

Briggs At Large

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

December 3, 2008
Volume 27, Issue 7

John R. Briggs Elementary: 978-827-5750

DECEMBER

10 Holiday Concert
ORHS – 6:30
15 Early Release
PD – 12:00
17 PTA Meeting
18 School Council
Dec. 24 – Jan. 2
Holiday Break
Jan. 3 School Resumes

Important Date

Please note a change to the AWRSD School Calendar:

Early Release

June 5, 2009

NOT

May, 29, 2009

Parakeet Found

Nov. 10th

In S. Ashburnham
Wants to be in its own home for the holidays.

Call: 827-4852

After Hours

Please enter through Extended Day after 3:30 pm.

Holiday Concert- Dec. 10th

Vacations

Family vacations have become an increasing issue for our school district. All students in the Ashburnham-Westminster Regional School District are vital members of the school and classroom community. Missing one week of school is an additional stress to your child as they make up loss concepts presented during the absence. As you are aware, vacations are an unexcused absence and are reflected on your child's school records. Missed work is expected to be completed upon the return to school as established through AWRSD policy (see handbook). If you miss a parent-teacher conference due to a vacation, it is the parents' responsibility to make up that conference during the teacher's convenience (i.e. planning period during the school day).

Attendance!!!

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

Here's how you can improve your child's school attendance:

- Talk with your child about the importance of attending school regularly.
- Avoid scheduling family trips and appointments during school hours.
- Make sure your child stays healthy by eating nutritious food and getting enough sleep and exercise.
- Avoid being tardy or early dismissals.
- Discuss with your child what happened at school each day...do not accept "nothing"
- Lead by example.
- Discuss why school is important.

Art News

Rachel Lee

Memorial Quilt Project

The Grade 5 Art students have each made a fabric square for a memorial quilt to honor their friend and classmate Rachel Lee. Rachel was a girl with many talents and interests and zest for life. The theme of the quilt is "Creative Pursuits" to recognize Rachel's passion for all things creative. Students chose an image to draw with permanent marker that expressed a unique creative pastime. The 104 quilt squares are currently being sewn together with Rachel's favorite color, green. When the quilt is completed it will hang on display in the Brigg's lobby. It is hoped that all who view it will remember Rachel and will be inspired as she inspired many of us.

Mrs. Richard

AML P

Night lights available for a \$5 donation to the Food Pantry.

Discount Card

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

3-D Gingerbread Structure Fundraiser

\$2.00 per person/per entry

Monday, December 8, 2008

No kits, please

*** Support the Rachel Lee Memorial Fund**

MCAS Corner

Grades 3 – 5

March 30 – Apr. 15

May 11 – May 28

Try this one...

Grade 4 ELA

Read the sentence from paragraph 5 in the box below.

At 37 feet high, the wall can be either a hitter's best friend (by turning a routine fly ball into a hit) or his nemesis

(turning a sure home run into a long single

Which of the following words means the same as *nemesis*?

- A. team
- B. enemy
- C. ballpark
- D. scoreboard

Answer to last issue's BAL MCAS question:

c. 10 students

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

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. **Concert: ORHS, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. – Dec. 10th**

Chorus.... Rehearsals are back to regularly scheduled **Tuesday afternoons**; after school. **Concert: ORHS, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. – Dec. 10th**

From the Library

Thank you so much to everyone for contributing to our recent Scholastic Book Fair. Special thanks go to those who volunteered to help set up, take down, and work at the Book Fair. You are each very much appreciated! Funds generated from the Book Fair are used to purchase replacement and new resources for the library, which services the entire school.

PTA Volunteers Wanted

The JRB PTA is looking for volunteers to sell tickets for the Grade Level Gift Baskets at the following events: Bring a Loved One to Lunch, and The Holiday Concert. Please contact Michelle Nevala at 978-827-4902 or Jen Sibley at 978-827-4432.

Food Pantry

The Ashburnham Community Church Food Pantry would like to thank all the families who donated canned goods and non-perishable food items to the annual Turkey Trot and the 5th Grade Student Council Food Drive! We currently service 28 local families.

Poinsettia Sale

John R. Briggs Poinsettia sale will occur on Tuesday, Dec. 9, through Friday, Dec. 12, 2008 or until all plants are sold. A set number of plants will be ordered and sold for \$5-\$20 depending on the size and layout of the plant. Plants will be put on display in the JRB lobby and be sold on a "first come first serve basis" by the JRB Enrichment Committee to staff and parents. All funds collected will be utilized by the Briggs Enrichment Committee. The purpose of the JRB Enrichment Fund is to provide multi-cultural and educational opportunities to our students that will enhance their lives and expose them to experiences that would not occur during a typical day at school.

Ring Found

Class ring found at Extended Day: 1986 Mascenic High School. If it is yours, stop in to pick it up or call, 978-827-4701.

Brrrr...the cold weather is on its way!

Just a reminder to pack hats, gloves, and warm winter jackets. The weather is getting much cooler, but the children will still be going outdoors, so please have them dress appropriately. If you have a child who loves to play on the field, you may also want to pack a pair of boots for your child to wear at recess. Some of the areas can get quite muddy and I'm just thinking of those nice sneakers/shoes; it can be much easier to clean boots versus the shoes. Boots and snow pants are required for playing in the snow when it arrives.

Also, I just wanted to thank those parents who have donated clothing item. These items are always greatly appreciated, and are a definite necessity, so "Thank you!"

If anyone has winter gloves, hats, girls sweats/leggings Sz. 5 to 8 or boys sweats, please feel free to bring them to the nurse's office. Having those extra pants can be very helpful.

Items just have to be washed and in good condition, they do not have to be new.

Mrs. Penning