Bridgman Elementary School

November 2026

The Annual BES Fun Run was a huge success! Our students raised over $20,000 and earned the entire school a Hoopla Yogurt party. This year's funds will be spent on a new rock-climbing wall in the gym, outside recess toys, field trips, teacher requests and schoolwide activities. The High School Cross Country members led the students through exercises and ran along the students. This was both encouraging and motivating to the students.

The Acorn Theater: Fourth-grade students were treated to a fantastic experience at the Acorn Theater on Wednesday, November 11! During the visit, students learned about the jazz great John Coltrane and participated in a fun art activity where they designed their own album covers. It was a wonderful opportunity for students to learn about an influential jazz musician while expressing their creativity.

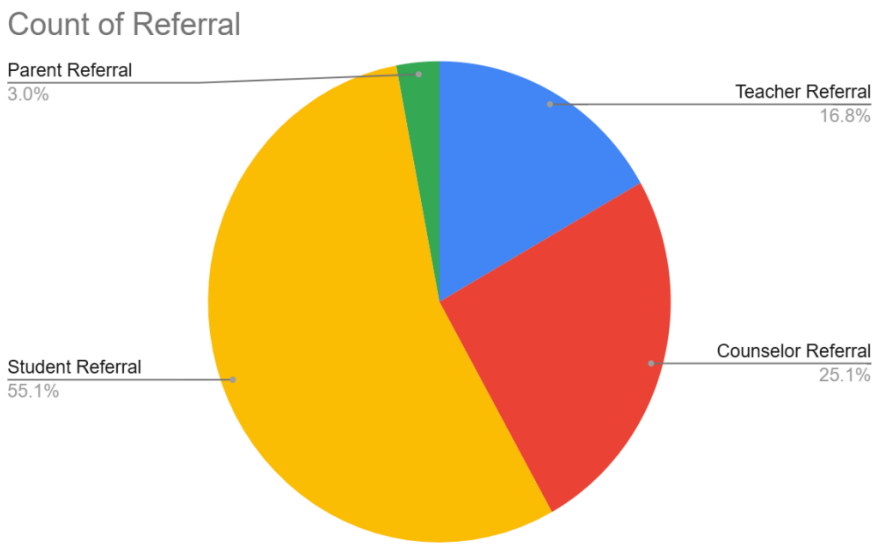
UFLI Training: In October, nine teachers were trained on the phonics program UFLI. UFLI Foundations is an explicit, systematic phonics program developed by the University of Florida Literacy Institute (UFLI). It is grounded in the science of reading and designed to teach young and struggling readers the foundational skills required for accurate word reading and spelling.

- All Pro5 through third grade teachers have been trained in UFLI.
- UFLI is an approved reading program for PA 26.

The Bee Market Food Pantry is now open twice a week for families to come in and discreetly shop for their needs. We are thankful to RMS and BHS for holding food drives to resupply the pantry with much needed items. The pantry will also be open during the Holiday Meal pick-up times in order for families to get items before the break.

Counseling News from Abby Doig

This month, our character trait is Responsibility. For the younger grades, this includes lessons on strong listening and following directions. The upper grades are focusing on organization and time management. Toys for Tots forms have all been turned in, and we have received over 40 forms to provide families with toys. Each family will also receive a Christmas meal provided by Bridgman Cares. From the beginning of the year, with the help of my referral system, I have met with students 167 times based on teacher, parent, student, or counselor referral for a variety of reasons. Below is the disaggregated data based on referral type.



Social Work News from Caitlynn Jean

The social work department has been working on rolling out our Blessings in a Backpack, Toys for Tots and Holiday meals. I have started a PhD program and am taking a Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) course, so I will be able to better help our students. The mental health team at BES has attended several of the Bridgman Cares meetings to advocate for the needs of our students.

BEE Keeper News from Jillian Klunder

During November, the Beekeepers worked on creating their first bulletin board of the year. Their goal was to bring more joy to the hallways of BES, so we made a bulletin board of thanks for all staff member faces on pictures of turkey bodies. This was placed in the main lobby area of the school, and since it first went up last week, I have heard students and teachers share stories about comments made and smiles shared over the funny November themed bulletin board. Way to go 3rd & 4th grade leaders on bringing the JOY! We have also been brainstorming ideas for an all-school assembly to celebrate Bridgman Elementary's birthday, as well as, the Blue Ribbon Award. Next up on our to-do list is planning for our annual Cookies & Carols event that will be run the last week of school during December and a possible food drive for our school's food pantry!

