

**For the Week of January 22nd through January 28th, 2017.**

**Coffee with the Principal – RESCHEDULED**

This Friday, January 27th, join Mr. Vega for coffee in Room 204 from 7:45am-9:00am. The focus will be Extended Learning Time and he will answer any questions related to what the school day will look like next year. Families are also welcome to bring questions/comments about other topics.

**New SPC/SSC Dates**

In response to feedback about alternating days of the week and in an effort to help more families involved in the School Site and Parent Councils, we have changed the remaining dates. As a result, not all dates between February and June will be on Wednesdays. We hope to see many new faces as a result of this change! The dates are as follows:

- Wednesday February 8th
- Monday March 6th
- Wednesday April 12th
- Thursday May 4th
- Monday June 12th

**Extra Room Next Year – Vote How to Use It!**

Due to a reduction in 4th grade homerooms next year, we will have an empty classrooms! While there are many ideas for how to best utilize this space to meet the needs of our students, we've narrowed down to some options. Please fill out [this survey](#) to vote for one of our ideas or share your own!

**Family Culture Night – February 16th!**

Mark your calendars for our next family event! On the evening of February 16th, we will open the Bates for a special family event focused on the rich diversity of cultures in our building. More details will follow. If you are interested in helping plan this event, please contact Nora Vincent, K1 Parents, at [nora.m.vincent@gmail.com](mailto:nora.m.vincent@gmail.com)

**Excellence For All Preview – January 24th, 2017**

On January 24th, from 10am-11am, we will hold our final school preview as part of school choice season. This time, we are also welcoming potential 4th grade families for a preview of [Excellence For All](#). If have a 3rd grader who was invited to the Advanced Work Class, Excellence For All is the current model at the Bates that is the curriculum for all 4th graders. We understand if you would like to explore traditional Advanced Work Class models elsewhere, but we hope you will join us for the preview to learn more about Excellence For All. All families, please share this information with your networks as any students in our network

who was invited to AWC is able to join the Bates for Excellence for All. You can also visit [this website](#) to see responses to questions parents had last year when we changed our program.

### **Classroom Treats/Snacks – NEW GUIDELINES**

In order to continue our efforts to [prevent the spread of winter illnesses](#), we will be implementing new guidelines for classroom snacks/treats.

Moving forward, any snacks or treats provided to classrooms must come in individual, pre-packaged packs that students can open on their own. This means we will no longer provide items like cupcakes or cookies for events (ex. birthdays) as they increase the risk of spreading illnesses. If a parent/guardian brings in snacks/treats that do not meet these guidelines, we will ask you to take them home or will dispose of them. We appreciate your cooperation as these guidelines are for the safety and health of our entire school community.

### **Extended Learning Time – 2017-2018**

Please see the [minutes](#) from the January School Site/Parent Council meeting for information about what the Bates's extended day will look like.

### **Weather and Outdoor Play**

As the weather begins to become cold, parents have questions about when we make the decision to go outside. You can refer to [this graph](#) that we use to inform the decision. That being said, please make sure your child comes to school with warm clothing and outerwear. There is no need to call the office to remind us about individual students; teachers are very diligent in making sure all students are dressed appropriately.

### **Fox Fund**

We are pleased to announce our annual giving fund, which we are calling the Fox Fund. These funds will support annual programs for students to alleviate some of the school budget resources. Our goal is to raise \$100 for every student. Click [here](#) to donate and share the link with your networks. We will also be sending home donation fliers.

### **Upcoming Dates**

January 27 – Coffee with the Principal

February 8 – School Site/Parent Council Meeting

February 16 – Family Culture Night

February 20-24 – NO SCHOOL – FEBRUARY BREAK

Our website is <https://thephineasbates.org/>.

Follow us on [Twitter](#) at @BatesSchoolBPS

“Like” our [Facebook Page](#)