

# Broadwater Bulletin

Broadwater School  
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*"The mission of Broadwater school staff, along with students and their families, is to develop self directed life long learners by providing relevant learning opportunities in a safe, caring environment."*

## EVENTS IN APRIL

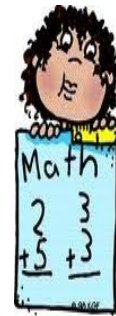
- 2nd - BUG Assembly @ 2:00
- 3rd - 12:00 Dismissal for Students
- 4th - 9th - SPRING BREAK!
- 10th - Students Back in School
- 13th - 1st Grade Music Concert
- 16th - 20th - Nat'l Volunteer Week
- 18th - 4th Grade Music Concert
- 25th - SECRETARY'S DAY!
- 26th - Broadwater Blood Drive  
from 2:30 - 6:00 PM
- 27th - Kindergarten Music Concert
- 30th - 3rd Grade Music Concert

## Principal's Pen - One Down, One to Go

On March 23rd, Broadwater School completed its Spring MontCAS testing with almost 100% participation! Thank you parents and families for helping your kids be successful during that critical testing window. While we can celebrate the closing of one window, now is not the time to sit back and relax. When we return from Spring Break, students in grades 3rd - 6th will be participating in the spring session of the NWEA district assessment. These tests are computer-based, and will assess students in the areas of Math, Reading and Language. As always, it is imperative that students are

at school and on time every day in April to ensure that they are at their best for testing. These tests will differ from the MontCAS test in that they will be administered by computers. Each student in grades 3 - 6 will spend 3 separate sessions testing in each of the 3 areas mentioned above. The NWEA test is an important one for a number of reasons. The primary reason, however, is that the results of this test will impact student placement in reading and math in future grades. All students will be given ample time to complete testing sessions. I am confident that our students are prepared

for these important tests. Our teachers and staff have been working overtime to ensure that all students are learning at the highest levels. Thank you, in advance, for helping your child(ren) to be successful during our NWEA testing window!



**Terrific  
Test  
Takers!**

## Our Computer Lab is Growing!

Thanks to the generous support of the Broadwater School PTA, we have increased our laptop computer lab by 10 computers! Just this week, we received a shipment of 10 new Apple MacBook Pro computers to be added to our technology lab in the library. With these computers, our school will be able to support many more students and teachers with their technology needs in the classroom. In addition, they will help lighten the testing load during our upcoming NWEA testing sessions. Thank you Broadwater PTA for your continued support of students and staff!

## Broadwater School and the Purple 5K

On Sunday, March 25th, over 50 Broadwater students, staff and parents participated in the 3rd annual Purple 5K, sponsored by the Billings Downtown Association. This event,

and the money raised, is geared toward addressing homelessness in the Billings area. During the run, racers read many facts regarding homelessness in

Montana and around the country. Our runners will next be preparing for the Heart and Sole Run, which takes place Saturday, June 16th.

# COUNSELOR'S CORNER

*"Our goal is to eliminate any/all bullying type behaviors at Broadwater School..."*



Broadwater School strives to be a Bully-Free School.

## Empowering our Youth - Solving "Big" and "Small" Problems

As parents and educators, how do we help to empower children to become healthy problem solvers?

First, it's important for children to understand the difference between "big problems", that require help from an adult and "small problems", that they can work through on their own. "Big problems", are problems such as a student injury, a stranger on the playground, or when a student could be in danger. A "small problem" is when there is a minor conflict between students, such as a disagreement. It's important for students to also learn the difference between telling and tattling. When students "tattle", they're trying to get another student into trouble. They are going to an adult when they have a "small problem" and could have solved this on their own. When they "tell", they're trying to keep another student safe, and getting help for a "big problem".

It's beneficial as parents and

educators that we empower students to become problem solvers, so as they grow, they don't always need to rely on an adult to solve the problem for them. Students can learn that when they're dealing with a "small problem", they should try at least two healthy choices before they seek help from an adult. When students have these tools and are able to resolve "small problems", teachers have more classroom time to focus on academics, because less time is spent on solving "small problems" between students.

