



Broadwater Bulletin

Holiday Edition

December 2014/January 2015

Joe M. Halligan - Principal

The Weather has Gotten Much Colder!



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Each year, as the weather changes, 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 zero.
2. It is pouring rain.
3. An emergency is called by

the National Weather Service.

If you have to drop your child off before 7:30 AM, which is never recommended, please make sure they have warm clothing. Our Breakfast Program starts at 7:30, 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. 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 changes in the weather. We have a limited supply of hats, mittens and coats available for students and families in need. Much of our supply has already been diminished due to cold weather needs

this year. 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 again, 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 281.6207 and ask to visit with Mrs. Alpers, our Family Resource Coordinator. 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 this happens.

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's only the first part of December! One of the easiest things that you can do at home to ensure that your student comes home every day with their stuff is LABEL

all items of clothing, lunchboxes and backpacks with their name and phone number. This trick takes no time at all, and can save you a lot of time, money and headache 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, and teachers cannot possibly keep track of all student clothing. Please take the time to make sure your child's items are labeled! Come visit our Lost and Found any time!

Broadwater Elementary School
Phone: 406.281.6207



The Weather Outside is Frightful!

DECEMBER AND JANUARY CALENDAR EVENTS

December Events

My Voice Parent Survey - See web link below for details	8 - 20
Family Skate Night at Skate World - 5:00 to 8:00	11
Band/Orchestra Concert in the gym at 8:30 AM	17
5th Grade to the Yellowstone Art Museum	19
Holiday Break - No School	24 - 4

January Events

Students Return to school in January 2015	5
PTA Meeting - 7:00 PM Childcare provided in the gym!	7
Family Skate Night at Skate World - 5:00 to 8:00	8
End of 2nd Quarter	16
Report Cards Go Home	22
BUG Assembly at 9:00 AM in the gym	27
Pizza Ranch - PTA Night from 5:00 to 9:00 PM	29

My Voice: www.myvoicesurvey.org

Survey Code: 68eba7



1st Quarter Honor Roll at Broadwater

Every quarter, Broadwater School takes time to honor those students in grades 4-5 who excel in the classroom and earn Honor Roll status. Names followed by an * indicate students who earned straight A's. 1st Quarter Honor Roll students are:

Hayden Allie*, Alehya Arnold, Kameron Ball, Brooklyn Brownson, Mary Buck, Angel Carbery, Amilio Chavez, Chris Cox, Jadon Cox, Piper Creitz, Lindsay Dillon, Jazmyn Ferguson, Laken Goldsby, Syr Green*, Caden Kuntz, Dominique Kuntz*, Aja LaForge, Johnathan Luce, Jillian Mavencamp, Ramona McConnell, Gabe

McNamee, Aliana Padilla*, Jaiven Parker, Parker Predmore, Faith Ramirez, Century Rasmussen*, Liam Romei*, Itzu Romero*, Rose Santos*, Gavin Scott, Alyssa Skjold, Josh Smith, Taylor Steiner*, Saige Stordahl, Alexis Talks Different*, Caleb Thompson, Ethyn Thompson, Madeline Thompson*, Riviera Utely, Kiahna Wetzel, Gage Weyrauch.

Congratulations to all of our Honor Roll students - Your hard work and dedication will always pay off!



Thanks to all of the students and teachers who worked extremely hard to achieve the goals set by all! Keep it up!

Perfect Attendance for the 1st Quarter



During the 1st Quarter of this year, Broadwater had almost 60 students with perfect attendance - that's about 15% of our entire student population! Of course our goal is for every student to be here, every single day, ready to learn. Students who miss school often, or are frequently late, tend to not perform as well as those students who are in school every day. Please make your child's attendance a priority in 2015! In order to achieve perfect attendance, students must not miss a day of school, or be tardy even one time during the quarter. Congratulations to these kids for having perfect attendance during the 1st quarter, and we wish everyone the best of luck with the 2nd quarter:

DJ Adams, Rowan Archer, Cadien Archer, Logan Bates, Rigley Beals, Nick Beckers, Taison Binz, Noah Clark, Julia Cox, Miki Eto, Kenneth Flores, Christopher Flores, Gabe Glassing, Syr Green, Jeremy Haslam,


Braxton House, Nick Hulford, Malachi Johnson, Franky Kelly, Kalvin Kimmel, Zach Koch, Victor Koch, Josh Koch, Elias Kron, Dominique Kuntz, Avery Lehman, Joseph Luce, Bohdy Martin, Brighton McCaffrey, Ramona McConnell, Sadie McNamee, Rennie McNulty, Kamron Megears, Jordan Olson, Myrcle Ortiz, Hayden Payseno, Isaiah Pearson, Micah Rainey, Jonah Rainey, Faith Ramirez, Eztli Romero, Itzu Romero, Rose Santos, Evey Sather, Kaden Scheller, Sean Scher, Skylar Schuman, Jade Smith, Josh Smith, Treye Smith, Alex Steppe, Rylan Sundeen, Erik Sundstrom, Alexis Talks Different, LilyRose, Wood-Zarbock.

