



# BROADWATER BULLETIN

BROADWATER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

JOE M. HALLIGAN - PRINCIPAL

DECEMBER 2011

## The Weather is Getting Colder!

Each year, as the weather begins to change, we want to remind parents to make sure that children are dressed appropriately before heading to school each day. Our Montana weather can change on a moment's notice, and students need to be prepared for the changes. At Broadwater School, our policy states that students will be sent outside for recess each day unless:

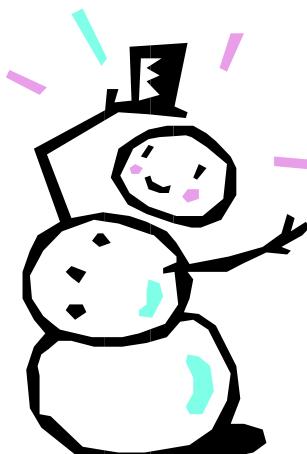
1. The outside temperature and/or wind chill is below 0.
2. It is pouring rain.
3. An emergency is called by the Weather Service.

If you have to drop your child off before 7:45 AM, please make sure they have warm clothing. Our Breakfast Program starts at 7:45, and kids will not be allowed in the building before then. During morning walk, students are generally outside

for 15 minutes before the school day starts, and that can be a long time to be in the cold without appropriate cold-weather gear. Recesses throughout the day last between 15-20 minutes, depending on the grade level. If students bring hats and gloves in their backpacks, they can be ready for any drastic weather changes. We have hats, mittens and coats available for students and families in need. Please come in and visit with us if your child is in need of warm winter clothing.

If your child forgets his/her hats and/or mittens, we can often help them by providing donated items, but we are limited to the number of items we can hand out each day. Please help your child remember to bring the necessary items so they can be comfortable and enjoy their time outside at recess during the cold weather.

If you would like to donate any new or lightly used winter clothing, please contact the school, at the number found on the front of this newsletter. Our hope is that every student at Broadwater will be prepared for the cold winter ahead, and we thank you for doing your part at home to make sure that happens.



The Weather Outside is Frightful...

### LABEL STUDENT CLOTHING AND OTHER ITEMS

Some of you might have noticed that our student lost and found has grown quite large already this year, and it is only December! One of the easiest things that you can do at home to ensure that your student comes home everyday with the

things that belong to him or her is LABEL all items of clothing, lunchboxes and backpacks with their name and a contact phone number. This trick takes almost no time, and can save you, as the parent, a lot of money and heartache trying to locate lost items at school.

Band and orchestra instruments should also be labeled for older students. Remember, it is difficult to reclaim lost items without some identifying information. Please take the time to make sure your child's items are labeled!



BROADWATER SCHOOL

415 BROADWATER AVE.  
BILLINGS, MT 59101

PHONE: 406.281.6207

FAX: 406.254.0057

### December Dates to Remember

Dental Screening	1
Board of Trustees Visit	15
Sodexho Holiday Lunch	15
Broadwater Band Concert	16
Winter Break	23
Return to School	Jan 2
* No PTA Meeting in Dec!	



## Parent/Teacher Conferences - A Huge Success

The teachers and staff at Broadwater School would like to thank each and every one of you who helped make this year's Parent/Teacher Conferences such a success! As a school, we had an attendance rating of 89%, which is a tremendous accomplishment.

Every fall, the Billings Public School elementary district releases students at 12:00 for three days straight to allow teachers and parents the opportunity to meet together to visit about the academic and social performance of our students. Teachers welcome this time because it not only allows them the

opportunity to discuss school issues, but it also allows them the opportunity to meet you as parents and family members. One of the greatest indicators for student success in schools is a positive school to home relationship. Ongoing communication with teachers is vital to your child's educational experience.

If you were unable to attend your child's conference, for whatever reason, you can still make an appointment to visit with the classroom teacher! Every year, our goal is to have 100% participation in this event, so please help us reach our goal. As the parent,

nobody knows your child like you do, and your input is critical to your child's continued success while in school. Please give us a call if you would like to set up a meeting with a teacher.



## 1ST QUARTER HONOR ROLL AND PERFECT ATTENDANCE

During the first quarter of school, Broadwater students worked extremely hard in and out of the classroom. Our teachers and students place a great deal of importance on daily classroom instruction and learning, as well as being at school, on time every single day, ready to learn. For the months of August, September and October, we had 108 students who did not miss any school, and who were not tardy even one time! For the first quarter of any

school year, this is a huge accomplishment! In addition to 108 students with perfect attendance, we had 72 4th - 6th graders who achieved a grade point average of 3.0 or above, placing them on the 1st Quarter Honor Roll. Those 72 students represent 49% of our intermediate students at Broadwater School! Thank you parents, for making attendance and homework a priority in your child's life - it will certainly pay off in the long run!

**"During the 1st Quarter of school, we had 108 students with perfect attendance and no tardies, and 72 students from grades 4-6 who made the Honor Roll!"**

## DISTRICT #2 TITLE I MEETING - INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

You are invited to a meeting to be held on **Tuesday, January 24, 2012** regarding the development/refinement of a plan to improve student performance throughout the district. According to the federal *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB)*, a school district that does not make Adequately Yearly Progress (AYP) for two consecutive

years must develop an improvement plan to help students meet the State's high academic achievement standards. We encourage you to attend this important meeting and welcome your comments and ideas in helping the district develop a strong and effective plan for improvement. The meeting will be held at **6:00 p.m.** in the **Boardroom at Lincoln Center**.





## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

### "Christmas Presence"

The Holiday season is often said to be "the most wonderful time of the year," but unfortunately, all too often it is an overwhelming, stress-filled time. As loving parents, we strive to make the Holidays a magical time for children. Our time becomes consumed with trying to find just the right gift that we often can't afford. Consider the saying, "the best things in life aren't things," this quote seems particularly appropriate.

ate at Christmas time. One present you can give your children that doesn't cost a dime is the gift of your **presence**.

The gift of time is by far the best gift of all! Give your children gifts of focused, meaningful interactions and you'll get gifts in return: stronger relationships, better communication and deeper connections.

We seem to already know this, but how many of us truly invest in the present time like we should? This month you have the opportunity to build positive Holiday memories and create time-honored traditions with your children,

such as baking, caroling or decorating the tree together. This could also be a great New Year's Resolution: To value the present time and invest in quality time with loved ones, because they aren't going to be around forever.

So, instead of waiting to unwrap presents once or twice a year, how about unwrapping our **presence** to one another all year long? Give your child the gift of TIME to create treasured moments to remember for a lifetime.

**Happy Holidays!**

## CHESS CLUB IS OFF AND RUNNING

On Wednesday, November 9th, the Broadwater Chess Club kicked off its first event during the lunch hour. Approximately 60 students in grades 4-6 participate in the Chess Club each week, which takes place from 12:00 - 1:00 every Wednesday afternoon. Volunteers from the business community give of their time to teach, coach and play chess with our intermediate students. Our hope this year is that inter-

mediate students will take advantage of this learning opportunity in an effort to learn a new game, as well as how to interact in a new setting. Scott Atwood and Bill Baker are the local volunteers/sponsors of the program, and our school appreciates all they do for us! If you are interested in learning more about Chess Club or would like to help in any way, please contact the school. We welcome any parents and/or family

members who may enjoy a game of chess now and then!

Approximately 60 students...  
participate in Chess Club each  
week! Please contact us if you  
are interested in learning more!

### PLEASE KEEP US UPDATED!

**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** \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate:      Mother      Father

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

**Happy Holidays from the Teachers  
and Staff of Broadwater  
Elementary School!**