 the Esports market will exceed $1 billion dollars with an audience of over 450 million worldwide. This is a market that has far surpassed the NBA and is now passing the NFL. All of the growth is attracting investment at a staggering rate which is providing many jobs in well paying careers, rapidly expanding college teams and scholarships.

“We are very excited to see this program launch,” said BTI President Doug Dalton. “Our culture is to embrace innovative opportunities like Esports that give students unique experiences relevant to them and future employers.”

He said many of the players are also participating in BTI’s new three-year computer science program.

“Th ey see the high paying careers in industries that value not only the technical skills learned in the classroom, but the enhanced skills of creativity, communication, collaboration and critical thinking that comes from playing and strategizing in a hyper competitive environment.” Dalton said.

BTI has partnered with the Boise State University College of Innovation and Design to develop the program. BSU is regarded as one of the top ranked teams in the country and also recently opened a state-of-the-art arena in downtown Boise.

“Dr. Chris Haskell and his team at BSU have been key strategic partners in assisting us with our launch. They have built a powerhouse of a program,” Wittich said.

Follow BTI on social media to learn more about the Esports program as it unfolds.

Baker Technical Institute (BTI) is a leading provider of Career Technical Education programs focused on developing the next generation of skilled workers, technology innovators, entrepreneurs, and community leaders in rural communities. Headquartered in Baker City, Oregon, BTI offers cutting-edge education and training, leading to certification in high-wage, high-demand careers, such as computer science, agricultural sciences, building trades, heavy equipment operation, natural resources/environmental sciences, engineering, health services, welding, and manufacturing. For more information, visit the website at https://bakerti.org.
Students at Keating Elementary are getting a first-hand look at life in space this year through a program offered by the JPL Museum in Stayton.

James Loftus founded the museum in honor of his dad, Joseph P. Loftus Jr., whose career at NASA spanned five decades.

Loftus, in partnership with Oregon Connections Academy, developed a program called Remote and Distant Interactive Online Sessions (RADIOS). These sessions are streamed live from Space Center Houston once a month to classrooms across Oregon, including Keating School.

"We'll make it a year-long learning project," said Amanda Wilde, principal and head teacher.

Loftus' goal with RADIOS is to inspire youngsters to think about careers in STREAMM (science, technology, robotics, engineering, art, math, and medicine).

In the first RADIOS program on Oct. 17, Keating students learned about life onboard the International Space Station. Most notably, they saw how liquids act in space as the astronauts chased droplets of coffee.

"Astronauts really like to play with their liquids," said second-grader Maliyah Culp.

On Oct. 22, the Keating students were treated to a visit from James McBarron II, who worked at NASA from 1961 to 1999. McBarron shared conversation — mainly about reading — over a lunch of homemade chili and cornbread, then took the students and staff on a storytelling adventure about his time at NASA.

Actually, his experience started before he was an official employee. From 1958 to 1961 McBarron was a student test subject on experiments for space suits in extreme conditions.

During his career with NASA McBarron worked on Project Mercury, the Gemini Project, Apollo 9, Apollo 11, Apollo 13, and Apollo 15.

Throughout his talk, McBarron paused a few times for Loftus to pass around space-related items such as an astronaut's glove, the rubber cover for a boot, and a piece of the heat shield from Apollo 11 (that's the one that took men to the moon in July 1969).

McBarron took questions from the students. How thick is a space suit? Eleven layers. How thick is the glass in a helmet? Nearly a quarter-inch. Who was the youngest person to venture into space? McBarron didn't know the answer to this one, and asked the student to research it and get back to him.

Only one topic drew near silence from the students — it was when McBarron talked about bodily functions in space, and how astronauts wear diapers.

No one spoke.

And then a quiet voice whispered: "Oh, gross."

Which made McBarron grin.

He left them with three pieces of advice:

- "Decisions have consequences and determine your life path."
- "Continuing education is important."
- "You must enjoy work to be successful at it."

During his day in Baker City, McBarron addressed students at Baker High School in the morning, prior to his time at Keating.
A significantly scaled-down bond package calling for a $7.5 million bond measure to ease overcrowding and address safety concerns was recommended to the Baker School Board Oct. 21 by an 11-member citizen advisory committee. “This recommendation was based on feedback received through community input,” said Superintendent Mark Witty. “What we consistently heard from community members was that the bond needed to be smaller and shorter term and that the district should look at remodeling existing spaces instead of new construction. The committee really listened to that feedback, and that’s reflected in their recommendation.”

The School Board is scheduled to discuss the recommendation and hear public comments at their November 21 meeting.

10-year bond
The recommended bond measure would be repaid over a 10-year time period, costing taxpayers approximately 66 cents per $1,000 of assessed property value. That would amount to $71.49 per year (less than $6 per month) for the owner of a home assessed at $108,320, which is the median price of a home in Baker County.

The committee strongly considered a five-year term due to the amount of interest, but felt it was important to keep the cost as low as possible for senior citizens and lower-income residents.

Other sources of funding
Bond dollars would be combined with a $4 million state matching grant (OSCIM) and $5 million from Baker School District for a total investment of $16.5 million. The district’s contribution would consist of $3 million from Student Success Act funds and $2 million from capital project funds. Committee members are hopeful the pared-down request will be more palatable to voters than the $48 million bond request that voters rejected in November 2018.

That measure addressed a wider range of facilities needs identified by the district’s Long Range Facilities Planning Committee. However, the advisory group said their recommended bond package focuses on the district’s most critical facilities needs, which are capacity and safety and security.

The citizen committee was formed last summer to consider various options for a new bond proposal. Members are Martin Arritola, Jess Blatchford, Travis Cook, Stacy DeLong, Riley Hall, Coby Mastrude, Bob McKim, Lynette Perry, Wes Price, Angela Robb and Dana Simonski.