Children can choose two of the following healthy choices to help them work through "small problems" that arise.

- \*Apologize when you make a mistake
- \*Walk away
- \*Ignore the bad behavior
- \*Ask them to stop
- \*Make a deal with another student

- \*Wait and cool off if you get angry
- \*Go to another game
- \*Talk it out with the other student
- \*Share and take turns.

If children have tried using at least two healthy choices to solve the "small" problem and the behavior continues, they can ask for help from an adult. For example, if a student is being teased on the playground they could choose to walk away from that student and to ask that student to stop. If the teasing continues, the student should then seek help from an adult since he/she has tried to solve it first on his or her own. Children benefit greatly by being able to problem solve on their own, it gives them confidence and makes them feel they have control over their situation, which results in healthy problem solvers and happier children.

**BULLYING:** Bully behavior occurs when there is a deliberate intent to harm, dominate, inflict pain, exclude or otherwise cause distress to the person being targeted. The person who bullies purposefully misuses his/her power (size, age, popularity, confidence, verbal ability) usually repeatedly. The balance of power between the bully and the target is NOT EQUAL.

Many times throughout the school year, you might hear your child use the term "bully" to refer to someone at school, at the Boys and Girls Club, in the neighborhood or at the mall. Often times students will 'label' someone a bully because they may experience unwanted behavior from time to time. While we encourage students to tell an adult immediately if they feel that they are truly being bullied, we also help students learn the differences between real bully behavior and behavior that may be a learned "developmental

misbehavior". At our school, Mrs. Klaboe, our school counselor, spends a great deal of time in the classroom and in small groups working with students regarding this issue. Our goal is to eliminate any/all bullying type behaviors at Broadwater School, and we feel that educating students is one of the best ways in which to accomplish this goal. Over the last several weeks, Mrs. Klaboe has been visiting classrooms discussing with students the importance of

appropriate social behaviors, and what it means to be an advocate for yourself. All year long, Mrs. Klaboe teaches skills in the classrooms that will help our students be more successful academically and socially throughout their lives. The skills our kids are learning will be used for a lifetime. Please call if you have questions about how you can help your student identify REAL bullying behaviors.



## Family Fun Night (Principal's Pasta) Successful!

On Friday, March 16th, over 300 Broadwater students and their families, along with teachers and staff members, shared spaghetti, bread and salad together during our spring Family Fun Night! Thanks to everyone who helped make that night a successful one! As always, our school's PTA was involved in a multitude of ways, and many staff members volunteered to dish out pasta, salad, cookies and drinks. Events like the Pasta Night are not intended to make money for our school. We hold these events in an ef-

fort to involve parents and family members in what is going on at their child's school. When we do charge admission, in this case \$5.00 for a family, it is to cover the costs of food, beverages and arts and crafts supplies. Thanks to your generosity and donations, we were able to cover the costs of dinner and supplies! What made the night extra special was the culminating performance of the Broadwater "Move It Crew", our hip-hop dancers in 2012. The group of 35 dancers finished the evening with two stellar performances

that had students, parents and families dancing in their seats! Special thanks go out to Miss Lynda and Miss Chelsea, and the RimView Dance Studio, for their tireless efforts in helping our students prepare for the finale on the 16th. Dancers worked for 10 weeks, approximately 800 minutes, or just over 13 hours, to get ready for the performance. Dancers are already looking forward to next year's Hip Hop Winter Camp 2013! We are so excited about what is happening at Broadwater School - Thanks for being a part of everything!

**2012 - 2013 Kindergarten Registration has begun! Please call the school to find out more, or go online to register your new kindergartener for the next school year!**

[www.billingsschools.org](http://www.billingsschools.org)

*"Placement decisions for your child are carefully considered every year. I personally meet with each grade level to discuss your child's future classroom placement - determining their teacher next year is not a random decision."*

## Out of Area Requests for Next School Year

If you are currently living out of Broadwater School's boundary area, this is a reminder that out of area students need to have an Out of Area form filled out for every school year. A letter will be sent out in May informing parents to contact their home school, if applicable. The Out of Area

forms are only good for the current school year, and must be re-submitted each school year. Forms for the 2012 - 2013 school year can be filled out at the end of this year, and will be kept on file until the fall. Approval will take place approximately two weeks before school starts. Because

of our diverse population, all out of area decisions are based on class size, discipline, attendance and tardy issues. Call the office at 281.6207 if you have questions, or are unsure of the boundary lines. You may also use the district web site to verify home school locations.

