

# BROADWATER BULLETIN MARCH

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

Beginning Wednesday, March 3rd, our spring testing window will be open for 2016. The testing windows will extend well into the month of May, and will include a variety of state and district tests for our K - 5th grade students. This year, Billings students will be taking the Smarter Balanced state test again, as well as the NWEA test. Primary students will participate in Fast Bridge testing. 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!

**Thank you for your support!**



## Mr. Halligan is on to Middle School

After 5 wonderful years at Broadwater School, Mr. Halligan has made the difficult decision to move on to his next assignment in the Billings Public School system.

Starting in the fall of 2016, he will be assigned to Will James Middle School as the Associate Principal.

This decision has not come without days of deliberation and consideration with his family, and he will

dearly miss the students, staff and families that have made his time here so meaningful. He is confident that the good work that has been done over the last few years will continue with this tremendous staff and school community.

Mr. Halligan says, "I would like to personally thank each person who has made this past

five years so enjoyable, but I know that is not possible. Please know that if you have been involved at our school, I am deeply grateful for your contribution to our students and staff. Please know that I will be involved in the selection process for my replacement, and you will be left in very capable hands after my departure."

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

**2016 - 2017 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)

### MARCH EVENTS

Dr. Seuss Day - Wear your crazy hats, socks or hair!	2
Family Skate Night from 5:00 to 8:00 PM	3
NED Show followed by Yo-Yo Sales	7
PTA Meeting from 6:30 to 7:30 PM - Childcare	10
End of the 3rd Quarter - Students dismiss at 12:00	24
5th Grade to Skate World	24
No School - Spring Break	25-28
5th Grade General Music program @ 10:15 AM	30

## How to Help Your Child Perform Their Best on Standardized Tests

### COUNSELOR'S CORNER



It is that time in the school year your child will be participating in the yearly standardized test to assess their academic growth. Standardized tests are given one to two times per year. As a parent, there are a number of ways you can support your child before and after the test. These strategies below will help you make your child feel more prepared and confident as they face a long day of testing.

#### ***Before the Test***

**Encourage your child** - Praise your child for the things they do well. If your child feels good about themselves, they will have more confidence about taking the test, therefore perform higher. Children who become worried about taking the test will be more likely to make mistakes.

**Meet with your child's teacher** - Discuss the test with your child's teacher to clarify the dates of the test and to ask for any activities that you and your child can do at home to help calm nerves and help them perform to do their best.

**Make sure your child attends school regularly** - If your child is missing lots of instructional time it may have a negative affect on their test scores.

**Provide a place for studying at home** - Make sure the space is quiet and comfortable for your child. It's very important there are no distractions to interfere with their learning.

**Establish a daily routine** - Life is unpredictable and can be very hectic but it is crucial for you to stick to your child's routine as much as possible the week of the test. Starting the day with chaos or disruption can affect their performance on the test.

#### ***Test Day***

**Ensure your child eats a healthy breakfast** - Studies show that children perform better in school when they aren't hungry.

**Help your child get enough sleep** - Your child will need to have a good night's rest to perform well on the test. Children 7 to 12 need 10 to 12 hours of sleep a night.

**Dress your child in comfortable clothing** - Students will sit for long periods of time when taking tests, and it's very important they feel comfortable so they can focus on the test rather than their clothing.

**Prepare the night before** - Lay out clothes and school supplies the night before the test to create a smooth morning routine. It's important for your child to feel calm and organized as they prepare for the test.

**Remain positive** - Staying calm will help your child stay calm. If your child gets nervous about the test they are more likely to experience anxiety (worry) during the test. Try practicing some relaxation techniques such as a deep breathing, stretching, moving head in a circular motion, and closing their

eyes and visualizing a calm peaceful place. Explain to your child they can try one of these when they begin to feel overwhelmed or nervous.

#### ***On a Daily Basis***

In addition to these strategies, there are a number of ways that you can maximize your child's learning capabilities throughout the school year, which can lead to confident test taking. Some of the ways include:

Assisting your child with their homework and ensuring that your child is completing all homework assignments

Helping them develop good study habits, processing skills and a positive attitudes towards education from an early age

Ensuring that your child has good attendance at school.

Staying in communication with your child's teacher.

Encouraging your child to read as much as possible to increase their vocabulary and reading skills.

Educational games and programs that engage your child.

Helping your child learn how to follow directions quickly.

Miss Habein, our School Counselor, can be reached at 281.6426.

## Sick Kids 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!

## 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!

### Big Sky Fit Kids

Starting February 3rd, the Broadwater Big Sky Fit Kids program started meeting each Wednesday and Thursday after school, from 3:15 to 3:45. 4th and 5th graders

work with Mr. King and Mr. Cook to develop healthy habits of exercise and activity. The last Fit Club practice will be on April 27th. If your students are involved, please make sure you are here to pick them up each afternoon, unless they are walking home.

### 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 par-

ticipate 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!

### 2016 Heart and Sole 5K

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

**Thank you Mr. King, Mr. Cook and Mr. Bush!**



## 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 bul-

lied, we also help students learn the differences between real bully behaviors and behaviors that may be learned "developmental misbehavior".

At our school, Miss Habein, 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 edu-

cating 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.

## 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

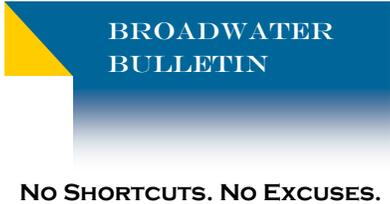
strengthened our partnerships with St. Vincent's Hospital, Holland and Hart and the Evangelical United Methodist Church. In addition, we host a number of parents and community members each week in our school. All totaled, we have approximately 55 volunteers that visit during any given week. We are so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



**Annex Building Coming Down in June**

As soon as students dismiss on June 3rd, Hardy construction crews will be back on site to oversee the final stages of the renovation project at Broadwater. Thank you, again, for your patience and cooperation during this construction process. As you have seen and heard from your kids, our new school is a wonderful place to be every day, and well worth the sacrifices. Come August 2016, our kids and families will have a new playground to start the school year!



**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:**

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\_\_\_\_\_