

Briggs At Large

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

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John R. Briggs Elementary: 978-827-5750

OCTOBER3

- 3 Fall Festival
- 9 Early Release
12:00 p.m.
- 12 Columbus Day
No School
- 15 PTA Meeting

Remember...
All visitors **MUST** sign in at the JRB Office.

Extended Day
Our Extended Day Program offers child care 6:30 am – 6:00 pm throughout the school year. Please call, 978-827-4701.

Absent Calls
Call us if your child is going to be absent; 978-827-5750 to leave a message.

Dismissal
To ensure that all of our students arrive safely to their after school destination, we have a staggered dismissal time:

- *2:50 p.m. (approx)**
Parent Pickup
Extended Day
 - * 2:55 – 3:10 p.m.**
Bus Dismissal
- Early Release Days:**
12:00 p.m.

JRB Fall Festival – Oct. 3rd

FUN FOR ALL!!!

We hope to see everyone at JRB this Saturday for our 2nd Family Festival. This year we are repeating many of our favorite activities and are including a few new events. This event helps to support the JRB Enrichment Fund, the JRB-PTA, and the AWRSD Extended Day Program.

The day will be filled with a wide variety of activities including pony rides, BBQ, Apple Dessert making contest, Face Painting, Carnival Games, Pumpkins, Musical Entertainment, Juggling, Exotic Animal Demonstration, Local Crafters and Vendors, , and so much more. Teacher activity raffles and "Principal for a Day" raffle tickets available for \$2.00 each for 3 for \$5.00

RAIN OR SHINE

News from the Cafeteria...

Chartwell's Food Service offers a varied, exciting lunch menu with many healthy choices. Please be sure to review the monthly menu with your child to ensure an appropriate lunch selection. Lunches may be pre-paid at \$2.50 per lunch (subject to change), you determine the number of days you wish to have on account. Milk price - \$.50 **Menu online...www.awrsd.org. Make checks payable to JRB Café.**

Grade 5 News...

Why was almost every tree in central Massachusetts cut down by 1830? Why are some stone walls wide and some narrow? What kinds of industries were in our area in the 1800's? This week the fifth grade will visit the Harvard Forest in Petersham, MA to find the answers to these and other questions we have about the history of Central Massachusetts over the last 300 years. We will have a guided tour of the beautiful, award winning dioramas depicting the history of New England Forests. Viewing them, students will be transported into the forest's story, into the changes that have altered the land. Then we will head out on the trail to observe the forests, stone walls, and old foundations that continue the story of what it was like here two hundred years ago. The fifth grade team would like to thank all the parents who have sent in anti-bacterial wipes, tissues, and hand sanitizers to aid us in our fight against the flu!

Fourth Grade News

All fourth graders are currently working on their first book report project. The project is a poster based on a fiction book of their choice. We are looking forward to seeing a variety of posters and hearing about the books that they have read.

We are working on food webs and photosynthesis in science. We have been fortunate to use the book *Forest Food Chains* by Bobbie Kalman. Ask your child about this great book!

In Social Studies the students have learned the names and locations of the continents and oceans. We are now focusing on hemispheres and lines of latitude and longitude.

Information on our annual **pumpkin math week** will be coming home soon. Thank you for checking your child's homework folder each night. We are off to a great start.

MCAS Corner
Grades 3 – 5
March 22 – Apr. 12
May 10 – May 27

Try this one...

Gr. 3 - ELA

Read the words from the story in the box below.

- * snowdrift
- * clothesline
- * landmark

The words in the box are:

- a. verbs
- b. adjectives
- c. proper nouns
- d. compound words

Learning is Your Child's Responsibility

Schoolwork is your child's responsibility. Put the responsibility for learning back where it belongs – on your children. Here is how you can help.

* Involvement is great, but don't become over-involved. Over-involved parents can end up assuming too much responsibility-and their child assume little or none.

* Let your child experience the consequences. Help send the message that you know your child can do things for themselves. By holding your child

MUSIC News

Band rehearsals are held on **Thursday afternoons for Beginner Band and Friday afternoons for Concert Band** during the school day. Mr. Tree has scheduled an instrument rental evening, Wednesday, September 23rd, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. for those students interested in instrumental lessons; grades 3 – 5. This will be an opportunity to acquire an instrument as well as discuss the band program with Mr. Tree. **PLEASE** make sure your child has their instrument for rehearsals. Phone calls for forgotten instruments are VERY disruptive to the day.

Chorus rehearsals begin Sept. 29th, 3:00-4:00 for interested students in Gr. 3 – 5.

accountable, you help them learn that actions do have consequences.

* Let your child do the homework. There are times to answer your child's homework questions. But before you do, consider these two things:

1. Where else can your child find the answer? Besides teaching facts, homework should teach kids how to find facts.

2. Is the questions a central part of the homework? Homework should reflect what your child knows, not what you know. But, if they are stumped by a questions that's only partly related to the assignment, you may save time and frustration by helping them find the answer.

* Let your child find the answers. Questions can help your child take more responsibility for their own learning. Look up answers together, by sitting with your child as they read the answers to the questions. Talk about the questions and the answers. Your child will learn several important lessons; looking in reference materials is an important skill and research can be fun.

Thanks for your help!

School Climate Survey

Please take a few minutes to complete the School Climate Survey which was sent home (bright yellow paper) with your child today. This survey will help the JRB School Council assess how we can make our school a more welcoming and responsive place for our school community. Please return by October 13th.

Student Council

The fifth grade Student Council is off to a great start! We are recycling paper and juice pouches, interviewing new members of our school community and most recently, working on a JRB beautification project. We are planning to improve the looks of our school by planting a colorful garden in front of the JRB sign. We are in need of bulbs for this project. Your help would be very much appreciated!! Please send bags of bulbs (i.e. daffodil, crocus, hyacinth) to school.

Counselor's Corner

Parents can help their children behave well at home and school by setting clear rules. Here are some rules to share with your children:

Don't hit or kick. Don't allow your child to strike anyone else.

Don't swear. Don't allow your child to use language that is obscene or vulgar.

Don't throw temper tantrums. If your child becomes upset, send him to his room until he is calm.

Cooperate. Do chores together. Solve problems together. When you can, involve your child in making decisions.

Don't threaten others. Don't allow your children to threaten anyone, either with words or physical force.

Do something nice. Ask each person in your family to do something nice for at least one other person each day.

Don't talk back. If a parent is talking, teach your child to listen without interrupting.

Show love. Tell family members you love them every day. Show them with hugs, kisses and pats on the back.

Live the Golden Rule. Teach your child to treat other s the way he wants to be treated.

* **Write these rules down. Talk about them with your child. Then put them into action in your home.**