

Briggs At Large

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

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John R. Briggs Elementary: 978-827-5750

MAY

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JUNE

3 PTA Meeting
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5 Early Release

CONGRATULATIONS!

Ms. Tiffany Davis has been awarded the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Secretary's Award for excellence in Energy and Environmental Education.

Thank you, Ms. Davis



LIVE ANIMALS
Saturday
May 16, 2009
10:30 a.m.
J. R. Briggs
Free Program

Funded by a grant from the Massachusetts Dept. of early Education & Care.

Presently...

Walk to School, May 6th

News from Kindergarten *How Can I Help My Child with Speaking and Listening?*

- * Set aside 10-15 minutes to discuss what has happened during the day.
- * Involve your child in conversations, plans and discussions.
- * Ask and answer questions.
- * Provide a good listening model and avoid responding with "Mmm" or "Just a minute".
- * Encourage your child to share and talk about experiences with a range of people, e.g. peers, relatives, other adults.
- * Teach your child to use the telephone.
- * Ask your child to retell a story or explain a favorite section.
- * Read school newsletters together.
- * Play language games together, e.g. *I Spy*, rhyming words, locating signs along the road, telling jokes and riddles.
- * Make sure that mealtimes are talking times. Encourage all family members to participate

Elections

PTA & School Council

We are looking for letters of interest for positions for both the John R. Briggs PTA and School Council. The JRB- PTA will be accepting letters of interest for these positions until May 1, 2009. An election ballot will be sent home for your consideration. If you have questions or would like more position details, please contact Brenda Brown at 978-827-5492 or briebr@aol.com.

[Support your school.](#)

J. R. B. Summer Academy

The John R. Briggs School will be running a Summer Academy program for eligible students currently in first, second, third and fourth grade. A student's eligibility is determined by previous MCAS scores and/or teacher recommendation. If your child is recommended for this program you will receive an enrollment letter. The main focus of this program is to support and review the grade level Language Arts and Math skills that were addressed throughout the year. The Briggs Summer Academy will run from **July 7th-July 31st on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.** This is a wonderful opportunity for your child to benefit from additional academic support in a small classroom setting so please consider enrolling your child if you received an informational packet about the Briggs Summer Academy.



Briggs' Running Club

Are you joining the JRB running club with Mr. Berg? The Running Club will meet Wednesday and Friday mornings from 7:45 am – 8:15 am, starting May 8th, for students in grades 3 – 5.

Permission forms must be returned to Mr. Berg by May 4th.

Students should be dressed appropriately; sweatshirts, and sweatpants on cool mornings. Sneakers are a must.

The **Running Club will meet on the 4th/5th grade field at 7:45 am for check-in.** Parents are welcome to volunteer and get in a little physical activity to start their day, too.

Welcome Back 5th Grade...we missed you during your fabulous week at Nature's Classroom.

MCAS Corner
Grades 3 – 5
May 11 – May 28

Try this one...
Grade 4:

Jamal's clues about his mystery number are shown below.

My number has

- 5 tens
- 8 thousands
- 2 ones
- 6 ten thousands
- 0 hundreds

What is Jamal's mystery number?

- A. 5,826
- B. 6,285
- C. 68,052
- D. 86,520

Answer to last issue's BAL MCAS question:

c. thick bark

Safe Routes to School
May 6, 2009

Join us for the JRB
2nd Annual Walk to School Day.

Two locations to walk from:
May 6th:

Spuria's – Center Street (approximately 1.4 miles) meet at **7:40 a.m.**

Landry Soccer Field – Williams Road (approximately .5 mile) meet at **8:00 a.m.**

*** Kindergarten and First Grade students may ONLY participate with a parent/guardian or other responsible adult.**

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. **District Band Night – ORHS –Jazz Band Night – May 6th**

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

Placement for 2009-2010

We are now accepting parental letters regarding their child's learning style, emotional needs, and academic strengths and weaknesses for us to take into consideration as we begin to discuss the placement process for the 2009-2010 school year. Due to potential reductions, many of our grade levels will look very different (number of sessions as well as teacher assignments). If you have information you wish to share regarding your child's needs, please submit a letter to the attention of Mrs. Wright prior to May 29th. Again, we remind you that this is not a time to select your child's teacher as requests for a specific teacher will be returned to you. We want to know the environment in which you feel your child will thrive, so we can share this information with your child's next teacher.

At this time, we are unable to ensure the continuation of looping classrooms at the John R. Briggs Elementary School. If looping continues, and your child is placed in a looping classroom you will be notified at the beginning of the school year by your child's teacher. At the end of the year, you will have the option of removing your child from the loop.

4th Grade News

The fourth graders are currently presenting their latest book report projects – games created based on non-fiction reading. Each class is learning as they play the games since each game includes at least twenty subject related fact cards. The games are extremely creative and a great deal of time and effort went into their making. The final book report assignment will be the annual character costume parade in June. Details will be sent home sometime during the month of May.

Fourth graders are also currently performing their seasonal tree bud survey. As part of the Harvard Forest Schoolyard Ecology program studying leaves, buds and global warming, the students have been recording data about the status of marked buds on trees around the school and on our nature trail. The buds have begun to move from closed, to puffy, to open status as the weather has gotten warmer and spring is zooming along. We have also begun our spring science unit on soil and erosion. Students have been analyzing soil samples from around the schoolyard.

Math MCAS testing is May 13 and 14. Students should be reviewing math concepts that have been covered in fourth grade. Please take the time to review with your child.

Let's Help the Johnson Family!

As most of you know, the Johnson family house was destroyed by a fire a few weeks ago. They have three boys here at the Briggs School; Sam, Jack, and Mick. The Briggs' students and staff would like to offer their support to the Johnsons. During the week of May 4th – 8th, a collection jar will be available at the JRB office. All funds collected will be converted into a Walmart and/or Target gift cards to allow the family to purchase items that they need. The students can place their donation in the collection jar. Checks should be made out to the John R. Briggs School with the name "Johnson" in the memo line. The school will convert the funds collected to gift cards. Since the fire, many JRB students have asked how they can help the Johnson Family; this is our way to capture their generous spirit and thoughtfulness!

Last Day of School:
June 24th