The committee met three times in September and October. As part of their process, members reviewed post-bond feedback collected by the district through surveys and meetings with various community groups.

Witty said their recommendation reflects the concerns and comments community members expressed about cost and scope of work. “We really appreciate the time and work of these committee members,” Witty said.
Happenings from around the district

Kindergarten classes at Brooklyn Primary took a fall field trip to explore Anthony Lakes.

Students at South Baker Intermediate School are being recognized for acts of kindness this year and photographed as "The I in kind." Here Riley Schuette poses with the banner. The program is also in use at Brooklyn Primary School.

Marco Valerio's Ancient Rome & Greece History Class simulated Ancient Greek warfare: "Specifically, the style of warfare practiced by the hoplites (heavy infantry) of ancient Greece. They would move in blocks of tightly packed men called a phalanx. Two phalanxes would move toward each other and eventually come into contact. Then they would start pushing each other, the lines of men behind the first aiding in the pushing. So it was basically a reverse tug-of-war match, except when one side lost its footing or collapsed from exhaustion they would be killed by the then victorious side who would march over the bodies and kill them with spikes on the butt-end of their spears called 'sauroter' (literally "lizard-killer")."

Haines fourth-graders enjoyed a campout this fall on the school grounds.
Hispanic Heritage Month
South Baker Intermediate celebrates the Latino culture in October

Sixth-grade classes at South Baker Intermediate School had special projects and presentations throughout October to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month and lead up to Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead).

Each Thursday featured a special assembly led by Ma'lena Wirth, ESL family liaison coordinator/interpreter-translator for the district.

On October 3, students saw a mock Quincenera, a traditional dance to celebrate when a girl turns 15.

"Traditionally, in the eyes of Latin American communities, the 15th birthday has marked the point of a girl’s maturity," Wirth said. "So, to celebrate this significant birthday, families throw elaborate birthday parties called quinceñas.

The advanced art class from Baker High School presented their art creations and spoke about the history of clay and paper mache on October 10.

The next week, on October 17, Wirth built a family ofrenda (an altar to honor loved ones who have passed away). Students also built ofrendas in their classrooms.

"These are things important to them. Not you — to them," Wirth said.

Parents modeled different types of dresses on October 24, and the final Thursday, October 31, featured a show about the Day of the Dead, food tasting of traditional Hispanic foods, a free book for all students titled "Family Pictures," and face painting in the traditional style of Dia de los Muertos.

The month-long celebration culminated on November 1 with a community Day of the Dead event at Baker High School. The evening featured a mariachi band, food samples, and portraits of local families.

Classroom ofrendas were on display, and everyone attending was invited to bring mementos to place on the community ofrenda.
Technology Talk
Navigating the world of phones, computers, and games

Technology is part of today's world — the Pew Research Center reports that 96% of Americans own a cellphone, 75% of adults own computers, and half have iPads or tablets. Navigating this world of constant communication is still fairly new for adults, yet today's youth are growing up in the world of technology. "It's our job as parents to monitor and manage it. We have to prepare kids — it's here to stay," said Heather Heriza, a licensed clinical social worker.

Heather's husband, Pat, is also a LCSW. Both contract with Baker School District as behavioral specialists. They've done research on technology use, especially when it comes to young children and teenagers.

Technology, as with life, comes with both the good and the bad.

Benefits include social connections, creativity, civic engagement, educational uses, and connecting families separated by geography.

Risks are: isolation, sleep disruption, depression, obesity, and cyberbullying.

The American Academy of Pediatrics suggests screen time limits for ages 6 and older: no more than 30 to 60 minutes per day on school days and 2 hours or less on non-school days. The time recommendation drops to less than an hour a day for those younger than 6.

The Child Mind Institute offers a wide range of articles related to technology, cell phones, and social media use. One story addresses the correlation between social media and depression, stating that "A 2017 study of over half a million eighth through 12th graders found that the number exhibiting high levels of depressive symptoms increased by 33 percent between 2010 and 2015. In the same period, the suicide rate for girls in that age group increased by 65 percent."

One reason, the research asserts, is that people, especially girls, compare themselves to photos of their peers — which oftentimes are altered using filters.

According to the Pew Research Center, 59% of U.S. teens have been bullied or harassed online. Cyberbullying is a term coined to describe bullying behaviors that happen through a text or online app.

The best thing parents can do to minimize the risks associated with technology is to curtail their own consumption first. It’s up to parents to set a good example of what healthy computer usage looks like. Most of us check our phones or our email too much, out of either real interest or nervous habit."

She goes on to suggest establishing technology-free zones in the house, and technology-free hours when everyone is off-line.

Effects
The long-term effects of screen time are still under study. In 2016, the National Institutes of Health launched the ABCD student (Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development) to track the brain health of nearly 12,000 youth over 10 years to ascertain the effect of screen time.

To learn more, visit abcd-study.org.

The Herizas offer this parting advice: "The short-term effects of unlimited access to technology are clear as described above and our challenge as individual users, both children and adults, is to utilize technology in positive ways that minimize the impacts on our social and emotional health."

"Our challenge as parents and teachers is to model healthy use of technology and to educate the youth to the good and bad of technology."

Modeling behavior
Children learn by example. In addition to helping children use technology in a responsible way, the Herizas encourage modeling appropriate use.

Dr. Catherine Steiner-Adair, a clinical psychologist and author, has studied family dynamics and technology. In an article titled "How Using Social Media Affects Teenagers," she recommends parents to put down their own phones.

She says, "Kids should be used to seeing our faces, not our heads bent over a screen."