

Briggs At Large

The Voice of the John R. Briggs Elementary School
"Educating for Success, Now and in the Future"

May 14, 2009
Volume 27, Issue 16

John R. Briggs Elementary: 978-827-5750

MAY

- 11 - 28 MCAS
- 14 PTA Meeting
- 16 Animal Adventures
- 21 School Council
- 25 Memorial Day
- 28 Fine Arts Night

JUNE

- 3 PTA Meeting
- 4 Solo-Duet
- 5 Early Release 12:00 p.m.
- 9 Pre-School & K Puppet show, 1:30
- 10 Overlook MS Gr. 5 Parent Night
- 15 Field Day, K-2
- 16 Field Day, Gr. 3-5
- 18 & 22 Rain dates For Field day
- 24 Last Day of Class Early Release, 12:00



LIVE ANIMALS
Saturday
May 16, 2009
10:30 a.m.
J. R. Briggs
Free Program

Funded by a grant from the Massachusetts Dept. of Early Education & Care.

Fine Arts Night, May 28th

J. R. B. Summer Academy

The John R. Briggs School will be running a Summer Academy program for eligible students currently in first, second, third and fourth grade. A student's eligibility is determined by previous MCAS scores and/or teacher recommendation. If your child is recommended for this program you will receive an enrollment letter. The main focus of this program is to support and review the grade level Language Arts and Math skills that were addressed throughout the year. The Briggs Summer Academy will run from **July 7th-July 31st on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.** This is a wonderful opportunity for your child to benefit from additional academic support in a small classroom setting so please consider enrolling your child if you received an informational packet about the Briggs Summer Academy.



Mark your calendars **FINE ARTS NIGHT**

**Thurs. May 28
6:00-8:00 p.m.**

All friends and families are invited to come see and hear our students artistic and musical accomplishments!

ART SHOW VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you are available for an hour or two during the morning of Wed. May 27 for Art Show set up your help would be greatly appreciated. Contact Mrs. Richard at mrichard@awrsd.org or call the school and leave a message 978-827-5750.

Thank You

An Invitation for 5th Grade Parents

The Overlook PTO invites the parents of 5th Graders to attend our final meeting of the 2008-2009 school year. Please visit us on Wednesday, May 27th at 7:00 PM in the Overlook School Library, and hear about the events the PTO has helped and supported this year. If anyone is interested in a 1-year position on the executive board please contact Gail Dumont at 978 827-5619 or Linda Barrows at 978 874-7933.



Briggs' Running Club

Are you joining the JRB running club with Mr. Berg? The Running Club will meet Wednesday and Friday mornings from 7:45 am – 8:15 am, starting May 8th, for students in grades 3 – 5.

Students should be dressed appropriately; sweatshirts, and sweatpants on cool mornings. Sneakers are a must.

The Running Club will meet on the 4th/5th grade field at 7:45 am for check-in. Parents are welcome to volunteer and get in a little physical activity to start their day, too.

12th Annual ORHS Booster Club Golf Tournament

**Mon., June 29th
Westminster Country
Club**

**Support Our Student
Athletes**

Heather Billinas, 874-5900

MCAS Corner
Grades 3 – 5
May 11 – May 28

Try this one...
ELA Grade 5:

Read the sentence from paragraph 10 (below).

Fielder plans each trip with great care and love, and scouts out each location so that he can always take his best shots.

In the sentence, which part of speech is the word **scouts**?

- A. adjective
- B. adverb
- C. noun
- D. verb

Answer to last issue's BAL MCAS question:

c. 68,052

Do You Have Time?

Researchers have been surprised to learn that, when asked if they wanted more time or money, most people answered, "More time". How can busy parents find the time to help their children succeed in school?

Here are some ways you can get control of your time:

- Use time in the car with your child to squeeze in a little more learning.
- Set priorities...order a pizza and read a book!
- Spend 1-on-1 time. Quality and quantity!
- When is your child's "prime time" for studying?

MUSIC News

BAND REHEARSELS: **Beginner Band** rehearsals are held on **Thursday afternoons** during the school day, and **Concert Band** rehearsals are now held on **Friday afternoons**. **PLEASE** make sure your child has his/her instrument for rehearsals. **Solo-Duet-June 4th – JRB Cafetorium**

Chorus.... Rehearsals are back to regularly scheduled **Tuesday afternoons;** after school.

Placement for 2009-2010

We are now accepting parental letters regarding their child's learning style, emotional needs, and academic strengths and weaknesses for us to take into consideration as we begin to discuss the placement process for the 2009-2010 school year. Due to potential reductions, many of our grade levels will look very different (number of sessions as well as teacher assignments). If you have information you wish to share regarding your child's needs, please submit a letter to the attention of Mrs. Wright prior to May 29th. Again, we remind you that this is not a time to select your child's teacher as requests for a specific teacher will be returned to you. We want to know the environment in which you feel your child will thrive, so we can share this information with your child's next teacher.

At this time, we are unable to ensure the continuation of looping classrooms at the John R. Briggs Elementary School. If looping continues, and your child is placed in a looping classroom you will be notified at the beginning of the school year by your child's teacher. At the end of the year, you will have the option of removing your child from the loop.

PTA News... Staff Appreciation Day June 10th

It's that time of year again when we would like to thank the teachers and staff for all of their hard work and dedication for making J. R. Briggs Elementary School a great place for our children. This year we are showing our appreciation with a luncheon and we are asking for donations of lunch and dessert foods. Please contact Francine Carrigan at 978-827-5312 or fran.carrigan@verizon.net.

News from 5th Grade

Congratulations are in order...we have poets in our midst. The 5th graders recently entered the annual Mass. Poetry Science Contest sponsored by Boston College. Poems written by 35 fifth grade students were submitted to the contest in April. Students were required to write non-fiction science poetry and were placed in a variety of categories; such as Most Humorous, Most Original, Best Long Poem, and Most Expressive. Children wrote pattern or free verse poems and were also required to illustrate their original poetry.

*We are please to announce that two students from JRB were named as winners; Abby won 1st place in the Best Long Poem category (**I am a Tree**) and Connor was*

*awarded 2nd place in the Most Expressive Poem category (**Lava**).*

This is an outstanding feat; due to the high number of entries that are submitted by Massachusetts' students each year.

Congratulation to all the fifth graders who participated!

News from Speech and Language

This summer the Language Based Summer School Program will meet for four weeks on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday mornings. The theme for this summer is **Growing Green**. The students will be involved with planting and maintaining a garden out in the front of the school. A composter has been purchased for the school through the generosity of the Ashburnham Conservation Commission and we are looking forward to begin composting here at school while school is still in session. Watch our garden grow this summer and see what we will harvest this fall.

