

BEALS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
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Christopher Crowley, Principal

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Dear Families,

In celebration of National Literacy Day and in honor of Grandparents' Day on Sunday, the 10th, we will be hosting our annual school picnic on Friday, September 8th, beginning at 11:30.

As we have done the past few years, we invite any grandparents, aunts, uncles, and friends to join us. Bring your picnic lunch, a blanket, or lawn chair and enjoy. If the weather doesn't cooperate, the gym is a great place to gather to eat and visit.

To tie our picnic to National Literacy Day, I would like to have this event be our "Kick-Off" event to raise funds for Island Readers and Writers. Presently this organization helps 13 Washington County schools. Every student they work with participates in an interactive author visit and receives a signed copy of the book his or her school is working with. The author visit days are magical for the students, giving them a chance to share projects they have been working on as well as engage in author led writers' workshops. IRW's slogan, "Broadening, Deepening, and Enriching children's lives through reading" is very accurate. If you happen to visit our school as the students are preparing for an author visit, you will find excited students and teachers as well as numerous projects connected to the book. Many projects may be arts/humanities related; very often they are history or ELA related, and some are science and math related. These multi-faceted experiences ensure that connections are being made, deepening our students' understanding.

Island Readers and Writers is currently trying to reach a goal of raising \$25,000 to help secure the Challenge Grant for Washington County. Currently they have raised \$18,000, leaving them only \$7,000 short of the goal. Securing this grant would mean that the students in the 13 schools that they work with in Washington County would be ensured further programming; with Beals Elementary being one of them.

Please bring loose change or any other donation to the picnic. We will have a special container to collect the donations in that day. Following the kick-off event, students will donate their Friday hat money to IRW throughout the remainder of September and October.

School lunch will be offered, and students are free to take their trays outside to join their family members.

Thank you for your support. We look forward to seeing you at our annual family picnic on the 8th!

Sincerely,
Chris Crowley
Principal
Beals Elementary School

Vision Statement

At Beals Elementary School, our goal is to create an environment that fosters a love of learning. Through collaboration, hard work, creativity, and fun, every student will achieve his or her full potential.