

Briggs At Large

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

April 2, 2009
Volume 27, Issue 14

John R. Briggs Elementary: 978-827-5750

APRIL

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

MAY

6 Walk to School
14 PTA Meeting
21 School Council
25 Memorial Day

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.

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

Saturday, Bunny Breakfast

News from 3rd Grade

Spring has arrived and with it comes MCAS. English Language Arts testing is on Friday, April 3, Monday, April 6 and Wed. April 8. Again, please make sure your child is well rested and has had a good breakfast. Students have been practicing test taking strategies to prepare.

Some of our other spring activities include studying the states of matter and the water cycle. We'll be learning about Ashburnham history and making our annual trip to Meetinghouse Cemetery. We'll also be going to Mt. Wachusett Community College Theater to see a production of "Willie Wonka" on Tuesday, April 14. Permission slips will be coming home soon.

Remember, fast recall of multiplication facts is an important part of the math curriculum in third grade and in the future. Please continue to encourage your child to practice their facts with games and flash cards.

Have a wonderful April vacation!

Elections PTA & School Council

We are looking for letters of interest for positions of both the John R. Briggs PTA and School Council. There are 5 PTA board positions and 4 open School Council positions available. The JRB- PTA will be accepting letters of interest for these positions until May 1, 2009. An election ballot will be sent home for your consideration. If you have questions or would like more position details, please contact Brenda Brown at 978-827-5492 or briebr@aol.com.

[These positions help
drive our school.](#)

Kindergarten Parents

NO School April 28th

Due to the Orientation Program planned for incoming kindergarten students (09-10 scheduled on April 28th, 9:00 – 10:30. Kindergarten will not be in session.

Counselors Corner

Fifth grade students have been participating in the Life Skills Training Program at JRB. Topics such as self esteem, dealing with stress, communication, social skills, peer pressure, and smoking are being discussed.

Parents are encouraged to talk with their children about what they are learning and discuss ways in which they can utilize the information. Communication between home and school helps children in practicing and maintaining these skills. Together, we can help them to make healthy decisions in middle school and throughout their lives.

Reach for the Stars HELP!

We received an envelope with a list of books, cash, and no name. Please contact our office!!!

MCAS Corner

Grades 3 – 5

March 30 – Apr. 15

May 11 – May 28

Try this one...

Grade 4: Math

Write a decimal that is equivalent to the fraction below.

1/4

Answer to last issue's BAL MCAS question:

b. a plan of government

11th Annual Young Children's 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!

ATTENTION 5TH GRADE PARENTS

The fifth grade barbecue committee is looking for parents to help with setting up and running our special event, being held on Tuesday, June 23, 2009.

Any donations are greatly appreciated. For more information please contact Jane Dancause at 978-827-5011.

Thank you

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.

Safe Routes to School May 6, 2009

Join us for the JRB 2nd Annual Walk to School Day.

Two locations to walk from:
May 6th:

Spuria's – Center Street (approximately 1.4 miles) meet at **7:40 a.m.**

Landry Soccer Field – Williams Road (approximately .5 mile) meet at **8:00 a.m.**

* **Kindergarten and First Grade students may ONLY participate with a parent/guardian or other responsible adult.**

* **More information and permission forms will be distributed the week of April 6th.**

Nurse's Corner

As your school nurse, I am 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 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 that time I can answer 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