

Briggs At Large

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

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FEBRUARY

7 School Council
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NO School
18 – 22 VACATION

No school – January 21 & 22

News from 3rd Grade

The third grade students and teachers would like to thank everyone that helped to make the Trim-A-Tree Party a great success! We had a great time making treats for all the critters that live in the back of our school. It's been fun watching all the different "visitors" that are coming for a nibble.

Mrs. Marro will be coming in soon to show us different animals that were around during the colonial days. We will also be discussing the habitats and adaptations of these animals.

All classes will be starting the Simple Machines unit and the Massachusetts Hall of Fame project. The MA Hall of Fame project involves the learning of computer, research and writing skills and culminates with a puppet created in Art.

Third Grade has also started working on our published books. This year all third grade students will be writing and illustrating their own book. These books are fun, but entail a lot of third grade thinking, and will take us until April to complete. When finished, each child will receive a copy of their work with a hardbound cover.

In math, we have started our multiplication unit. The students are learning multiplication concepts in the classroom. A key to success is to PRACTICE at home, in the car, in line at the store etc. Memorizing these facts will help with future math units that your child will be exposed to.

Have a Safe and Happy New Year!

Daily Attendance

As educators, we believe that attendance is one of the best predictors of success in school. Regular attendance and on-time arrival are essential to sequential learning and necessary for satisfactory student progress. Students improve academic performance with improved attendance. It is important to us that your child be punctual and attends school each day.

We understand the need for an occasional absence due to illness or a family obligation, but we depend upon you, as the parents, to ensure that your child attends school on a regular basis.

We will be notifying families individually if your child has higher than a 10% absentee rate. Please be aware this information becomes part of your child's cumulative record.

News from 4th Grade

Fourth grade teachers would like to remind parents that Mrs. Davis has compiled a list of sites for practicing math facts and word problems. To access these sites, follow the directions below.

1. Go to the Briggs website – awrsd.org/jrb
2. Click on "student resources" (flashing light bulb in menu on the right side of screen)
3. Scroll down to Grade 4

We hope that parents will use these resources with their children to help increase their math skills. In addition, ongoing practice of multiplication and division fast facts is essential to successful progress in the Grade 4 math curriculum.

Cell Phones

We collect used cell phones to benefit the Nature's Classrooms Scholarship Fund. We can only send the phone (no chargers, cases, etc.)

Collection box in the lobby

**Cookie Day
January 25
75 cents**

(after consuming lunch)

Thank you

We would like to thank all the families who brought goodies for the office this holiday season. We were overwhelmed by your thoughtfulness and kindness. We wish everyone a Happy, Healthy, New Year!

Lost & Found: the new collection has begun! Check the Lobby.

Winter Weather Dress

Winter has arrived, as well as the snow. Our policy; to play in the snow you **must** have snow pants and boots. Dressing in layers is always a good idea.

Sneakers/shoes are a **must** for inside!

HELP WANTED

If you are interested in being a recess/cafeteria substitute at JRB, please contact the office. Hours: 10:45 – 1:15. You must complete an application form and CORI form.

See Kathi for more details.

PTA Calendar

March Madness

Winners for Week#1

C. Uminski - \$145
K. Durham - \$20 GC
J. Vaillancourt - \$30 GC
R. St. Laurent - \$25 GC
E. Murphy - \$45 GC
R. Collette - \$45 GC

Read Across America

March 7th

Help us celebrate Dr. Seuss' Birthday.

More information coming soon...

MCAS Time

March 24 – April 4
Grades 3 – 5, ELA
May 12 – 29
Grades 3 – 5
Math
Science
Social St./History

More information coming soon

MUSIC News

BAND:

Beginner Band Rehearsal: Thursday, 1:50-2:30 p.m.

Concert Band Rehearsal: Friday, 1:50 – 2:30 p.m.

CHORUS:

All: Tuesdays, 3:00 – 4:00, Select Chorus: Tuesdays, 4:00 – 4:30

January Discipline Partnership Planner

Children who live in homes where discipline is firm, fair and consistent come to school eager to learn and achieve. Responsible and well-behaved, these students are a joy to have in class. Please peruse the following tips to help build our partnership.

Wipe the slate clean!

The period after the winter break is a great time to start over. Don't dwell on past actions – begin anew!

Review school rules

Remember, our school rules and policies are included in the JRB 07-08 calendar/handbook that was sent home in the fall. Take a moment to review them with your child.

Patience

Experts say it takes 21 days to learn a new habit. Be patient as you set new expectations.

Dinnertime Discussion

Eating together as a family is one of the best gifts you can give your children. Here is some meal time talk... *If you were getting seven gifts, would you want them all at once or one every day for a week. How might choosing the "one gift per day" option make a good experience even better.*

Progress Reports

This year parents can look forward to receiving two mid-term progress reports; January and March. These reports are a way to connect home and school between parent-teacher conferences. Success in school depends on many factors. We feel it is important to keep you informed of your child's progress before receiving the next report card. Teachers have developed this tool to meet the needs of their students and curriculum with developmentally appropriate standards.

After reviewing this progress report, please sign and return it to your child's teacher.

***Progress Reports Issued: January 18, 2008**

Return: prior to January 25, 2008

Reminder: No electronic devices should come to school, i.e. cell phones, ipods, Gameboys, dvd plays, mp3 players, and the list goes on. Keep them at home!

2008 Calendar

Please consider purchasing the JRB Electricity Calendar. Great Artwork!

Calendars on sale now...send \$4.00.

Profits from calendar sales will be donated to the J. R. Briggs P.T.A to benefit our Nature's Classroom Scholarship Fund.

Extended Day

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

Be prepared...

Please make contingency childcare plans with your child in case of an emergency school closing. We hope the Connect Call will assist you in making daycare plans for your child.

Author Visit...

February 29th
David Biedrzycki
JRB – Library

Check out...
www.davidbiedrzycki.com

- Learn about David
- Check out books written by David Biedrzycki