

Briggs At Large

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

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OCTOBER

31 Trick or Treat

NOVEMBER

4 PD Day – No School

5 Picture Retakes

10-11 No School

Veteran's Day

12 PTA Meeting

13 School Council

21 Cookie Day

24-25 Parent-Teacher
Conferences

Important Date

Please note a
change to the
AWRSD School
Calendar:

Early Release

June 5, 2009

NOT

May, 29, 2009

HELP WANTED!

Book Fair

Nov. 19th - 25th

Contact:

Mrs. Pinsonneault

978-827-1410

Nov. 4th – Election Day

First Grade News

We have been learning a lot about how to write in first grade. We are using 6 + 1 *traits of writing* to establish a common vocabulary and to document growth over the year, as well as from grade to grade. The six traits are:

- **IDEAS:** the meaning and development of the message
- **ORGANIZATION:** the internal order and structure of the piece
- **VOICE:** the way the writer brings the topic to life
- **WORD CHOICE:** the specific vocabulary the writer uses to convey meaning
- **SENTENCE FLUENCY:** the way the words and phrases flow throughout the text
- **CONVENTIONS:** the mechanical correctness (spelling, punctuation, capitalization)
- **PRESENTATION:** the overall appearance of the work

You may think, "This is a lot for my young student to learn," but we have complete confidence that your child will learn about these traits

and how to use them so they can become powerful and skilled writers.

As your child brings home writing to share with you, please know that we are working on conventions all the time. Not every piece will have perfect spelling, punctuation, and capitalization. Your child will be learning about each of these important editing areas, one at a time, and you will see his/her ability to handle these skills grow over time. One of the best things you can do is show your child what he/she has done well, rather than focus on the things that still need work. We have been working on the IDEAS trait, which has its own rubric (scoring guide) and your child has been using the IDEAS rubric in the classroom. Your child is learning what makes a paper "just beginning", "developing," or "strong." (1, 2, or 3). Please discuss the IDEAS rubric with your child and how it makes him/her a better writer.

Dear Families,

On November 3rd, our whole school will be holding a mock election. Student Council members are visiting all the classrooms to talk about the voting process. Please talk with your child or children about these questions so they are prepared to vote on November 3rd. Parents, don't forget to vote on November 4th for the real election!!

Sincerely,
The 5th Grade October
Student Council

1. Tell me some information about the candidates.
2. What qualities do you look for in a leader?
3. How will you choose who to vote for?

GFA Banking

In-school banking for students, K-5 began October 1st. Start saving early!

J. R. Briggs Discount Cards

Have you ordered your Discount Card? Makes a great little gift - \$10. Good at Subway, McDonald's, Burger King, The Daily Grind, Lucky Dragon II, Colonial Hotel, Friendly's, Firestone, Family Hair Design, and many more establishments!

MCAS Corner
Grades 3 – 5
March 30 – Apr. 15
May 11 – May 28

Try this one...
5th Grade History

* The Louisiana Purchase was important to the United States for which of the following reasons?

- A. It doubled the size of the United States.
- B. It kept Mexico from owning most of Texas.
- C. It gave the United States control over the Great Lakes.
- D. It stopped Great Britain from getting more Canadian territories.

Answer to last issue's BAL MCAS question:

C. a pleasant smell

JRB Telephone #s

Having trouble getting through to our office?

Our roll-over is not working...try:

978-827-1410
978-827-1412
978-827-1420

Attendance!!!

Daily attendance is vitally important to your child's academic success.

Please minimize disruptions to your child's school day.

MUSIC News

Band has begun. Band rehearsals are held on **Thursday afternoons** during the school day. **PLEASE** make sure your child has their instrument for rehearsals.

Chorus.... Rehearsals in November will be on Wednesdays after school due to Election Day, Veteran's Day, and Parent-Teacher Conferences.

From The Library

We will be having a Fall Scholastic Book Fair in the Briggs Library from Wednesday, Nov. 19th through Tuesday, Nov. 25th. The Book Fair will be open during the evenings of parent conferences until 7:30. We hope that many parents will be able to stop by before or after conferences. Proceeds from the Book Fair allow new resources to be added to the library.

As in the past, students will be given an opportunity to visit the Book Fair with their teacher. Also, a teacher "wish list" will be posted. This gives parents an opportunity to make a donation to their child's classroom library.

As always, **parent volunteers are needed** to work at the Book Fair. You only need to commit for an hour or two, and no experience is needed. If you can help out, please call Lynne in the library (978) 827-5750.

Hope to see you there!

Full Day Kindergarten Transition Committee

AWRSD seeks interested members for a new committee. We need parents and community members who will:

- Evaluate our transition to a full day Kindergarten program;
- Help the district provide quality programming for our K students;
- Set goals and initiatives for our kindergarten grant funded program.

Our committee will meet throughout the year an average of 3 evenings. This is an opportunity for you to offer your input. You need not be a parent of a Kindergarten age child to participate. We would like to have representatives from both Ashburnham and Westminster. We welcome parents of preschoolers and elementary age children. Community members are also most welcome.

If you are interested or would like more information, please call or email Early Childhood Coordinator, Jana Harrison, at 978-874-7312 or email jharrison@awrsd.org.

Picture Retakes

If you missed picture day on Sept. 30th, have no fear...make up day is November 5, 2008

Cub Scout Info...

Cub Scouts Pack 18
Pancake Breakfast
November 1 8:00 am – 11:00 am
American Legion – Ashburnham
\$5.00/person
Children 4 and under free
Pancakes, sausage, bacon, muffins, juice, coffee, tea and much more.
Come down and enjoy the company of the community while supporting the Cub Scouts.

Advanced tickets are available; please contact Rachel at 978-855-1347 or r.fowler@ymail.com

Lost and Found

Have you seen our collection in the lobby? Stop in...tons of clothing items are on display!