

Briggs At Large

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

January 8, 2009
Volume 27, Issue 8

John R. Briggs Elementary: 978-827-5750

JANUARY

5 Classes Resume
14 PTA Meeting
15 School Council
19 M. L. King Day
No School
23 Prof. Devel. Day
No School

Important Date

Please note a change to the AWRSD School Calendar:

Early Release

June 5, 2009
NOT
May, 29, 2009

After Hours

Please enter through Extended Day after 3:30 pm.

Phone Numbers

827-5750 Ans. Mach.
827-1410
827-1420
827-1411 FAX

Discount Card

Please support our school. Cards are valid until Sept. 09

School Calendar Changing

Happy New Year!!

We hope that everyone was warm and safe during that "adventurous" time we had in December; it has been interesting hearing all of the stories being shared now that everyone is back.

Just a few reminders that children should have hats, gloves, jacket, snow pants and boots if they are going to be playing outside at recess. An extra pair of shoes can be stored in backpack to wear during the school day.

Also, reminder that **current 3rd graders** should have a current physical within one year, on file with the school nurse, as it is mandated by the MDPH.

Parent/Guardians of **current 5th graders** should also start making appointments for their soon-to be 6th graders, whereas it is also mandated and required that children entering 6th grade have a current

physical prior to entering Middle School.

One final note...the Stop and Shop Company is currently offering a promotion for Free Antibiotics as part of their health and wellness initiative. The promotion is running from January 2 until March 21. Brochures describing the program are available at the stores. You only need to bring in your valid prescription to take advantage of this offer. The brochure contains a list of participating antibiotics; many common types such as Amoxicillin, Ampicillin, Erythromycin and Penicillin are available, as well as several eye ointment preparations.

We are all set with clothes at the moment, but could still use new underwear; girls and boys size 6 or 8. Thank you to all those who have been so generous with their clothing donations, it has been extremely helpful!!

School Calendar

Many of you are probably wondering how our school district will make up the lost time from the December ice storm, yesterday's snow day, and any future lost days we may encounter. Dr. Zapantis, Superintendent of Schools and the AWRSD School Committee are in communication with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to discuss this issue. When a final determination is made we will notify you as soon as possible.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as this is resolved. It is important that we make up this lost time for the benefit of your child's academic growth.

IF YOU SEE SOMEONE BEING BULLIED:

- Report it to an adult.
- Give your support. Sometimes the best thing you can do is just be a friend.
- Stand up to the bully. If you feel safe, tell the kid that bullying is wrong and to stop.
- Get friends to support you.

MCAS Corner

Grades 3 – 5

March 30 – Apr. 15

May 11 – May 28

Try this one... Grade 3 Math

Which list has **only** multiples of 4?

- a. 4, 14, 24, 34
- b. 4, 40, 41, 42
- c. 8, 14, 18, 24
- d. 8, 12, 16, 20

Answer to last issue's BAL MCAS question:

b. Enemy

Attendance

As we reach the half-way point of the 08-09 school year we will be assessing each students' attendance record. If your child has not maintained an attendance rate of at least 90% you will be receiving a letter alerting you to this situation. Chapter 76, Section 2 of the General Laws of Massachusetts clearly define regulations pertaining to school attendance. Please ensure that your child attends school on a regular basis. Vacations are not an excused absence and will be noted on the student's record.

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.

BEST NEWS

It's difficult to believe that we are reaching the midway point of this school year; as it seems as if it just began a few weeks ago! Here in the B.E.S.T. room we had a few changes to our staff this year as three of our para-professionals moved on to other positions. Ms. Angela Bennett and Ms. Lori Cutting have moved on to other out of district positions while Mr. Mark Theriault has taken another position here at Briggs. They are dearly missed by everyone here in the B.E.S.T. program but we have been fortunate enough to have Ms. Brenda Brown, Ms. Danielle LeBlanc, and Ms. Lavaun O'Connell onboard this year to help us out. They're dedication and expertise in this field is much appreciated as this year progresses.

With 11 students to supervise in grades 3 through 5 our staff is

kept busily engaged throughout the day. This year we are doing two week rotations in each of our student's classrooms. In this way we are able to work with all of the students throughout the year in a more effective manner with more carryover from week to week. So far this schedule has been working out quite well with our students and their classroom teachers. As in the past, we are always seeking strategies that will promote the most success with our student population.

We thank all of those in the Ashburnham-Westminster community for their continued support of our program for it truly "takes a village to raise a child".

PTA needs HELP!

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

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Last month JRB students reviewed the topic of bullying. Students took part in a discussion and activity around bullying which required them to visualize and share their ideas for a "**Bully-Free JRB.**" Each class took part in creating a mural depicting these ideas.

In the meantime, talk with your children about how to handle bullies. To stop bullies, everyone needs to be involved. *Stop Bullying Now!* (www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov) offers the following tips.

IF YOU ARE BULLIED:

- Talk about it. Tell an adult, a close friend or a sibling.
- Stay in a group. You may not be as easy a target.
- Stand up for yourself. If it feels safe, calmly tell the bully to stop, then walk away.
- Join a club. You'll make friends.