## May I Make a Teacher Request for 2012 - 2013?

The teachers and staff at Broadwater School are among the most qualified and highly professional people with whom I have worked. All of our teachers possess a multitude of teaching strengths, and care a great deal about each child placed in their care. Placement decisions for your child are carefully considered every year. I personally meet with each grade level to discuss your

child's future classroom placement - determining their teacher next year is not a random decision. Peer relationships, number of boys and girls, learning styles, educational needs, student/teacher personalities and parental relations are all taken into consideration with making student placements. Bottom line, I ask that you trust our decisions.

Should you have a concern that

I need to know about, please submit it to me, in writing, no later than May 11, 2012. There are no guarantees. All schools reserve the right to place students accordingly. Please know that it is impossible to grant all wishes. Adapting to change is part of the growing process for all children. Thank you for helping us through this process.

Mr. Halligan - Principal

**April 16th - 20th is National Volunteer Week, and Broadwater School would like to call special attention to all of the parents, business partners and community members who contribute to the success of our school every week! I wish we were able to call each of you out by name! Special thanks go out to the PTA at Broadwater School, the Big Brother and Big Sister Program through West, Senior and Central High Schools, St. Vincent's, Holland and Hart and Yellowstone Bank for your continued support of our school, staff and most importantly, our students! THANK YOU ONE AND ALL!!**



Each month, in the Broadwater Bulletin, we take an opportunity to "Spotlight" two people from the community who devote time out of their lives to the students and staff at Broadwater School. This month, we would like to spotlight two very special people at our school, both of which are the moms of two of our teachers. Each week, these women spend time helping their daughters complete tasks in the classroom, which in turn enable them to be more effective teachers. Please meet Sara Hays and Mary Suiter!

**Mrs. Sara Hays**

Sara Hays was a stay at home mom who loved volunteering in her children's classrooms. When Sara's daughter, Mrs. Bishop, started teaching at Broadwater School, she jumped at the opportunity to work in the classroom again. Sara is a scheduling coordinator for Interim HealthCare. During her lunch hour she comes and helps the kindergarten teachers with anything from tracing and cutting art projects to stuffing Thursday Folders. She calls this time her "sanity break." Sara has also been known to take a day off from work just to come work in Mrs. Bishop's classroom.

**Mrs. Mary Suiter**

Mary Suiter, the mom of our own Mrs. Reichenbach, was a long-time teacher in the Billings School District. Currently, she spends time helping in her daughter's classroom, and has become a favorite "Grandma" to many of our 3rd grade students. Mary's love of children and public education is one that runs deep. Even in her retirement, she is unable to stay away from the schools and the classroom. We have been lucky to enjoy the wealth of knowledge and experience that Mrs. Suiter brings to Broadwater School every time she walks through our doors.

**Please Cut on the Dotted Line and Return to School!**

**Every month, our Broadwater Bulletin includes this portion to help us stay in touch with you. Please help us keep our records current and up to day. Detach this completed bottom portion if you have new information that we need to have - Thank You!**

**It is critical that you, as parents and family members keep the school up to date on your most recent contact information. In the event of an emergency, we need to be able to contact you as quickly as possible!**

If you have recently moved or have a more current phone number, please let the office know as soon as possible. For the safety of your student(s), we need to have the most up to date contact information for you and your family! Please complete and clip out the form below, if applicable, and send to school with your child.

**Student Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**New Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**New Phone Number(s)** \_\_\_\_\_ Please indicate:    Mother    Father

**INFORMATION SCHOOL NEEDS TO BE AWARE OF:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

