

# Briggs At Large

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

January 22, 2009  
Volume 27, Issue 9

John R. Briggs Elementary: 978-827-5750

## JANUARY

23 Prof. Devel.  
Day  
No School

## FEBRUARY

6 Sweetheart  
Dance  
11 PTA Meeting  
12 Full day  
13 Full day  
16-18 No School  
19 Full day  
20 Full day

## After Hours

Please enter  
through  
Extended Day  
after 3:30 pm.

## Phone Numbers

827-5750 Ans. Mach.  
Please note: this  
number does not roll  
over. Call these  
numbers directly if  
you receive a busy  
signal.

827-1410  
827-1420  
827-1411 FAX

## New Calendar Attached...

Winter Sports and Activities-  
Some Safety Tips

Due to the extremely cold weather, remember to set reasonable time limits on outdoor activities to prevent frostbite. Have children come inside periodically to warm up.

When sledding this winter remember to keep sliders away from motor vehicles, make sure the sledding area is appropriate for sledding, and avoid sledding in crowded areas. Sledding feet first or sitting up, instead of lying down head-first may prevent head injuries, and slopes should be free of obstructions like trees or fences, and should be covered in snow not ice.

When skiing and snowboarding, children should never ski/snowboard alone, a helmet should be worn and equipment should fit the child. Skiers should remember to wear safety bindings that are adjusted every year, and snowboarders should wear gloves with built in wrist-guards. Please choose slopes that fit the ability and the experience of the skier/snowboarder, and try to avoid crowded slopes.

Sun Protection: Even though

(unfortunately) it's not warm, the sun's rays can still cause sunburn in the winter, especially when they reflect off snow. Make sure to cover exposed skin with sunscreen and wear appropriate lip balm.

### Other notes of interest

The Dental Hygienist from Nashoba Associated Boards of Health will start her program with K, 2nd, and 4th graders next week and a Senior Nursing Student from Fitchburg State College will be shadowing the school nurse on Mondays, starting the last week in January.

These are just things to ponder, and some important friendly reminders for a safe and fun-filled winter!! Enjoy!!!

Krista Penning, JRB Nurse

### PTA BASKET WINNERS

K: CRAFTS BEN STONE  
1: BAKING LESLIE LEE  
2: WINTER  
CHRISTA GORRELL  
3: CHOCOLATE  
MELISSA BERNIER  
4: ITALIAN  
ANA VILAS-BOAS  
5: MOVIES  
MATHEW BOUREKAS  
SPECIALS – MORNING  
MARIANNE MARCH

## School Calendar

On Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> the AWRSD School Committee voted to accept the following changes to the AWRSD School Calendar, 2008-2009.

### February

In session,  
12<sup>th</sup>- 13<sup>th</sup>  
19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>

### April

In session,  
23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>

### June

In session,  
5<sup>th</sup> – 1/2 day  
16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>

Additional days will be added if more snow days are used. Parents who have pre-planned a family vacation prior to January 5, 2009 may contact our school office to be considered for an "excused" absence during the "typical" vacation period.; proof of pre-planned vacation will need to be submitted to the attention of the building administration.

## MCAS Corner

Grades 3 – 5

March 30 – Apr. 15

May 11 – May 28

Try this one...

### Grade 5 Science

Baby chicks peck their way out of their shells when they hatch. This activity is an example of which of the following types of behavior?

- A. instinctive
- B. learned
- C. planned
- D. social

Answer to last issue's BAL MCAS question:

**d. 8, 12, 16, 20**

### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher Receives Fellowship

Congratulations, to Mrs. Katie Bennett, grade 4 teacher. Mrs. Bennett spent one week collecting baseline data on the forest neat the Chesapeake Bay. Mrs. Bennett shared her experience with her 4<sup>th</sup> grade students through webcam – Skype technology. Students were able to view Mrs. Bennett live and interact with her in the technology lab.

## 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.

### Read Across America

On Friday, March 6, 2009, our school will be celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday by sponsoring a community reading day. We are asking all parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends, and neighbors to consider taking an active role by volunteering to read to a child or group of children at our school. If you can spend a few minutes in our school reading to our children, please look for the sign-up form in the February 5<sup>th</sup> Briggs-at-Large or contact Andrea McGrath at [amcgrath@awrsd.org](mailto:amcgrath@awrsd.org).

The times are listed below:

|              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| Kindergarten | 11:00-11:30 |
| First Grade  | 2:00-2:30   |
| Second Grade | 1:15-1:45   |
| Third Grade  | 11:45-12:15 |
| Fourth Grade | 9:20-9:50   |
| Fifth Grade  | 8:50-9:20   |

### PTA needs HELP!

The PTA is looking for persons to chair the Girl's Sweetheart Dance. PLEASE call Paula Kuehl at 978-827-4559.

### January Student Council

Have you heard about our January Project? The 5th Grade Student Council members have made a warm, cuddly **Cellic's fleece blanket!** It will be raffled on Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**1 Ticket - \$1.00**

**6 Tickets - \$5.00**

*We are working with a local oil company to help a family in Ashburnham heat their home.*

**See attached tickets  
Blanket will be on display in the lobby soon!!!**

### Parent and Teacher Professional Devel.

- Dramatic Play in Early Childhood  
Feb. 26, 2009  
6:30 – 8:30 pm  
Messiah Lutheran  
Preschool & Learning  
Center, Fitchburg
- Behavior Management  
March 17, 2009  
6:30 – 8:30 pm  
Adventure Kids Child  
Care Center, Fitchburg
- SONGS IN SIGN LANGUAGE  
APRIL 16, 2009  
GUILD OF ST. AGNES,  
GARDNER

### Third Grade News

Due to the ice storm, the Wildlife Tree Trimming Party has been rescheduled for Friday, January 30 at 1:10. RSVP notices were sent home. Please let your child's teacher know whether you will be attending so we can plan materials and refreshments accordingly.

Learning multiplication facts to the 10's is an important part of the third grade Math curriculum. It would be very helpful if you would encourage and assist your child to practice their multiplication facts at home with flash cards and video games. The school website, <http://www.awrsd.org/jrb/>, has excellent multiplication games found on the internet. Look under "Student Resources."

Progress Reports will be sent home on Friday, January 30. The reports are designed to give you an idea of how well students are achieving their academic targets for the second semester. English Language Arts MCAS Testing has been scheduled for April 3 – 8, and Math MCAS Testing will be May 19 – 20. Please make sure your child is well rested, has a healthy breakfast and is at school on time so they can do their very best!