

Broadwater Bulletin

Broadwater School
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2013 - 2014 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! Currently, we are not taking out of area kindergarteners.

www.billingschools.org

EVENTS IN APRIL

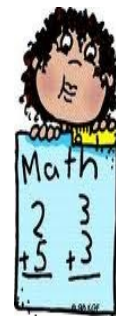
- 2nd - First Day Back to School
- 2nd - 26th - NWEA Testing
- 4th - Elementary Orchestra Concert - 7:30 PM @ Lincoln Center
- 10th - Hip Hop Starts Back Up
- 16th - PTA Meeting with Supt. Bouck @ 7:00 PM in the school gym
- 19th - Breakfast with a Buddy @ 7:15 AM in the school gym
- 21st - 27th - Nat'l Volunteer Week
- 24th - SECRETARY'S DAY!
- 25th - Broadwater Blood Drive from 2:30 - 6:00 PM

Principal's Pen - One Down, One to Go

On March 22nd, 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!**

Healthier Food/Beverage Choices

In mid-March, many of you received an email from me pertaining to soda being brought to school in cold lunches. Our district, and our school, is working toward promoting healthier lifestyles and healthier food and beverage choices during the school day. For that reason, and many others, we are asking that students not bring soda, or other carbonated energy drinks, to school for their lunch time. Soda will still be allowed during special classroom celebrations and events. Thank you for helping our students become healthier and supporting our efforts at the school.

Broadwater School and the Purple 5K

On Saturday, March 30th, several Broadwater students, staff and parents participated in the 4th 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 15th.

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.

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Healthy Choices with Technology

Here are some practical ways to make kids' screen time more productive and safe.

TV Time:

- *Limit the number of TV-watching hours. Don't allow your child to watch TV while doing homework.
- *Treat TV as a privilege that kids can earn.
- *Watch TV with your child and preview programs. Make sure you think they're age appropriate before your kids watch them.

Video and Computer

Games:

- *Look at the ratings AND preview the games, or even play them, before letting kids play. The games ratings may not match what you feel is appropriate for your child.
- *Also use game time as a privilege and reward.

Internet Safety:

- *Keep the computer in a common area where you can monitor kids.
- *Set reasonable rules for computer use and post them.
- *Spend time online together and bookmark your child's favorite sites.
- *Warn your child not to give out or post personal information if allowed to use social networking

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.

Kindergarten Registration Information

Every year we are faced with issues surrounding new student/kindergarten immunizations. Kindergartners are required to have a booster shot for DTaP, Polio, and MMR after their 4th birthday. They cannot start school without them. If your new kindergartner does not have these shots, please make sure you get them before school starts. With so many new students throughout the District, and 7th graders requiring a Tetanus shot, our health care facilities are full in the fall and it's hard to get an appointment for shots. Spring is the best time to get these shots, as clinics are not as busy. A copy of these shots will be required by any school upon registration and enrollment. **If your child does not have current immunizations by August 28th, they may not be able to start the new school year!**

INTERNATIONAL



Walk and Bike to School in April/May

At Broadwater School, we are doing a number of things as a school community to promote healthier living and a more active lifestyle. Our staff members are even taking steps to increase their health and physical fitness levels by participating in this year's Shape Up Montana program through the Big Sky State Games.

As many of you are aware, Broadwater 3rd - 6th graders will have the chance to participate in the spring Running Club starting up in the next week, and we encourage all students who are able and willing to work a

little bit, to come out and join the runners! The first Running Clubs will be on April 11 and 12, with 3rd and 4th grade meeting on the 11th and 5th and 6th graders practicing on the 12th. All practices will be from 7:45 - 8:05 AM.

Additionally, Broadwater School will be observing National Walk and Bike to School Week starting on May 13th and running through the rest of that week. During the week, we will be giving prizes away to those students earning tickets by making an effort

every day to walk or bike to school. For those kids who are not able to walk or bike to school, we will have opportunities for them to earn tickets during the school day.

We will be giving away 8 pairs of shoes and 8 bicycles that week to many lucky Broadwater students!

Thanks for all of your help and support of our kids to become healthier, happier students while at school and at home. You are their best example!

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 2013 - 2014 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.

"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."

May I Make a Teacher Request for 2013 - 2014?

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 class. 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 10, 2013. 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 21st - 27th 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!!**

THE SPOTLIGHT

This month, in the Broadwater Bulletin, we take an opportunity to "Spotlight" two very important people at Broadwater School. Starting this year, these two special people have been spending time in one of our kindergarten classrooms, and have become the adopted "Grandparents" of all of Mrs. Elenbaas's students. These folks have a heart as big as Montana, and are not afraid to share it with the Broadwater Family!

Vince and Louise Larsen

Vince and Louise Larsen are classroom grandparents for Mrs. Elenbaas' kindergarten class. They have come in to the classroom to help the kindergarteners celebrate special events, as well as to listen to the kindergarten kids read. Vince was raised in Mississippi, and Louise grew up in Louisiana. However, they have lived in Billings for many decades. Vince and Louise are strong supporters of education and of the Billings community.



Grandpa Vince and Grandma Louise read with kindergarten students at Broadwater.

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:

We are on the Web!

www.broadwaterschool.weebly.com