

# BROADWATER BULLETIN

Broadwater Elementary School  
415 Broadwater Avenue  
Billings, MT 59101  
406.281.6207

Principal Joe M. Halligan

August 2012

## LOOKING FORWARD TO ANOTHER YEAR!



I hope that your summer has been a great one, and that you have had many opportunities to enjoy family and friends while doing things you love to do! As always, summertime goes by way too quickly, and before we know it, it is time to set that alarm for the first day of school! For me, that is the most exciting part of summer! Last year was, by far, the highlight of my career in education. I anticipate that this upcoming year will be even better. Now that I know so many of you returning, and our relationships can pick up where we left off, we can hit the ground running on August 22nd, when students return to school.

## TIME TO BRUSH UP ON YOUR SKILLS!

Hopefully students and parents have been working this summer to stay sharp on the reading and math skills learned last year! If not, now is the time to start! Every summer, students have the opportunity to 'use or lose' much of what they learn every school year. One way that you can help your child(ren) during the months of June, July and August, it to encourage them to keep reading, writing and working on basic math skills. Finding time to read each day is a pretty simple thing,

but it has to be planned into your family's daily routine. Whether it is first thing in the morning, or the last thing you do each night, reading together or independently is a fabulous way to keep skills sharp when school is not in session. Our school's website has a number of different math, reading, science and social studies sites that you can visit to come up with creative ways to engage your kids this month. Set a goal with your kids, and keep them on track! You will not believe how

much 20 minutes of reading each day will help your child in the classroom...your teachers can always tell who has been reading!



If you have driven by the school on Broadwater Avenue, you might have noticed the reader board and the important message regarding the school day time changes for next year.

### OUR NEW SCHOOL HOURS WILL BE:

**K - 3rd Grade - 8:10 to 2:20**

**4th - 6th Grade - 8:10 to 3:00**

**\*Hot Breakfast from 7:30 to 8:00 daily**

We began the process of changing our school hours a year ago, and many people were involved in helping to make it happen. Thanks to the teachers and parents who helped in the process last summer! These changes were made to better prepare our students for the school day each morning. Please note that the change reflects a 15 minute adjustment to the start time and a 10 minute adjustment to each dismissal time. If you have any questions about the time changes, please call the school office at 281.6207.

Enjoy the rest of your summer! We look forward to seeing everyone back in the upcoming weeks...class lists will be posted in just a short time!

Mr. Halligan - Principal

*"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."*

### 2012 - 2013 Regular Breakfast and Lunch Student Prices

**Breakfast - \$1.25/Day**

**Lunch - \$2.40/Day**

Please call Christy with questions about your child's breakfast and/or lunch account - 281.6451.

**Free and Reduced applications must be renewed every year!** You can also access MealTime Online at:

<https://www.mymealtime.com>

### EVENTS IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

#### AUGUST:

**8th** - Main Office Open/New Student Enrollment

**9th/10th** - Kindergarten Pre-Screening - Call the office if you don't have a scheduled time

**17th** - K-6th Class Lists Posted After 4:00 PM

**20th** - Meet Your Teacher from 4:30 - 5:30 PM

**22nd** - First Day of School - School Starts at 8:10 AM!

#### SEPTEMBER:

**3rd** - No School - **LABOR DAY**

**13th** - Broadwater Open House and Annual Title I Meeting (Exact times will be posted in the September Bulletin)

**27th** - Elementary Early Release Day - Students Dismiss at 12:00

**29th** - Saturday Live at Pioneer Park - **20th Anniversary**

## Ideas to “Ease” the Transition for Students and Parents

Summer time often includes later nights and more flexibility. As the first day of school draws near, it helps to ease the family back into the school routine. A few days before school starts, move bed-times closer to normal school-night times. Begin to wake your kids up in the morning to help them get back in the swing of things.

### School Supplies:

Once you receive the official school supplies list, set a budget you would like to spend per child. Share that budget with your children. Invite them to go shopping with you and pick out their supplies while keeping within the set budget. It gives children choice and teaches them important life skills. You can find the Broadwater School Supply List on our school’s website at:

[www.broadwaterschool.weebly.com](http://www.broadwaterschool.weebly.com)

### Dealing with the Unknown:

For some children, not knowing their teacher, never having seen their new classroom and the unknown schedule are overwhelming. The unknown makes many people nervous. Try some of these ideas to help ease your children’s transition:

1) Try to set up a time before school to make a five minute visit to the new classroom. Remember, teachers are busy getting everything ready for the new school year. However, most teachers welcome the opportunity to meet a new student and eliminate some unnecessary fears.

2) Your children can write the teacher a letter telling her important facts about themselves and asking any questions that make them nervous.

3) If you have the teacher’s e-mail, write and ask for a copy of the schedule (if it is ready) so that your child can copy it into her notebook. Just the ability to anticipate activities helps alleviate some children’s concerns. Please note that all teacher addresses are simply their last name, first initial followed by the district address, for example:

[halliganj@billingsschools.org](mailto:halliganj@billingsschools.org)

4) Talk to your children about an experience you had that made you nervous. Share how you dealt with that.

\*Remember, August 20th (4:30 - 5:30) is a great time for you and your students to visit Broadwater School, meet your new teachers, drop off school supplies and just get a feel for our school. If you are new to the Broadwater community, please accept this as a special invitation for us to get to know you and welcome you to our school!

### The Night Before School Starts:

- Pick out clothes
- Eat well
- Make sure to get to bed early
- Talk about the plan for the next day
- Make snack/lunches ahead of time, if applicable

Probably the number one thing that you can do as a parent to help your child be successful every single day, is to **have them at school, on time, each morning.** Last year, we had too many students showing up late for school each day. While 10-15 minutes may not seem like a lot, add those minutes up over the course of a couple of weeks, and minutes turn into hours very quickly. That’s valuable learning time for every student!

With the new school day start time, this may be an adjustment for your family, but you owe it to your kids to make daily attendance a priority! Thanks for partnering with us to get kids here on time, every day!



The Broadwater School PTA invites you to become a part of your child’s school and classroom by joining the PTA. Your ideas and energy will help us all reach our goals this school year!

## How Can You Become Involved?

Every year our school depends a great deal on the efforts of a small number of very committed parents, teachers and community members. The Broadwater PTA/PTO is an organization that has partnered with the school to put “Student Learning and Success” on the forefront of all that we do. Like always, the PTO is seeking parents and family members, like you, to help us with the planning and implementation of the variety of events and services we provide throughout the school year.

If you would like to help contribute to the continued success of Broadwater School, its students and teachers, then we invite you to be a part of all that will be happening this year! This commitment to student success is not one that can be taken lightly, and should

you decide to be a part, your energy and ideas will be welcomed and valued.

Please contact the school at 281.6207 if you would like to be a part of this dynamic team of people.

This year’s PTA/PTO officers are:

**President** - Carol Haskins  
**Vice President** - April Clark  
**Secretary** - Lisa Linday  
**Treasurer** - Julie Gilsdorf

Special thanks go out to our new officers, and those who have served in this capacity in the past. Broadwater School is a better place because of all you have done for us...

Thank You!

**If you have changed addresses or phone numbers this summer, please call the school so we can make the changes in our system! It is very important that we have up to date information for you and any emergency contacts you may have for your children!**