



Broadwater School
 415 Broadwater Ave.
 Billings, MT 59101
 Phone: 406.281.6207
 Fax: 406.254.0057

Home of the Broadwater Panthers!

JANUARY 2012

Happy New Year 2012

Welcome back to what we hope will be a wonderful start to 2012! We are excited about what is happening at Broadwater School, and hope that you will help us continue to be successful every day!

January Events

5th/6th Grade Orchestra Concert	6
PTA Meeting 7:00 PM	10
End of the 2nd Quarter	13
PIR Day - No School for Students	16
Report Cards Go Home	19
Honor Roll/BUG Assembly - 2:00 PM	23
Family Skate Night Skate World West	24

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 2012, and work our way toward the end of another school year, I encourage each of you to choose at least one area in your life in which you would like to start over, work harder or just get 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 eating better. As the principal of Broadwater School, I am so pleased with the progress we are making as a learning commu-

nity and I am excited to see what the next five months will bring. If there was one area that I would like us all to focus on, as a school, it is the area of daily attendance. During the first four months of school, we have spent a lot of time each morning writing tardy slips to those students who walk through our doors after the school day begins. I know that most students at Broadwater are responsible and capable of being here, on time, every day. I want to remind everyone that getting to school every day, on time, ready to learn, 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 major priority in your home.

Every year, thousands of hours of teaching and learning time is lost to tardy and absent students in our schools. One of the best things you can do for yourself and your learning community, is to make daily attendance a high priority. Not only will you set yourself up for success down the road, but you will contribute to the overall success of your classroom and school! Thank you for partnering with us - we cannot do it without you!

Mr. Halligan - Principal



A Huge Thank You From Our Staff

Over the last several weeks, before our Holiday break, the staff at Broadwater School enjoyed treats, snacks and goodies of all kinds provided by the PTA Baking Committee and the wonderful parents

and families at our school.

While we will be working off all of the calories consumed in December for many weeks to come, we are so thankful for the "fuel" that helped us motor through the weeks leading up to Christmas!

School (too many to name) for the outpouring of support of our students and families in need this holiday season.

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to enrich the lives and the holiday of many of our Broadwater students and their families.

In addition, we would like to thank all of the local organizations, community members and supporters of Broadwater

We are so grateful for community partners like you!





“You have to really mean these statements - You can’t fake empathy.”

“Our weather can change quickly and students are expected to be outside unless other arrangements have been made.”



COUNSELOR’S CORNER - EMPATHY SKILLS

Empathy is a sincere, personal understanding of how another person feels. The following are a few ways to practice the skills of empathy at home. Refer to them when teachable moments arise involving positive behavior or problems related to being empathetic. Notice and comment when children show that they understand and care about how someone feels:

Practice Reflective Listening: Show respect for the person by reflecting what they have said back to them - this lets them know for sure that you were listening. For example, say, “What I hear you saying is... (then repeat what they just said as best you can). Do not interpret or put your “spin” on it. Or say,

“If I’m getting this right, you’re saying... (again, repeat what they just said). After you have repeated their words back to them, ask, “Is that correct?” If they say yes, then move on, otherwise try again until you accurately reflect what they have said.

Showing Empathy and Validation: Accept the validity of the other’s feelings regardless of whether you agree with them. For example, say, “When I put myself in your shoes, I can see why you would feel that way,” or “When I look at this from your viewpoint, what you’re saying makes sense to me,” or finally “That must really feel bad to you.” You have to really mean these statements - **You can’t fake empathy!**

It can help to imagine that you are the other person, and think how things look from their viewpoint. This is a skill anyone can learn!

Expressing Understanding: Indicate understanding of what your partner is experiencing. Say, “I think I see where you’re coming from,” or “I see what you mean,” or the old standby, “I think I understand what you’re saying.”

Check out these additional resources!

www.angermanagementresource.com/bullying.html

Understand and Care by Cheri J. Meiners

Is Your Child Dressed Appropriately for the Weather?

