

# BROADWATER BULLETIN

## Principal's Pen - March Kicks Off Testing Windows

Beginning Monday, March 10th, our spring testing window will be open for 2014. The testing windows will extend well into the month of May, and will include a variety of state and district tests for our 3rd - 5th grade students. This year, Billings Public Schools have been granted a testing waiver for the state MontCAS test, with the exception of 4th grade science. As a district, we will be part of a pilot program involving an assessment organization called Smarter Balanced. Starting in 2014-15, the state will move from the MontCAS test to the Smarter Balanced test, each spring. Smarter Balanced is aligned with Common Core standards, and will assess students in grades 3 through 12. What does all this mean for Broadwater

School? Ultimately, it is an opportunity for us to 'showcase' 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. Our staff is very proud of all the students, and we know we have a lot yet to accomplish!

### 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 two months a priority.** In order for students to be successful test takers, they need to be in school as often

as possible. Please try to schedule appointments before or after the school day.

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

**3. Eat a healthy breakfast.** It is no secret that eating a hearty breakfast each day fills our bellies and prepares us for the day.

**4. Be your child's biggest cheerleader!** Testing can be stressful and anxiety producing, for even the best test-takers. You can cheer them on by reminding them that they have been preparing for these tests all year! Encourage them to try their hardest and to really "shine" while they are testing!

**Thank you for your support!**

*"At Broadwater School, Every Student learns, Every Single Day...No Shortcuts, No Excuses!"*

**2014 - 2015 Kindergarten Registration has begun! Please call the school to find out more, or go online to register your kindergartener for the next school year!**

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

## Sick Students Coming to School

With the extended winter season and intense snowfall, we have seen the highest numbers of sick students in and out of school, in years. As a school, we encourage parents to keep their kids at home when they are sick, especially with a fever or nausea.

Coming to school sick only helps the spread of illness, which may result in more students missing

school. If your child is sick, please keep them home until they are well. In most cases, students need to be fever and nausea free for 24 hours before returning to school, thus ensuring that they are no longer contagious.

If you do have a sick child in the evening, and they attend school the next morning,

please **do not tell them they can call home if they are not feeling well.** If they come to school, they will report to the teacher/nurse, and the school will determine whether or not they need to call home. If you think they may need to go home from school, once they are already here, we encourage you to keep them home to begin with. Thank you!

### MARCH EVENTS

Community Meeting @ 6:00 PM - In the Gym	4
Sealants for Smiles at Broadwater School	7
Student Council Sled Day at Pioneer Park	8
NED Assembly and Yo-Yo Sales at School	13 - 21
Family Skate Night @ 6:00 PM - Skate World	18
No School - Vacation Day	24
3rd Quarter Ends	28

# COUNSELOR'S CORNER



## Helping Your Child Handle Test Anxiety

Some children suffer from test anxiety, which is defined as the uneasiness or apprehension they feel before, during or after a test because of worry or fear of failure. It is normal for students to feel a little nervous before a test, but some children get so anxious that it affects their health, their attitude and their grades.

**Signs your child may be overly worried about tests include:** Doesn't want to go to school, especially on test days; Changes in eating and sleeping patterns in the days before a test; Won't complete even simple homework assignments; Is distracted and unable to focus; Puts him or herself down and calls themselves

"stupid"; Has an upset stomach or tension headache before a test; Performs well on practice tests, but not on the real test; Does well on assignments and projects but not on tests.

Low levels of anxiety can be helpful in motivating students to study and perform well, but when anxiety is high, it can interfere with their focus and limit their ability to think clearly. The good news is that parents can help their children manage test anxiety.

**Here are some steps parents can take to limit their child's test anxiety:**

Make sure your child has enough

sleep, eats a healthy breakfast and gets to school on time; Check with your child to see if they have the needed school supplies for the day; Keeping your children accountable by making sure all school assignments are completed; Study with your child starting a couple of days before the test; Praise your child for their efforts; Encourage your child to think positive thoughts, and repeat them to you; and Teach your child to relax through simple techniques such as deep breathing and meditation.

Mrs. Klaboe, our School Counselor, can be reached at 281.6426.

## Always Report Suspected Bully Behavior

Many times throughout the school year, you might hear your child use the term "bully" to refer to someone at school, 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 immediately if they feel that they are truly

being bullied, we also help students learn the differences between real bully behaviors and behaviors that may be 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 regard-

ing this issue. 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.

You can reach the school by calling 281.6207.



