

Broadwater School  
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Principal: Joe M. Halligan

*“At Broadwater School, Every Student Learns, Every Single Day...No Shortcuts, No Excuses!”*

**2013 - 2014 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!**

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

## March Events

Elementary Band Gala at Senior High @ 7 PM	7
MontCAS Testing Window at Broadwater	4 - 26
PTA Meeting @ 7:00 PM in the Gym	12
3rd Quarter Ends	22
Report Cards go Home	26
Early Release/Spring Break - Return Apr 2	27 - 1
Purple 5K Race - @ 12:00 PM	30

# BROADWATER BULLETIN

MARCH 2013

## Principal's Pen - State and District Tests on the Horizon

As of Monday, March 4th, the testing window for the state MontCAS assessment was opened. On April 2nd, we will begin the district NWEA assessment in grades 3-6. What does that mean for students, teachers and families at Broadwater School? Ultimately, it is an opportunity for us to demonstrate all that we have accomplished this far into the school year. For almost three quarters now, students and teachers have been working hard, in and out of the classroom, to learn what is expected at each grade level. Progress is being made in all areas, and our staff is very proud of the work that has been done thus far. When students enter into a district or

state test, they are attempting to, in 2-3 days, demonstrate all that they have done in reading, math and language arts during the year.

### How Can Parents Help?

There are a number of things that you can do, as parents and families, to help your students test successfully. Please take advantage of these helpful test preparation tips!

**1. Make attendance during the next 2 months a priority.** In order for students to be successful test-takers, they need to be in school as often as possible. Please make sure that appointments are scheduled before or after regular school hours, and that students are on time each day.

**2. Ensure students get plenty of sleep/rest each night.** A good night's sleep is essential for each child to be at his/her best during testing times.

**3. Eating a healthy/hearty breakfast helps students get ready for the day.** It is no secret that filling our bellies helps a great deal when starting the school/work day.

**4. Be your child's biggest cheerleader!** Testing can be stressful and anxiety producing, at any level. One thing that you can do to help your child feel successful is to cheer them on. Remind them that they have been preparing for these tests all year, that they know the material and that this is an opportunity for them to shine.

**Thank you, in advance, for all that you are doing to help our kids succeed!**

## Thank You Volunteers!

Our thanks and gratitude is never expressed often enough for those people who give of their time each week to help our students and staff work to accomplish our academic goals. Broadwater School is very fortunate to draw from an incredible pool of highly qualified and engaging volunteers from all different walks of life. This year we have continued our

partnership with St. Vincent's Hospital, and they are demonstrating daily and weekly support by providing adults in our school to help with struggling students in reading and mathematics. We are so grateful for this partnership, and hope that we can continue to build this relationship for years to come. If you are interested in

becoming more involved in our school, please contact the office to find out how! Together we are better!



## Message from our PTA President



*“As a PTA,  
our desire is  
to be good  
stewards of  
the money  
that has  
been  
donated to  
Broadwater  
School...”*

### To the Students, Parents and Families of Broadwater School:

What a wonderful year Broadwater School is having! As your PTA President this year, I am pleased with our progress this far. As a group, the PTA is busy year-round planning and hosting social events for our school. Some of these events include Saturday Live, Fall Chili Night, Spring Pasta Night, Breakfast with Your Buddy and Spring Carnival. Our major fundraising event, that was very successful this year, was the Elliot’s Cookie Dough.

With your support, this year we have been able to raise money to give back to our school in much needed areas. As a PTA, our desire is to be good stewards of the money that has been donated to Broadwater School, and think you as parents and families have a right to know just where that money goes. Listed below are some of the areas in which our PTA gives back to Broadwater School:

- |                               |  |                                    |
|-------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| <b>Gym Supplies</b>           | <b>New Books for Library</b>                 | <b>Tears of Joy Puppet Theater</b> |
| <b>Field Day Treats</b>       | <b>Water/Snacks for NWEA/MontCAS Testing</b> |                                    |
| <b>Class Pizza Parties</b>    | <b>Science Fair</b>                          | <b>Spelling Bee</b>                |
| <b>School T-Shirts</b>        | <b>Teacher Appreciation</b>                  | <b>ALEKS Math Program</b>          |
| <b>Busing for Field Trips</b> | <b>4<sup>th</sup> Grade Audubon</b>          | <b>Family Resource Center</b>      |

In addition to these areas, this year our PTA provided some additional funds to put toward our new playground project taking place this spring and summer. Keep watching our west side playground as it is transformed into a new and exciting play area for our primary students!

Do you want to know more about the Broadwater PTA? Join us the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month in the school gym at 7:00 PM to be involved, be informed and be heard.

Sincerely,

Carol Haskins  
PTA President

## Story Time with Your Children



*Spending time with your  
kids reading will help their  
love for reading grow!*

Want to spend time with your children, building their reading skills and helping them to learn to love books? You can do all three when you read aloud to them!

**Read Regularly** - Try to read to your child every day, for at least 10-15 minutes. Reading together can be a peaceful end to a busy day. You might even get the chance when dinner is in the oven - get creative with the time you have!

**Take Turns Choosing Books** - Your child may want to hear old favorites again and again. Use your turn to introduce new titles and variety.

**Let Them Participate** - Ask your child to turn the pages while you read. Also, they can finish sentences that rhyme or fill in words they know. Go slowly so they have time to understand the story and look at the illustrations. They will enjoy read-aloud time more if they play an active role.