When your child comes to school in the morning, does he/she have a WARM coat, pair of gloves, hat and snow boots?

Students walk in the mornings, and could have 2-3 recesses during the day. They are outside for up to 20 minutes at a time. Without proper clothing, they are exposed to the cold weather. Our weather can change quickly and students are expected to be outside un-

less other arrangements have been made. At Broadwater School, donations of coats, hats, gloves and boots have been made, but our supply is not limitless. We can only provide so much, and supplies do run low each year. You can help by making sure your child comes each day with a coat, gloves, hats and boots. A pair of pants in their backpack might help as snow begins to

melt, and students return to class wet and uncomfortable. We do have a small supply of pants, but these are used for students who might have “bathroom emergencies”.

If you have them, an extra pair of gloves, pants/sweats and a hat can be kept at school in case your student forgets them. Please let your child’s teacher know if you would like to send them to school.

Family Skate Night - Take Two!

Family skate night is a family event arranged by our Parent Resource Coordinator, Sheryl Alpers. We try to have a Skate Night at least three times each year, and the next one is coming up soon!

November’s Skate Night was a huge success, with almost 150 students and family member coming to support Broadwater School. Each night, our school receives a percentage of the pro-

ceeds to go toward student needs at our school. As always, parents are encouraged to stay with their children, even if they do not skate with them. If you are unable to stay, please make sure that you are there to pick your child up by 8:00 PM. Skate World staff requires that all students are picked up at the conclusion of the event - Please help us respect their policy, and continue this fun tradition at Broadwater!

We hope to see you there. If you have any questions, call Sheryl at 281.6424.

Our next Skate Night is :

Tuesday - January 24th

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Skate World West

701 S. 29th St. West

ALEKS MATH PROGRAM RETURNING TO BROADWATER!

Attention parents of 4th - 6th grade students - The ALEKS Math Program is returning to Broadwater School in 2012!

As educators, we know that not all students learn in the same ways or at the same pace. We must make an effort to challenge students, especially in the area of mathematics, in order to keep them engaged for the 'long haul'. If students are to be successful in mathematics, for them it must become a relevant and important part of their life. Through the ALEKS Program, students are given opportunities to extend their

daily math practice in areas they may not otherwise get the chance.

An initial assessment through this online program tells teachers the areas in which students might struggle mathematically, as well as areas of strength. By collecting and using this data, teachers can place students on the appropriate "track" which will focus student learning and practice.

ALEKS is not for everyone, and our school will only be able to support a limited number of licenses, but we would

like to enroll students as quickly as possible. Our school is prepared to help in the purchase of a number of licenses, but we would like to ask for your support, if your child is interested. Each license costs about \$40.00.

We will be sending information home soon, so be on the lookout if this is something that might be of interest to you and your child. Participating students will be expected to FULLY commit to the program and be here each morning to work with staff members to enhance their math skills.



ALEKS[®]
Better Math Scores

Hip Hop Winter Camp - 2012

Broadwater School, with the cooperation and support of the Alberta Bair Theater and Rimview Dance Studio, is excited to kick off our first ever "Hip Hop Winter Camp" to begin January 11, 2012!

Through this partnership, students in grades 5 and 6 are invited to join us two mornings a week for Hip Hop dance instruction from two

local dance instructors from Rimview Dance Studio - Miss Lynda and Miss Chelsea. The 8-week program will run from January 11 through March 8, and will conclude with a student performance for parents and family members. The goal of this program is to keep students active during the long winter months. Each fall and spring, students at Broadwater have the op-

portunity to participate in the Broadwater Running Club. This club keeps kids moving in the fall and spring. With the Hip Hop Winter Camp, students are able to keep their bodies active, while having fun with friends and learning new skills that they can develop down the road. Information will be coming home soon, if your child is interested!

"The goal of this program is to keep students active during the long winter months."

NEW ADDRESS FOR 2012?

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: _____