## Become a Yellowstone CASA Volunteer



Did you know that today in Yellowstone County, 400 children are placed out of their homes because they experienced abuse or neglect? Are you a compassionate individual that wants to make a difference in the life of a vulnerable child? Yellowstone CASA is looking for new advocates. Yellowstone CASA trains everyday community volunteers to be advocates for abused and neglected children in the court

system. Do you have 5 to 15 hours a month to donate and the desire to change a child's future? Advocates must commit to a child for the duration of a case (approximately 22 months), serve as the investigative arm of the court, write reports and advocate for the child's best interest in a courtroom. Be that difference to a child. Be an advocate. Training starts Tuesday, March 4th and

runs every Tuesday night for 6 weeks. Training consists of 3 hours per week in a classroom and 3 hours per week online. Please contact Maggie Brusven, Program Coordinator, if you have questions:

1201 Grand Ave. Suite 5  
P.O. Box 688  
Billings, MT 59103-0688  
406.259.1233  
maggie@yellowstonecasa.org

## Sealants for Smiles coming to Broadwater

Dentists and Dental Hygienists will be visiting Broadwater School on Friday, March 7th, to provide children with free dental screenings. This screening includes cavity preventing services such as fluoride vitamins and dental sealants. In addition, students will receive toothbrushes, toothpaste, prizes and a dental health "report card." Even if your child has already seen the dentist, allowing them to have their teeth screened

helps gather important dental health information. This program is not meant to be an alternative to regular dental care. Children who have a dentist should keep existing scheduled appointments and continue to receive regular care by their dentist. This program is available at no cost to families, and follows recommendations from the American Dental Association and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for school

dental sealant programs. Consent has gone home with every student, but many have not returned them. If you would like your child to participate, please contact the school, and we will provide you with another consent. You can also visit the Parent Page on our website to download a printable version and return it with your child before March 7th. Thank you for your participation in this event!

Sealants  
for Smiles®

ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM  
SPONSORED BY DENTAL SELECT

## Walking and Biking to School this Spring



As spring approaches, WE HOPE, more and more students will begin walking and riding their bikes to school again.

Now is a great time to review with your children the rules and expectations we have at Broadwater School. Please remember that everything we do as a school is run through the grid of Student Safety, and

we have your child's best interests in mind.

**Bike Riders:** We do not encourage, or allow, kindergarten and 1st grade students to ride to school unsupervised. If students are riding to school, the expectation is that they wear a helmet, and have an operating bike lock. We will not be responsible for bikes that are lost or stolen from school grounds.

**Skateboards and Scooters:** Students should not be riding skateboards or scooters to school, at any time. Those items should be used after school and on the weekends. From a safety standpoint, scooters and skateboards are more dangerous than bikes, and students can be injured more easily on them. Thank you for your cooperation!

## 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

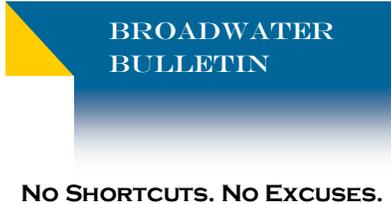
strengthened our partnerships with St. Vincent's Hospital, Holland and Hart and the Evangelical United Methodist Church. In addition, we host a number of parents and community members each week in our school. All totaled, we have approximately 55 volunteers that visit our school during any given week. We are so grateful for these part-

nerships, and are excited to see what the future holds. If you are ever interested in becoming a more involved part of Broadwater School, please do not hesitate to ask! The need is great, and we would welcome the additional support!

Be on the lookout for information about our Volunteer Tea coming soon!



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



**2014 Spelling Bee Participants**

This year, we had 21 students in 5th grade who participated in our annual Spelling Bee. The Bee took place on Tuesday, February 11th and many parents and family members were on hand to cheer on the spellers!

Congratulations goes out to **Jackson Hemmat** and **Elijah Montiel**, our 1st and 2nd place finishers! Jackson will represent Broadwater School in the upcoming Yellowstone County Spelling Bee at MSU-B.

The following list includes other students who were dedicated to spelling excellence during this year's Broadwater Spelling Bee:

Alauna Martinez, Brendan Rye, Hailey Brager, Jacob Povsha, Aura Waltenbaugh, Bailey Sandefur, A.C. Rides Horse, Isaac Podvin, Jack Dolan, Hadan Belcourt, Tonya Norton, Maliea Malloy, Kaeden Goffena, Anjelica Bonner, Noah Deherrera, Michaiiah John, Nathan DeRoeck, Simon Shoemaker and Sophia Miller

**New Smarter Balanced Testing this Spring**

As was mentioned earlier in this newsletter, one of the tests that students will be taking this spring is called the Smarter Balanced assessment. As a student and parent, you have the opportunity to "practice" this test before the actual test dates. We would highly recommend checking out the following link, also found on our school website, to become familiar with the Smarter Balanced test format. This experience will better prepare your student for the new testing experience! Please let the school know if you have questions about Smarter Balanced testing.

Follow the link below:

[https://sbacct.tds.airast.org/student/login.aspx?c=SBAC\\_PT](https://sbacct.tds.airast.org/student/login.aspx?c=SBAC_PT)

**Lost and Found**

With all of the cold weather and snow this winter, our school has accumulated a rather large pile of lost and found clothing items. If you think your child has lost something at school, we invite you to come check out our collection! We will be donating unclaimed items to Family Services this 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 date. Detach the completed bottom portion if you have new information that we need to have! It is for the safety of you child(ren) that we have the most accurate information, on hand, in case of an emergency.**

If you have recently moved or have a new 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! Please complete and clip out the form below, if applicable, and send to school with your child. They can deliver it to their teacher, and then it will make it to the office.

**Student Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**New Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**New Phone Number(s)** \_\_\_\_\_ Please indicate:  Mother  Father

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

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