**Be Playful** - You can use different voices for different characters! Substitute your child’s name for the main character’s name, and use family members’ names for other characters.

You don’t have to be an expert reader - your child will love it when you read aloud because it’s you!

Adopted from: Reading Connection, Beginning Edition

## Test Taking Tips For Elementary Students

Tests are important because they help the teacher evaluate a student's needs and progress, the student gauge his or her own level of mastery, and the parent monitor his or her child's progress.

Tips to give your child about taking tests:

- \* Relax. Just do the best you can.
  - \* Your first choice is usually correct. Don't change an answer unless you have a good reason to do so.
  - \* Be aware of key words such as "all," "now," "always," "never," "only," "exactly."
  - \* In multiple-choice questions, don't skip the longest answer. It should be considered, since test writers want to be sure the correct answer is accurate - they may add lots of details to ensure accuracy.
  - \* Watch for negative words like "not," "no," "never."
  - \* Look for information in some of the questions. This information may help you answer other questions.
- PARENTS: You can assist your child's preparation in testing by doing the following:
- \* Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep before a test, and make sure your child eats properly the day of the test.
  - \* Maintain a pleasant home environment and avoid unnecessary conflicts. Try to make the morning of the test a pleasant one. Do not add to your child's stress.
  - \* Make sure your child has taken any needed medication.

- \* Ensure that your child is present during testing (children generally perform better when taking tests with their class, rather than at a make-up time).

- \* Get your child to school on time the day of the test.
- \* Wish your child good luck each morning of the test. Tell your child that he/she is special and that you believe in him/her.
- \* Remind your child the test is important. Encourage him/her to do his/her best.
- \* If your child is too ill to attend, please call the school office.
- \* If the test is on a subject for which you can review (such as a spelling test), help your child go over the material.
- \* Remind your child to listen carefully to the instructions from the teacher and to read the directions and each question carefully.
- \* Explain to your child the importance of using time wisely. If your child gets stuck on a question, encourage him or her to make the best guess and move on.
- \* Tell your child to attempt to answer all of the questions and not to leave any blank.
- \* Encourage your child to stay focused on the test, even if other students finish early.
- \* If your child is disappointed after taking a test, reassure him or her that there will be plenty of opportunities to improve and succeed.

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

*"When we as parents, teachers and community members deeply CARE for our family's culture, and our children's abilities, and encourage them to work hard and not give up, they develop confidence to BECOME ALL THEY WERE BORN TO BE!"*

**BULLYING:** Bully behavior occurs when there is a deliberate intent to harm, dominate, inflict pain, exclude or otherwise cause distress to the person being targeted. The person who bullies purposefully misuses his/her power (size, age, popularity, confidence, verbal ability) usually repeatedly. The balance of power between the bully and the target is NOT EQUAL.

Many times throughout the school year, you might hear your child use the term "bully" to refer to someone at school, at the Boys and Girls Club, in the neighborhood or at the mall. Often times students will 'label' someone a bully because they may experience unwanted behavior from time to time. While we encourage students to tell an adult im-

mediately if they feel that they are truly being bullied, we also help students learn the differences between real bully behavior and behavior that may be a learned "developmental misbehavior". At our school, Mrs. Klaboe, our school counselor, spends a great deal of time in the classroom and in small groups working with students regarding this is-

sue. Our goal is to eliminate any/all bullying type behaviors at Broadwater School, and we feel that educating students is one of the best ways in which to accomplish this goal. Please call if you have questions about how you can help your student identify REAL bullying behaviors.



Broadwater School strives to be a Bully-Free School.

We are on the Web!  
www.broadwaterschool.weebly.com



BROADWATER  
BULLETIN

No Shortcuts. No Excuses.

2013 Spelling Bee Participants

This year we had 20 students in grades 5 and 6 who participated in our annual Spelling Bee. The Bee took place on Wednesday, February 27th and many parents and family members were on hand to cheer on the spellers.

Congratulations goes out to Nicholas Walker and Drake Pannell, our 1st and 2nd place finishers! Nick will represent Broadwater School in the upcoming Yellowstone County Spelling Bee at MSU-B.

Here are the rest of the dedicated spellers worthy of recognition:

Noah Corbridge, Joleen Mallary, Jacyn Malone, Izac Rodenberger

Ewan Sulser, SteenaMarie Welk, Dylan Clayton, Rynzi Hernandez, Alexia Hill, Nathan Matye, Kaylee Bowles, Emma Creitz, Mikayla Model, Molly Deppmeier, David Dolan, Freya Lesiak, Makenzie Moberly, Hayden Yarbrough

**Congratulations to each of you for your dedication to academic excellence!**

**Don't Forget to Check In!**

Please remember, when you enter the building, to sign in a grab a guest name badge so you can be identified at the office. As always, our number one priority is student and staff safety, and we appreciate your help!

We welcome visitors at any time and hope you are able to come in some time and see how things are going.

**Lost and Found**

If you think you might be missing some cold-weather gear, please come check our school's Lost and Found!

We will be collecting all unclaimed clothing and donating it to Family Services before spring.

Please Cut on the Dotted Line and Return to School!



**Every month, our Broadwater Bulletin includes this portion to help us stay in touch with you. Please help us keep our records current and up to day. Detach this completed bottom portion if you have new information that we need to have - Thank You!**

**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(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate:      Mother      Father

INFORMATION SCHOOL NEEDS TO BE AWARE OF:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_