

# BROADWATER BULLETIN

WWW.BROADWATERSCHOOL.WEEBLY.COM

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**2014-2015 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 any out of area kindergarteners.**

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

## EVENTS IN APRIL

- 1st - Report Cards go home
- 3rd - Reef Night - 4:00 to 9:00 PM
- 8th - BUG and Honor Roll Assembly @ 8:45 AM
- 8th - PTA Meeting @ 7:00 PM
- 9th - Running Club @ 7:45 AM (4th and 5th grades)
- 9th - Volunteer Luncheon from 11:00 to 1:00 PM
- 17th - 21st - No School - Easter Break
- 25th - Breakfast with a Buddy @ 7:15 AM in the gym



**NATIONAL  
VOLUNTEER  
WEEK**

PRESENTED BY

## Principal's Pen - Testing Continues at Broadwater

This year is a unique year when it comes to our state and district tests administered in grades 3-5. Historically, our district has given all students two tests, the NWEA or MAP test and the state mandated MontCAS test.

This year, our state and district was granted a testing waiver that will allow us only to test our students using the new Smarter Balanced assessment, and the NWEA, but not the MontCAS. The Smarter Balanced assessment, or SBAC, is more closely tied to the Common Core standards, and will be the new standard of measure starting next school year. This year is an opportunity for us, as a school and district, to "test the test," so results will not be calculated or counted.

Students will be asked and expected to put forth their best effort on the SBAC, and we know they will rise to the challenge.

Testing can be a stressful time for students, teachers and par-

ents. We ask that you do all that you can at home to help students come to school prepared to learn and/or test during the next several weeks. Make sure that kids are getting plenty of rest, eating a good breakfast and are generally ready for the day.

This year there will be no traditional "paper and pencil" testing, but rather all students in grades 3-5 will be testing on a laptop computer or new ChromeBook machine. Once again we are grateful to each community member who supported our recent tech levy, as that has helped us more easily accomplish what we are setting out to do.

Students will be reminded that their test scores are very important when it comes to future academic placements. For all students testing this year, their placement in math and reading classes will depend on their spring NWEA test scores. It is vital that every student take his/her testing opportunity serious-

ly, so they can be most accurately placed in the best academic setting during the 2014-15 school year.

I am confident that our students are prepared for these tests, and I assure you that our teachers and staff have done everything they can in the classroom to prepare them. Thank you for your continued support of our school, and especially our students - we know that we have the best in town when it comes to students and staff!

**Please try to schedule appointments before or after school! Teachers will provide a testing schedule for each classroom to help you plan!**

Mr. Halligan - Principal



## National Volunteer Week

During the week of April 7th, Broadwater School, and many other organizations around the country, will be taking time to recognize those people who donate countless hours through volunteerism. Our school is fortunate to partner with several different organizations in the Billings community. Each

week at our school, we have over 55 people helping us to achieve our school's academic and social goals through volunteerism.

A special thanks goes out to each parent and community member who help make Broadwater School the best it can be every single day. We would

like to recognize these partners, in particular:

St. Vincent Healthcare  
Holland and Hart Law Firm  
Evangelical United Methodist Church (EUMC)

Thank you for making a difference in the life of a child!

## Attention Runners!

Running Club will start on April 9th and continue through May 16th! We will run from 7:45 to 8:05 AM!

4th and 5th Grade - Wednesdays  
2nd and 3rd Grade - Fridays

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

*"...look around you at the people who are content and seem to get through things in life...they are the people who constantly make others feel important..."*



The Family Tree Center



## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

### Something We Can All Do No Matter How Poor or Rich

The Season of Spring with its newness and life is upon us! Yeah! Are you just hanging in there, tired or facing some huge change or decision in your life? We all do at some point. Don't give up but learn to "give to others and you will find the strength and courage to go forward each day."

Have you tried a Random Act of Kindness (RAK)? No matter what your level of income or situation, you can make a difference in your children's, friend's and family's lives by "saying or doing something to brighten their day!" Here are some practical ideas:

- \* Simply be kind to someone. Smile. Give your child, friend, spouse a compliment. What you give will often come back to you! Fan the flame of kindness wherever you go...Try it!
- \* Be more thoughtful before you speak. If you want a family member, secretary, teacher or principal

to listen to you and do what you would like for your child, be patient and think how you can say what you want in a caring, yet direct way. Be sure to forgive others who have hurt you so that when you talk you are not angry and defensive. Try to be an example of what you want them to be to you!

\*Use your manners. Say excuse me, please may I talk to you, can you please help me, would you please give me that, would you listen please, please stop, that bothers me and thank you. When we are demanding, rude or unkind to others, we miss the chance to build a healthy relationship! Manners are still in, not out. They will help you be a better parent and bring more order at home.

\* Thank people who help you. Say thank you, write them a note, do them a favor. When you thank others, you make them feel valuable and important, and they often want to repay you back!

\* Cheer up the Lonely. Think of

those who are isolated or lonely: soldiers fighting overseas, kids in juvenile detention centers/hospitals, elderly people in nursing homes. Buy someone a meal, volunteer to help at church or in a homeless shelter, give a gift like gloves, hats, blankets.

\* Give your family a break from stress. Come together in a fun place, show them family pictures, or pictures of special times no matter what your family has gone through. Wash your car together, shovel snow together for your neighbor, promise to do the dishes for a week, play a fun game together. These are often boring at first, but create times for family bonding and communication.

In closing, look around you at people who are content and seem to get through things in life. I think you will find that they are people who constantly make others feel important as they give to others! Try a new act of kindness today and put a "SPRING IN YOUR STEP!"

## Celebrating, Collaborating and Meeting Families Where They Are

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Family Tree Center, along with many partner agencies and sponsors, are working hard to recognize the needs of our community, as well as celebrate healthy families. We know families look different and flow in and out of stress and crisis. Meeting the needs of children, no matter what neighborhood, income level or background requires the same ingredients... a nur-

turing, engaging home environment they can depend on. Family circumstances and level of support can vary for families, and community resources can be hard to navigate. All parents and caregivers are part of the picture... supporting, mentoring and growing healthy children who learn and play side by side in our schools and neighborhoods. During the month of April, we want to reach out to support

parents and caregivers in their unique situations. **Just as important** is the need to celebrate the little things that add up to foster healthy brain development and nurtured children! We invite you to call 252-9799, or visit [www.familytreecenterbillings.org](http://www.familytreecenterbillings.org) for more details regarding the ways we are working to build stronger families for a stronger community.

## Field Trips, Off Campus Activities and Other End of Year Events

Now is the time of year when teachers and students are planning and preparing for all kinds of fun and educational opportunities outside of Broadwater School. As a parent, you need to be aware of some things to be looking for! For each off-campus activity, students will come home with a permission

slip or consent form. **Please check backpacks often this spring!** This consent form is necessary for your child to participate in any off-campus event; without it, they may not participate! Often this form will include important details about the event, and inform you of what is expected for

each child. Please know that each field trip event is a privilege, and students are allowed to participate when work has been completed and behavior has been acceptable at school. If you have any questions about upcoming events, please call the school and talk with the classroom teacher or Mr. Halligan.