

BROADWATER BULLETIN MARCH

Principal's Pen - March Kicks Off Testing Windows

Beginning Monday, March 3rd, our spring testing window will be open for 2015. 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 students will be taking the Smarter Balanced state test again, as well as the NWEA test. Fourth graders will also take the MontCAS Science test. 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 what is to come.

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!



Sick Students Coming to School

This has been an interesting winter, to say the least. Thankfully it has been much different than last year, but as we all know, winter can hang on well into the spring months. Please consider the following ideas when dealing with your sick kiddos.

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!

"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.billingschools.org

MARCH EVENTS

Broadwater Spelling Bee @ 9:00 AM in the gym	3
Broadwater FIT teams begin after school	3-4
Student Council Hat Day - Wear a Hat for \$1.00	6
Daylight Savings Begins	8
4th Grade to the Alberta Bair Theater	18
No School - Vacation Day	23
Walk and Bike to School with your Buddy Day	27
Music Programs - 4th/5th 5th @ 8:30 and 4th @ 2:00	27
3rd Quarter Ends	31

Fostering Independence in Your Child

COUNSELOR'S CORNER



As parents, it is hard to believe there will come a day when the child that needs you for every aspect of his or her survival, will also clamor for independence. Our ultimate job as caregivers is to prepare our children for that day.

Independence, like many attributes of successful adults, is something that must be cultivated – it does not happen overnight. There are steps you as a parent can take to support the development of independence, even from infancy.

Encourage problem-solving: Instead of swooping in and “rescuing” your child as he struggles to push his foot through the bent leg of his pants, step back and give him time to figure it out. If he starts to show signs of frustration, offer suggestions and express confidence in his ability to figure out a solution. Even babies can determine the way out from under a chair or how to reach a toy with time and our encouragement. The goal is that children develop a sense of self-efficacy: the belief that they have the ability to figure things out. This sense is key as a child navigates his way in the world.

Give choices: Part of being a competent and independent adult is the ability to make good choices. If a child is

going to make good choices, we have to give her practice in making them. Making the choice between the red shirt or the blue shirt, or which book to read before bed sets the foundation for weighing options and living with the result. Older children can be given the choice of which vegetable to serve with dinner, or even what route to drive to school (past the church or past the park).

Expect participation: A family (no matter the size) functions best when all members take an active role in the work and play of the household. Even very young children can help with chores around the house. Toddlers will love throwing clothing into the washing machine. Most children can clear their plates after dinner. Older children can push the recycling bin to the curb for pick-up or help match those pesky mismatched socks. Children gain a sense of competence when they contribute to the wellbeing of the family.

Develop systems: There are many steps involved in brushing one’s teeth or making sure a child has everything needed for the school day. Create systems that support your child in doing these tasks independently. Post pictures in the bathroom that demonstrate the steps for brushing teeth. Place a checklist on the door

that shows everything that needs to be in the backpack before heading out for the day. These tools develop your child’s ability to care for himself.

Provide a solid base: The most important thing you can do is be a solid launching pad and secure landing spot for your child. Create the launching pad by giving your child space and time to figure things out, take appropriate risks, and try new things. Be the landing spot by being there to support her if she fails, picking her up when she falls, and debriefing when things didn’t go quite as planned. Most of all, surround your child with a love that lets her know that you believe in her.

Today, you are the sustaining force that provides for your child’s needs. But, before you know it, that child will step forth into the world. Steps you take now will help you feel assured that you are releasing into the world a young person ready for the independence they so desire.

*By Michelle Salcedo, M.Ed.,
Sunshine House Chief Academic Officer*

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 regarding 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.



Broadwater Spring Fitness Opportunities

As you all know, Mr. King, Mrs. Cockburn and Mr. Cook work hard each fall and spring to provide our students with opportunities to be active and stay fit. This year is no different!

Broadwater Fit Team

Starting March 3rd, the Broadwater Fit Team will be meeting each Tuesday and Wednesday after school. 2nd and 3rd graders will practice each Tuesday afternoon, from

2:20 to 3:00. 4th and 5th graders will meet on Wednesdays from 3:00 to 3:45. The last Fit Team practice will be on April 8th. Ride arrangements must be made in advance. Be on the lookout for consent forms coming home soon!

Broadwater Purple 5K Run

Once again, Mr. Bush, one of our amazing volunteers, is making it possible for any student, in grades 3-5, to participate in the Spare Change

for Real Change Purple 5K in downtown Billings. Parents are encouraged to participate, as well, but are expected to pay the \$25 entry fee. Registration forms will be coming home soon!

2015 Heart and Sole 5K

Be watching for information on this year's Heart and Sole run, coming soon!!

Thank you Mr. King, Mrs. Cockburn, Mr. Cook and Mr. Bush!



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!

Walk and Bike to School Day is March 27th! Make sure you walk or bike this day to be entered to win great prizes!

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

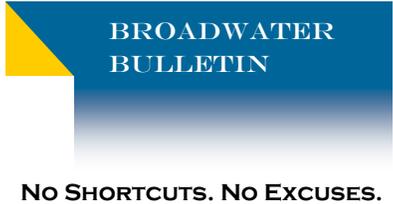
strengthened our partnerships with St. Vincent's Hospital, Holland and Hart and the Evangelical United Methodist Church. In addition, we host a number of parents and community members each week in our school. All totaled, we have approximately 55 volunteers that visit during any given week. We are so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



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



Building Tour was a Huge Hit

If you were able to join us on February 19th, you were among the dozens of people blown away by the progress of our new school. That afternoon, over 120 people showed up to show their support, as well as get a sneak peak at what we have to look forward to next year.

Check out the pictures on Facebook if you would like, and be watching for an announcement about our next tour taking place later this spring.



Respect and Manners at Broadwater School

As we embark on the final 3 months of the school year, we would like to take some time to remind all students, parents and families that we place a great deal of emphasis on Respect and Manners at our school. Our primary mission, as educators, is to produce members of society who will positively contribute to their respective environments, whether that is at work or at home. Thank you to each one of you who supports our mission by reinforcing at home the things that we are teaching at school - It really does start in the home, anyway. In the following weeks, our kids will have the opportunity to participate in many fun activities in and out of the school. Their involvement, as always, will be tied directly to their daily performance at school. Thank you again for your ongoing support!

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! It is for the safety of your 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:

