

Briggs At Large

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

March 19, 2009
Volume 27, Issue 13

John R. Briggs Elementary: 978-827-5750

MARCH

19 PTA Meeting
19 School Council
30 MCAS Begins
Gr. 3 – 5

APRIL

4 Bunny Breakfast
8 PTA Meeting
16 School Council
20 – 22 No School
23 & 24 School in
session
Apr. 27 – May 1
Nature's Classroom

Wear a Hat Day

The JRB Community will be receiving a 9 piece obstacle course from the Make a Wish Foundation in memory of Rachel Lee. Student Council members will be holding a "Wear a Hat for Rachel" Fundraiser. Proceeds will go toward a memorial marker in Rachel's Memory. Hat Day will take place on **March 27th** which is close to Rachel's birthday. If your child would like to participate in this event, please send \$1.00 or a donation of your choice to the office on March 27th.

Wear a Hat Day – March 27th

News from 4th Grade

On March 13, each of the fourth-grade classes enjoyed a presentation on sound from the Acton Discovery Museum. Students are learning about basic forms of energy as part of their fourth-grade science curriculum. As part of this unit on energy, sound as well as heat, light, motion, electricity and magnetism are studied. The concept of converting energy from one form to another is also developed.

A presenter from the Acton Museum demonstrated for the students that sound travels in waves caused by vibrations through a medium. Students were able to experiment with tuning forks to see, feel and hear these vibrations. The students listened to the sounds produced through the air, through their desks and tables, and as the tuning forks were struck by mallets and against sturdy rubber pads. They also felt the vibrations against their fingers and noses, which produced a tickling sensation hard to forget.

That's motion energy producing sound energy, as the sound waves cause our inner ear bones to vibrate.

Students were also able to construct some cool noisemakers to further reinforce their understanding that vibration causes sound. The first take-home item was a cup with a string through it, and a paperclip secured in the bottom of the cup at the end of the string. The cup vibrated wildly – producing a duck-like squawk – as the string was rubbed with a wet cloth. The second item was a rather complicated device that featured a vibrating rubber band against a paper card attached to a popsicle stick at the end of a string. Got that? As the string was whirled around, the rubber band got to vibrating and whacking against the card. Passersby would have thought the fourth-grade classrooms were overtaken by swarms of bees if they heard the racket made by these bee-buzzers.

The Acton Discovery Museum presentation on sound was coordinated by Mrs. Julie Fredette of the fourth-grade team. This hands-on learning experience was made possible by money from the Briggs Enrichment Fund.



**8th Annual A-W
Benefit Game**
AWRSD Educators
Vs
Law Enforcement

April 4, 5:00 pm
Cushing Iorio
\$5.00/donation
**Benefit Mitchell
Swanson and his
Family**
Tickets available in
school office.

MCAS Corner

Grades 3 – 5

March 30 – Apr. 15

May 11 – May 28

Try this one...

Grade 5 - History

Which of the following best describes the United States Constitution?

- A. a history of a people
- B. a plan of government
- C. a set of religious laws
- D. a declaration of independence

Answer to last issue's BAL MCAS question:

Open Response

11th Annual Festival

Saturday

April 4th, 9 – 11:30 am

**Free at Overlook
Hands-on activities
and crafts for young
children. Various
entertainers, a free
family raffle, live
animals, and more!**

INDOOR FLEA MARKET

SATURDAY

MARCH 21, 2009

9: 00 AM – 1:00 PM

**FIRST CONG. CHURCH
WESTMINSTER**

RESERVE A TABLE: \$15

978-874-0632



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 – April 8th, Jazz Band Night – May 6th**

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

8th Annual Community Benefit Hockey Game

This year's benefit hockey game benefits the family of Mitchell Swanson. Mitchell is a 5 year-old boy who has a rare form of Tissue Cancer called Rhabdomyosarcoma. Recently Mitchell has started his Radiation treatment and has gone through several rounds of Chemotherapy. Mitchell is a resident of Ashburnham and attends Meetinghouse Preschool. Mitchell also has a brother that attends Briggs.

This year's hockey game will be played at Cushing on April 4 at 5:00pm and it consists of NHL players, teachers from Briggs and other staff members of the Ash.West School System as well as local law enforcement. *We hear through the grapevine that we may have a celebrity skater join us for this activity.* There will also be FINZ from the Worcester Sharks, Police Pipes and Drums, and Juggler Spencer Hearn (one of the top 10 Jugglers in the world under 15).

Tickets for this game can be purchase at Briggs for \$5.00. Tickets are limited so please make sure to get them early. If you can't attend the game you can also make a donation to the family. If paying by check please make the check payable to Athol Savings Mitchell Swanson. During the game, last years recipient Rachel Lee will also be honored at our game. Please help to show your support for Mitchell and his family during this time.

Thank You Very Much

Nurse's Corner

Hello Families and Students of JRB....

I hope that you were able to enjoy those few days of spring-like weather before being hit with another Nor Easter... the day in the life of a New Englander. ☺

As your school nurse we are required to do certain screenings, one such being the BMI, which stands for Body Mass Index. Many of you have probably already heard of this screening by now, but it is required on all 1st and 4th grade students in Elementary School. This screening is based on your child's height and weight, which is then graphed and compared to what is considered average, healthy, and appropriate weights for the age and size of the child. These BMIs are then put into categories: Underweight, Normal, At Risk, and Overweight.

Studies are indicating that as a nation our children are becoming more overweight. Consequently we are seeing a massive increase in Type II Diabetes and other health issues in younger people that will impact on the future health and longevity of our children.

For parents with children in **1st and 4th grade**, if you are interested in knowing what the BMI of your child is please contact me at the school (978) 827-5750. At this time we can discuss any questions or concerns you might have.

Thank you, and also a friendly reminder to pack extra clothes, especially SOCKS and pants for your children due to mud and wetness out on the playground.

Also a reminder if your child is currently in **3rd grade** he/she should have a current physical on file with the nurse that is dated within one year. It is important to keep your child(ren)'s records current so that the school is aware of any changes that may have or may not have occurred. If your child has already had a physical please send it in and if easier you can have a copy of the physical faxed to my office directly at:
Fax # (978)827-5699.

Current **5th graders** are also required to have a physical prior to entering 6th grade, so if you haven't scheduled an appointment yet, please do so.

Thank you again for making my experience here at Briggs so wonderful!

Think Spring! ☺
Krista Penning RN, BSN—School Nurse

**Presently...Last Day of
School: June 24th
Stay tuned...**