

Briggs At Large

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

September 18, 2008
Volume 27, Issue 2

John R. Briggs Elementary: 978-827-5750

SEPTEMBER

18 School Council
30 Picture Day

OCTOBER

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

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!

ARE YOU COMING TO THE JRB FALL FESTIVAL? – OCT. 4TH

Cafeteria Policy

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.

Parking Update

Please observe our newly painted fire lanes. To better protect our students the Ashburnham Fire Department is asking that we keep a reasonable fire lane around our school. Please do not park in this area. Remember parent parking is located in our upper wing playground (left side facing the school). Please do not stop in the crosswalk area, keep our students safe by using the sidewalk. If you are parked inappropriately, you may receive a friendly reminder on your car.

Extended Day

Our Extended Day Program offers child care 6:30 am – 6:00 pm throughout the school year. Please call, 978-827-4701.

Dismissal

To ensure that all of our students arrive safely to their after school destination, we have a staggered dismissal time:

***2:50 p.m. (approx)**

Parent Pickup
Extended Day

*** 2:55 – 3:10 p.m.**

Bus Dismissal

**Early Release Days:
12:00 p.m.**

Save the Date

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

News from the Cafeteria...

Chartwell's Food Service offers a varied, exciting lunch menu with many healthy choices. Please be sure to review the monthly menu with your child to ensure an appropriate lunch selection. Lunches may be pre-paid at \$2.50 per lunch, you determine the number of days you wish to have on account. Milk price - \$.50

Menu online...www.awrsd.org.

Make checks payable to JRB Café.

MCAS Corner

MCAS is the state assessment system of learning standards in our curriculum.

What is tested on MCAS?

The MCAS tests are based on the learning standards in the [Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks](#). MCAS tests are administered in the following content areas:

- English Language Arts
- Mathematics
Science and Technology/Engineer.
- History and Social Science

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

Try this one... QUESTION - Grade 5

Which of the following is equivalent to $1\frac{1}{2}$?

A. $\frac{8}{4}$

B. $\frac{6}{4}$

C. $\frac{5}{4}$

D. $\frac{3}{4}$

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. Mr. Tree has scheduled an instrument rental evening, Thursday, September 24th, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. for those students interested in instrumental lessons; grades 3 – 5. This will be an opportunity to acquire an instrument as well as discuss the band program with Mr. Tree.

Chorus....Starts Tuesday: Sept. 23rd. Rehearsals will be Tuesdays after school, students **MUST** have a signed permission form.

Meet Ms. Moriarty

Let me take this opportunity to just introduce myself. My name is Cheryl Moriarty- the kids call me Miss M. I am a native of Haverhill, MA and a graduate of Haverhill High School. I obtained my degree from Bridgewater State College with a Bachelors in Elementary Education and a Bachelors in Music. Currently, I am writing my Masters Thesis at Salem State College for my Masters of Education degree. I began my teaching career at Penn Brook School (grades 2-5) in Georgetown, MA in 2003, starting as the Computer Lab Assistant, transforming a storage room into a full-functioning computer lab. The next year I was the Clerk Librarian and Computer Lab Assistant. Finally, I became a classroom teacher and taught fifth grade for two years. This year will be my third year teaching third grade. (That's got to be lucky, right?!) I recently bought a house with my fiancé in Worcester and that brought me to Ashburnham-Westminster!

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:

Sept. 17, 6:00 – 7:00

Oct. 1, 3:30 – 4:30

6:30 – 7:30

Please join us, if you wish to learn more about our school.

Brian's Road Race

4th annual **BRIAN'S GIFT ROAD RACE** in honor of Brian Simmons, a former Briggs student who was killed by a drunk driver. Walkers and runners welcome. Sept 27; registration and activities begin at 9am. Face Painting, Kids Games, auctions, yard sale, raffle, food, DJ. Proceeds benefit the Wm J Bresnahan Scouting and Community Center. Come join the fun and help support this worthy community project. For more info visit www.briansgiftroadrace.com or call George & Judy Simmons at 978-827-4714.

How can you help at home?

Our students need to know that school is important to you. Have you set appropriate priorities for your child? Is school valued? Do you speak positively about school? Have you made a connection with your child's teacher? These are all tips that help to bridge communication between home and school.

Students need to know that attendance is important to you and the school. We highly encourage parents to schedule doctor and dental appointments beyond the school day, as well as vacations during scheduled AWRSD vacation periods. School time is valuable learning time, and it is difficult for your child to make up lost classroom instruction. Please do your best to ensure that your child enters school knowing this is "their job" and they are valued "employees".