

# Briggs At Large

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

November 13, 2008  
Volume 27, Issue 6

John R. Briggs Elementary: 978-827-5750

## NOVEMBER

13 School Council  
14 Picture Retakes  
21 Cookie Day  
24-25 Parent-Teacher  
Conferences  
Dismissal 12:00  
26 Early Release, 12:00  
27-28 Thanksgiving  
No School

### Important Date

Please note a change to the AWRSD School Calendar:

#### Early Release

**June 5, 2009**

**NOT**

**May, 29, 2009**

### HELP WANTED!

**Book Fair  
Volunteers  
Needed**

**Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup>  
Any time, 1-7:30 pm**

Contact:

Mrs. Pineseault  
978-827-1410

#### After Hours

Please enter through  
Extended Day after  
3:30 pm.

## Town Meeting- Nov, 13<sup>th</sup> ORHS

### Third Grade News

Transitioning from second to third grade wasn't too painful, but it's been busy! Students have been practicing new classroom routines and procedures, learning third grade standards and expectations, and meeting new friends.

We have finished studying the life cycle of the Monarch Butterfly, one of our Science standards, and the students have written books about what they learned to read to the younger grades.

In Math we are studying the properties of addition and subtraction. It would be very helpful if you practiced addition and subtraction fast facts with your child. There are computer games on the Briggs web site and flash cards can be made or purchased inexpensively.

We're continuing with our writing program that uses six-trait instruction and monthly assessment

of the students' learning. Last month we taught how to generate ideas and conventions used in writing: capital letters at the beginning of sentences, proper nouns, and punctuation at the end of sentences. Now the students are learning how to organize their writing (beginning, middle, end) and how to make more interesting word choices. Once again the Ashburnham Westminster Rotary Club generously donated a brand new children's dictionary to every student in third grade. They are a great resource for the students to use in their writing and we're very fortunate to have their support.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade went on a field trip to the Harvard Forest Museum in Petersham, Massachusetts. The students saw the

collection of historical dioramas that show how the natural landscape of New England has changed over the last 300 years. They also went on a short hike through the site of an old farm on the property.

We've had a terrific beginning and look forward to a wonderful school year ahead!

### AABL 09 Season

- Registration Days:  
Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> – OMS  
Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> – OMS  
9:00 am–12:00 pm
- Download  
Registration Form  
[www.aabl.info](http://www.aabl.info)
- Deadline:  
11/26/08
- Mandatory Tryouts  
4<sup>th</sup> Gr. – 12/2, 6pm  
5<sup>th</sup> Gr. – 12/2, 7pm
- Gr. 1 – 3: Juniors  
Notification mid  
December

### GFA Banking

In-school banking for students, K-5 began October 1<sup>st</sup>. Start saving early!

### 3-D Gingerbread Structure Fundraiser

**\$2.00 per person/per entry**

**Monday, December 8, 2008**

**See flyer...No kits, please**

\* Support the Rachel Lee Memorial Fund

## MCAS Corner

Grades 3 – 5

March 30 – Apr. 15

May 11 – May 28

### Try this one...

#### 3rd Grade Math

When Stella got on the bus, she counted all the children on the bus.

At the next stop, 6 children got off the bus.

The number sentence below shows how many children were still on the bus.

$$\underline{\quad} - 6 = 4$$

How many children were on the bus when Stella got on it?

A 2

B 3

C 10

D 11

Answer to last issue's BAL MCAS question:

#### JRB Telephone #s

Having trouble getting through to our office?

Our roll-over is not working...try:

**978-827-1410**

**978-827-1412**

**978-827-1420**

## 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.

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

### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade News

Your 5<sup>th</sup> grader has been working on his/her writing skills using *The Six Traits of Writing* program. Each month your child is developing a written piece with a focus on a given topic and using a specific trait. For example, in the month of September your 5<sup>th</sup> grader used the prompt...Nothing ever happens on my street... and focused on idea development. In

October, your child wrote a first person diary account focusing on the traits of idea and voice. In November, they will continue with ideas and voice in the form of an invitational letter. In addition to ideas and voice, your child will be working on organization, word choice, sentence fluency, and conventions in the months to come. The accumulation of these traits will result in a more substantial writing style. *The Six Traits* is a writing program that has been adopted at J.R. Briggs in all grade levels.

We are excited to be working with such a cohesive program. Ask your child about his/her writing.

**Thank you,  
The 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Team**

### Kindergarten News

During the week of Thanksgiving, the Kindergarten classes will have their traditional Thanksgiving Feast on Wednesday morning. We will have some of the foods that may have been shared on the first Thanksgiving. Parents are being asked to send in the foods and supplies. The children will prepare for the feast by reading stories about the first Thanksgiving and making Pilgrim hats and Native American headbands.

### PTA Volunteers Wanted

The JRB PTA is looking for volunteers to sell tickets for the Grade Level Gift Baskets at the following events: Parent-Teacher conferences, Bring a Loved One to Lunch, and The Holiday Concert. Please contact Michelle Nevala at 978-827-4902 or Jen Sibley at 978-827-4432.

Thank you

### Lost and Found

Have you seen our collection in the lobby? Stop in...tons of clothing items are on display!

### Picture Retakes

#### DATE CHANGE:

If you missed picture day on Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>, have no fear...make up day is November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008

### Attendance!!!

Daily attendance is vitally important to your child's academic success.

Here's how you can improve your child's school attendance:

- Talk with your child about the importance of attending school regularly.
- Avoid scheduling family trips and appointments during school hours.
- Make sure your child stays healthy by eating nutritious food and getting enough sleep and exercise.
- Avoid being tardy or early dismissals.
- Discuss with your child what happened at school each day...do not accept "nothing"
- Lead by example.
- Discuss why school is important.