

# Bulldog Bucks and Bones

## Peshtigo students earn rewards for good behavior

Special to the EagleHerald

PESHTIGO—Students at the Peshtigo Elementary Learning Center (PELC) have incentives for good behavior. PELC Assistant Principal John Bell said that staff use a behavior management system called Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS).

Bell explains that this is a research-based behavior program to “help teach and motivate all students in school.” He said that to help students improve their behavior, praise and incentives are far more powerful than punishment. “The emphasis is kept on the positive, as research has shown it to be more effective in creating positive behavioral change,” he said. “We know we have a better chance of gaining academic success if our environment is fun, warm and welcoming where students feel valued and appreciated as individuals.”

Bell has a system for elementary students in place to reward desirable, positive behaviors. Staff members have been trained on what the positive desired behaviors are. Students are taught expected behaviors for situations they face in the school day and teachers and all support staff have clear expectations from students for every setting whether they're on the bus, in the hallway, in a classroom or on the playground.

Individual students can earn Bulldog Bucks by carrying out desired behaviors. “The emphasis is on pre-teaching and reteaching desired behaviors, and using motivators to help students see



Peshtigo sixth-grade students enjoy game time with teacher Loretta Rich.

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the value of their own positive choices,” Bell said, adding that, we want students to learn to “be a positive influence upon their own environment and community.”

Teachers include tangible and intangible rewards that students can spend their Bulldog Bucks on. For some students, tangible incentives like pencils, novelty erasers, fidgets, squishy toys or candy, Bell explains, are highly desired. For others, intangible rewards have more meaning. Eating lunch with your teacher,

reading a book to a younger sibling's class, or reading a joke on announcements are rewards that students purchase with Bulldog Bucks.

“I've really enjoyed getting to know some older students who've chosen to shoot hoops with me on Friday afternoons,” Bell said, “It's about building relationships.”

Each classroom earns a Bulldog Bone when students from the class have earned 100 Bulldog Bucks. Centrally located within the school there is a

bulletin board where all the Bulldog Bones earned from all classes are displayed. Classroom celebrations could be a pajama day, hat day, an extra recess at Badger Park, or anything the classroom teacher chooses.

School wide celebrations are held regularly when a sufficient number of Bulldog Bones are accumulated. The PBIS team determines the school-wide reward. Bell explains that the schoolwide celebrations are usually about once per quarter. “Dress-up days as well as board

and card game time are sometimes chosen. Just before spring break, the entire school played bingo and students were able to watch a movie,” he said.

Besides the Bulldog Bucks and Bulldog Bones programming, students are recognized in other ways, too. Monthly, students can be recognized by earning “Bus Riders of the Month” awards. “I work with the bussing director, Lucy Coble, who nominates students who've been exemplary bus riders,” Bell said.

Monthly “Character Trait” awards are coordinated by guidance counselor Katie Seidler. Another PELC award students can earn is the “Wonderfully Outstanding Work” (WOW), BOW-WOW award. Teachers acknowledge students who've demonstrated academic perseverance and commitment. Peshtigo's behavior plan is multi-layered and multidimensional.

All of these behavior recognition programs help create a positive culture throughout the PELC. Much of the behavior planning is “aimed at basically spending a lot of time with students, which we know students crave. Spending time and building relationships with students is the most powerful thing we can do to make an impact on their educational experience,” Bell said. “Make no bones about it, students and staff at Peshtigo Elementary Learning Center are working hard to create a positive culture, by creating a framework of positive reinforcement.”

*Editor's note: This article was submitted by the Peshtigo School District.*

### FROM A1

## HISTORIC:

well. “The designation is on both sides of the river. Wisconsin has done their part,” he said.

Burie said Menominee County should still be included, but how the process plays out is uncertain.

State Historic Preservation Officers have the authority to nominate non-tribal properties to the National Register of Historic Places, according to Otie McKinley, media and communications manager at the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and Travel Michigan.

“All non-tribal nominations are reviewed by the staff of the State Historic Preservation Office and the State Historic Preservation

Review Board before they are formally nominated by the State Historic Preservation Officer,” he said. “Although the nomination was prepared by parties in Wisconsin, both states must jointly nominate the property.” The board is scheduled to meet in May, but it's not certain whether the nomination will be on the agenda.

If Michigan declines to formally nominate the area, whether Wisconsin's nomination could stand on its own is unclear.

The EagleHerald contacted David Grignon, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer at the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin in Keshena, but he referred the reporter to Ron Corn, chairman of the

Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, who wasn't available for comment.

Girgnon and Corn's names appear on the Sept. 20, 2021, application form, along with David Overstreet, a consultant to the Menominee Tribe, and John Broihahn, a retired state archaeologist with the Wisconsin Historical Society.

The application seeking national historic recognition was submitted because the area's Native American ethnic heritage, religion and archaeology are considered historically significant.

The nominated area, which includes Lake and Holmes townships in Michigan and Wausaukee and Amberg in Wisconsin,

is six miles of the Menominee River south of the Chalk Hill Dam, “generally from County Trunk K on the north to the confluence of the Menominee River and the Pike River on the south, and extending back 500 meters from the banks on either side of the Menominee River to the east and west.”

The area's natural beauty is emphasized. “The shores along the Menominee River are pristine, having remained largely undeveloped, providing a landscape of exceptional beauty and natural integrity. As the river flows south, it splits and turns, creating islands in the river that are

tree covered and pristine. The islands within the district are enhanced by the impoundment created by the dam at White Rapids,” the application said.

Archaeological sites, where indigenous communities lived as early as 8,000 B.C., also have been found in the nominated area. The 3,177 acres of “property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history,” according to the application.

Some remnants of raised fields used for gardening are the last of their kind in Michigan, the application said. Maize, or corn, might

have been cultivated there as early as A.D. 800 and the crop was well established by A.D. 1410, the document said. The area also was home to historic trading posts in the 1850s.

More recently, as the area transitioned to vacation homes, retirement residences and public campgrounds, “the new construction does not contribute to the significance of the district,” the application said. Residential development, roads and pine plantations destroyed some raised garden beds and archaeological and cultural sites. The historic designation is designed to preserve the area.



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