***Compare this list with our Honor Roll list, and you will see a lot of the same names! Attendance = Performance!**

Way to Go, Everyone - Mr. Halligan

CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB AT:

WWW.BROADWATERSCHOOL.WEBLY.COM



Counselor's Corner

10 Tips for Helping Your Child Cope with Holiday Stress

For most children, the holidays are happy, fun and exciting times. There's a break from school and a chance to see friends and relatives. There may also be special food, music and family traditions. However, for some children, the holidays can also be stressful and confusing. Family plans and celebrations may be complicated by divorce, separation or remarriage. The holidays can also be a difficult time for children who have lost a parent, sibling or close relative. This year, many children are also separated from parents due to ongoing military service or even incarceration.

The holidays often remind children of what's changed and what's now different. For example, a child from a divorced family may feel sad on some level because he misses the "intact" family he used to have. A child whose parent is on active military duty may feel it's particularly unfair that her daddy or mommy needs to be away over the holidays.

There are a number of things parents can do to help children cope with holiday stress.

These include:

1. Discuss holiday plans well in advance, and let kids participate in decisions to the extent possible. Kids need some degree of predictability. Prolonged uncertainty, constantly changing plans or last-minute decisions can all increase stress.
2. If you're traveling, leave plenty of extra time and bring child-friendly snacks, books, games and/or music.
3. Don't overschedule. You may not be able to do everything or see everyone. Kids can easily get "burned out," overtired and cranky during the holidays.
4. Give kids some "downtime." Don't expect them to be "on" all the time. Leave room for some quiet activities, like listening to music, taking a walk or reading a book.
5. Make sure kids get plenty of sleep. While it may be exciting to stay up late, lack of sleep often leads to increased irritability.
6. Let kids be honest about their feelings. Don't force them to act happy and excited if they're feeling quiet or down.
7. Don't promise things you can't produce.

For example, don't promise that a parent will be home in time for the holidays if the decision is really out of your control. Don't promise that someone will call if they're in an area with limited phone service.

8. Uphold and maintain family traditions even if a parent is absent. Kids count on certain traditions, which can have an important grounding effect by letting kids know that even though some things have changed, other things have remained the same.

9. Don't try and compensate for an absent parent with extra gifts or toys. It won't work. What most kids really want is time, attention and reassurance.

10. Take care of yourself. Try and avoid getting overloaded with obligations. If you feel stressed, it increases the pressure and tension on your children.

Most kids, even those dealing with loss or family transitions, can and do enjoy the holidays. However, preparation, patience and honesty can help prevent conflict, reduce stress and enhance the holiday season for the whole family. By Dr. David Fassler M.D.

Have You Considered Joining our PTA?

Part of being a member of the community at Broadwater School is investing time and energy back into the school. Probably one of the easiest ways this can be accomplished is through involvement in the PTA. This is by no means an exclusive group of parents, but rather a group of interested moms and dads who are passionate about what is going on in their child's school.

We would encourage you to give some thought to becoming a member of the PTA, and contributing to the ongoing success of our students and school. Being a part of the

PTA does not require hours of meeting every week. Our group meets one time, every month, for about an hour. It is almost always the first Thursday of each month, unless there is a conflict with a holiday, from 7:00 - 8:00 PM. In a school of over 360 students, our parent population is right around 800 adults. Currently, our PTA representation includes about 5% of that population. While we are very excited about the parents we have attending each month, we would enjoy seeing more of you at our meetings to help us make decisions that will

impact your kids for years to come. If you are interested in being a part of the PTA, you can call the school at 281.6207, and your name will be passed on to our president, Pax Haslem. Everyone is welcome!





Some Minor Adjustments this Winter...

1st Grade Walking on the West Side:

Starting the week of December 1st, all of our 1st grade classrooms began their morning walking on the west side of the annex building. Our staff made this decision as it was becoming too crowded on our the south blacktop, and this has helped to lighten the traffic considerably on that side.

