

Briggs At Large

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

October 1, 2008
Volume 27, Issue 3

John R. Briggs Elementary: 978-827-5750

OCTOBER

4 Fall Festival
8 PD Day 12:00 pm
13 Columbus Day
15 PTA Meeting
16 School Council
31 Trick or Treat

DISCOUNT CARDS

Please help support our JRB Enrichment Fund and also support many of our local businesses. We have JRB Discount Cards available, \$10 at the JRB Office. Cards are good for one year and can be used over and over!!! If we sell 500 cards, our school will Earn \$250!!!

NOTE PADS

Do you have one of our handy note pads?

We offer tear-off note pads - \$2.00 each to assist with home-school communication. These are a handy way to send notes to school! Check them out in our office.

GFA Banking

In-school banking for students, K-5 will begin October 1st. Start saving early!

JRB Fall Festival - Saturday

Cafeteria Policy

**Important information*

Please understand how difficult it is for school districts to deal with excessive lunch charges for your child. Rising food costs have put a strain on our budget. The AWRSD Food Service Policy only allows for students to charge two meals; after which the students will be given a designated menu alternate. We will be **enforcing this policy as of October 1, 2008.** Please be sure to rectify your cafeteria account as soon as possible to minimize disruptions to your child's lunchroom experience. Lunch records are confidential, if you have any questions or wish to apply for assistance please contact, Dennis Mueller at 978-827-5907, ext. 6126.

5th Grade News

*Neat and complete...
Deadlines...
Responsibility...
Projects...
Switching classes....*

These are all words and phrases you may be hearing from your 5th grade students. As we enter our fifth week of school, daily schedules and homework schedules are in full swing. We are here to encourage your child's great work habits. Homework is an important part of your child's education and as a wise person once said, "...parents are a child's first and best teachers." So as fifth grade teachers we are asking you to support your child in their nightly homework assignments as well as long range homework assignments. Children

are also required to study for tests and quizzes. It is important that work is both neat and complete for all of your child's teachers. As you know, your child switches classrooms each day and it is his/her responsibility to turn in their assignments on time to all teachers. Lastly, just a reminder that all fifth graders should be reading for at least 20 minutes a night. Thank you for your continued support.

5th Grade Teachers

Save the Date

**October 4th
Family Fall Festival**
9:00 am – 3:00 pm
JRB Grounds/School
**Fun....FOR
ALL!!!**

MCAS Corner
Grades 3 – 5
March 30 – Apr. 15
May 11 – May 28

Try this one...

Grade 4 - ELA

Read the words from the article in the box below.

runway
headphones
honeycomb
takeoff

Which of the following statements is true about the words in the box?

- A. They are adjectives.
- B. They are contractions.
- C. They are proper nouns.
- D. They are compound words.

We need your support at home. Letting your child know that school and homework are important to you is vital to your child's success. Homework builds self-discipline, planning, organization, and responsibility. Set up a nightly homework routine and show you have an interest in your child's school work.

MUSIC News

Band has begun. Band rehearsals are held on **Thursday afternoons** during the school day. **PLEASE** make sure your child has their instrument for rehearsals.

Chorus.... Rehearsals; Tuesdays after school, students **MUST** have a signed permission form.

Counselor's Corner

School Adjustment Counselor

Welcome back to school! By now the students and staff are in full swing and many exciting things are happening at JRB! Mrs. Ann Murphy and I have accepted the responsibility of co-facilitating the fifth grade student council this year. The September group which consists of twelve students, worked diligently to complete the *Who's New at JRB?* Project. Council members interviewed twenty seven new student and staff members, and "introduced" them via project display in front of the library. If you missed the creative display and interesting tidbits about our new community members during Open House, please stop by and check it out!

Some student council responsibilities include raising and lowering the flag daily, photographing interesting/exciting events around the school, weekly recycling assignments, as well as taking part in many other fundraising and civic service duties throughout the year. Each fifth grade student will have an opportunity to take part in student council at some point during the year. Each group performs flag, recycling, and

photography responsibilities as well as works on a collective project that is chosen for the month in which they are assigned.

Be on the lookout for ways in which our fifth grade student council is involved in creating local and global change!

JRB Feasibility Plan

As you may be aware, the Selectmen, Advisory Board, and JRB Building Committee are moving forward with a debt exclusion vote on October 14th. To be better informed, we have planned a number of community tours of our school building:

Oct. 4th, throughout the day....stop in the lobby and ask!

Lost and Found

Once again, we have begun another school year with "lots" of lost items. They are on display in the lobby. Please take a peek.

Picture Retakes

If you missed picture day on Sept. 30th, have no fear...make up day is November 5, 2008.

Kinder-News

You Really Care!

Sometimes I bring home things in my hands,
A picture that I'd like to share.

And as I watch your eyes light up
I'll know you really care.

Sometimes I bring home things in my head,
A thought that I'd like to share.

And as you listen carefully,
I'll know you really care.

Sometimes I bring home things in my heart,
A feeling that I'd like to share.

And as you give me a gentle hug,
I'll know you really care.

Each day children bring home something special. Sometimes it will be something that they hold in their hands. Other days it will be new information that they have learned. On some days, they bring home things in their hearts. Maybe someone has spoken a kind word to them or just shared a big smile. These things cannot be seen, but they are just as real as anything that they might bring home in their hands.

So the next time you ask, "What did you do today?", please make sure your child knows that you are as interested in his thoughts and emotions as in anything he might have in his hands.

Author Unknown