

# Briggs At Large

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

March 4, 2010  
Volume 28, Issue 12

John R. Briggs Elementary: 978-827-5750

## 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.**

## **Before School Drop-Off**

School drop off time is 8:20 a.m. Please do not leave your children unattended in the lobby. We do not have staff available until 8:20. If arriving early, an adult must remain with the student or they should be enrolled in the Extended Day Program.

## **LOST & FOUND**

Please check out the new collection!! Items are donated to charity periodically throughout the year.

## **VISITORS**

**ALL** visitors to our school must sign in at the school office. Please state the nature of your visit. Student items should be left with the office staff.

## **MCAS News**

**There are things that parents can do to prepare for the MCAS:**

- Make sure your child gets enough sleep, eats properly, and gets to school on time. During test time, make this a special effort.
- Encourage your child to READ, READ, READ. Even the math portion of the MCAS uses word problems to test problem-solving ability.
- Write test dates on your home calendar.
- Praise your child for working hard and for the things they do well.
- Set times each day for study and homework.
- Ask about homework every day, and check to see that it is completed.
- Give your child a quiet, well-lit, comfortable place to study.

**On the day of the test parents can:**

- Make sure that your child is well rested and eats breakfast.
- See that your child arrives at school on time and is relaxed. We start testing at 8:45 a.m.
- Comfort counts. Send a sweater if it's a cool day. Dress in layers for a warm day.
- Encourage your child to do the best work possible and to have a positive attitude.
- Remind your child not to get stuck on any one item.
- Encourage your child to check answers for accuracy.

## **Health Advisory Meeting**

**March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

**May 12, 2010**

**3:30 p.m.**

## **Meetinghouse School Library**

**Everyone is invited to attend!**

We are currently working on a brochure with community services, youth risk behavior survey results, and programs to promote food service issues/concerns and more...

Please RSVP to Marcia Sharkey.

[msharkey@awrsd.org](mailto:msharkey@awrsd.org)

## **Kindergarten Orientation**

**April 27<sup>th</sup>**

**9:00 a.m.**

Kindergarten Registration Packets available in school office. Tell your friends and neighbors!

**This year's present**

**Kindergarten will NOT be in session on April 27<sup>th</sup>.**

## **Briggs Volunteers**

We wanted to take a moment to thank all the dedicated volunteers at Briggs for the support they provide to our staff and students! "Things won are done; Joy's soul lies in the doing." Shakespeare

## **MARCH**

- **5 PTA Dance**
- **10-11 P. T. Conf.**
- **18 PTA Meeting**
- **19 Spring Pictures**
- **25 School Council**

**March 22 – April 8**

**MCAS Testing, Gr. 3-5**

**MCAS Corner**  
**Grades 3 – 5**  
**March 22 – Apr. 12**  
**May 10 – May 27**  
**Long Composition**  
**Grade 4–March 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

To better prepare our students for the ELA Spring MCAS, we are offering MCAS Boot Camp; (March 9<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>) for students in grades 3 – 5. Each grade level will have three small group 30 minute academic sessions with a JRB staff member. Each session will focus on providing evidence from a reading passage to support your answer. So do not be surprised if your child tells you about their MCAS experience at Boot Camp.

**Dismissal Procedure**

Don't forget to call or write a note if your child will be dismissed early. State the time of the dismissal as well as who will be picking up your child.

**Absence Calls**

Please remember to call (978) 827-5750 if your child will be absent. Thank you to all who have been making these calls.

**MUSIC News**

**Band rehearsals** are held on **Thursday afternoons for Beginner Band and Friday afternoons for Concert Band** during the school day. **PLEASE** make sure your child has their instrument for rehearsals. Phone calls for forgotten instruments are VERY disruptive to the day.

**Chorus rehearsals** 3:00-4:00 for interested students in Gr. 3 – 5.

**Ashburnham-Westminster Rotary Award**

Congratulations to Dr. Michael Zapantis. Dr. Zapantis will be honored at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Award Presentation to be held on March 24<sup>th</sup>. We wish to thank Mike for his contributions to the Ashburnham-Westminster Regional School District and his service to our two communities. Tickets available, contact Mrs. Wright at JRB.

**Busy Time of the Year**

Spring tends to be a very busy and exciting time of the year at the J. R. Briggs School. Please be sure to mark your calendar with all of the events that may affect you or your family. Here are just a few:

- PTA Dance
- Spring Pictures
- Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Field Trips
- MCAS Testing
- CHIPS
- Kindergarten Orientation
- Nature's Classroom
- Walk to School
- Bike Safety
- Fine Arts Night
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade transition to Overlook
- Presently our last day of school is June 17<sup>th</sup> (2 snow days).
- Stay tuned for more information

**Snow Removal**

Many days we must conduct snow removal after traffic has entered the school grounds. It would be VERY helpful if you and your child could avoid areas requiring plowing to allow the snow plow, snow blower, and shoveling activities to take place. Please just drop off and move off of school grounds as quickly as possible to allow these activities to occur in a timely, efficient manner.

**Kindergarten Registration**

The Kindergarten Orientation program is planned for April 27<sup>th</sup>. Registration packets may be picked up at the Briggs Elementary School Office on school days between 7:30 am and 3:30 pm. Parents/Guardians of children who will be entering Kindergarten this fall are encouraged to call the Briggs School Office (827-5750) to assure that their child is included on the list of incoming kindergarten students. Students must be age 5, prior to August 31, 2010.

**The Pottery Projects at Briggs**

Each year from grade 1-5 Art students have the opportunity to create with clay. Student's hand building skills develop each year as the projects increase in difficulty. In first grade students learn a simple technique, the pinch method in the creation of their first container, a pinch pot. In grade two students shape and form a clay animal sculpture. Grade three students learn how to attach handles and make lids for their pots. Grade four students are learning coil construction which is building with snake-like coils to create a pleasing pottery form. The fifth graders work with the most difficult hand building technique which is called slab, a rolled out flat piece of clay. They make candle houses with cut out doors and windows and textural designs. All clay projects take at least six weeks to complete as the clay goes through many phases. After two weeks of drying out in the art room the pots are fired in our school's kiln, which heats the pottery to 1800 degrees. The pottery is then ready for glazing. Students select colors to use and the liquid glaze is painted onto the pottery. The pots are then fired for the second time to melt the glaze onto the pottery. Finally, the pottery creations are ready to go home and be enjoyed by our students!

**Mrs. Richard**  
**Art Teacher**