When you drop your students off, please remind 1st graders to head to the west side, or “new playground” side of the school. It might take a few weeks for all of the students to remember this minor change.

Thanks for your cooperation!

Please, No More PokeMon at School:

Our school handbook specifically addresses bringing outside toys, and other belongings, to school each day. This fall and winter, we have had significant problems with students bringing their PokeMon cards to school to play with. Unfortunately, “toys” like this can be the start of unwanted arguments, and even fights, when things don’t go the right way for students. We have asked that all students refrain from bring PokeMon cards to school with them. If they come to school, students may have them taken away. Please make sure your child knows that they cannot play with PokeMon cards at school.

Morning Coffee and Other Drinks:

Believe it or not, we are experiencing a high number of students showing up each morning for the morning walk with a cup of coffee, hot chocolate or other drink. Please do not send your child to school with a mug, or other drink, to drink while they are at the morning walk. Not only can these drinks be spilled and cause injury, but they also create messes that will remain on our playgrounds. If kids need a morning drink, please make sure they finish them while they are still at home with you. Thanks for your cooperation!

Morning and Afternoon Dismissal

Every morning and afternoon, our north side becomes a hub of activity and vehicle traffic. With this activity comes an inherent risk for accident or injury. Please do anything you can to help us during this year of transition. Our bus zone on Wyoming Avenue is reserved for bus parking ONLY every day from 7:00 - 9:00 AM and 2:00 - 4:00 PM. Please do not park your vehicle in the bus zone in the morning when you drop your student(s) off. Pulling up to the curb and letting kids out is permissible.

We have learned that no matter how many times this issue is addressed through a

newsletter, bulletin, phone message or hand delivered note, there will always be someone who does not do their part to help.

That being said, please think about what you can do to help everyone involved remain safe. If you observe someone in the wrong, please do not confront them, but rather bring it to the attention of Mr. Halligan, or another school staff member. We must all remember that many of the things we see as “infractions” are not enforceable by law, and often there is nothing that can be done aside from another conversation with the person.

The school appreciates everything that has been done to minimize issues, and we ask that you remain patient as we move through the winter months.



Recycling Program at Broadwater

Recently Broadwater School, thanks to the efforts of Julie Hippler, our Title I Reading Interventionist, was recognized and awarded a grant from the state of Montana. This grant is a part of the governor’s Smart School Challenge that has recently started throughout the state.

Please bring any aluminum cans to our school to be recycled. Cans can be dropped off in the alley and placed in the designated recycling bin by the sidewalk. All money raised will go to help beautify our new school through landscape projects.





Turning Over a New Leaf - Principal's Pen

Every year, at exactly this time, each one of us is given the opportunity to 'start fresh' or 'turn over a new leaf' in some area of our lives. As students, parents, teachers and community members, this fresh start can come in a variety of forms. As we kick off 2015, and work our way toward the end of another school year, I encourage each of you to choose at least one area of your life in which you would like to 'start over', or work harder just to make better. You might have a bad habit that needs kicking, or perhaps you want to start a new healthy habit like daily exercise, reading a book a week or choosing a healthier diet. As the principal of Broadwater School, I am so pleased with the progress we are making as a learning community, and I am excited to see what the next five months will bring. As you all know, this year of construction has brought with it an number of obstacles and hardships for both students and teachers. Our community has done a tremendous job

rallying around this project and just rolling with the punches, as they come our way. If I could choose one area for our school, as a whole, to focus on, it would be the area of daily attendance. During the first four months of school, we have spent way too much time each morning writing tardy slips to those students who walk through our doors after the school day has already begun. Starting in October, we started an attendance incentive program that rewards classrooms with the top attendance each month. Please help your child, and their classroom, by getting all students here on time, every day. I know that most students at Broadwater are capable of being here, on time, every day. I want to remind everyone that getting to school every day is a team effort. Each of us must rely on our families to help make that happen. I am asking for the help of each student, parent, sibling and family member to make daily attendance a priority in your home in 2015.

Thank you for partnering with us - We cannot do it without you!

Mr. Halligan - Principal



"Every year, thousands of hours of teaching and learning time is lost to tardy and absent students in our schools...we can do something about it!"

New Address for 2015?

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 it back to school with your child.

Student Name: _____

Parent Name: _____

New Address: _____

New Phone Number(s): _____ **Please indicate: Mother Father Other**

E-Mail Address: _____

INFORMATION SCHOOL NEEDS TO BE AWARE OF: _____
