

THE BROADWATER BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 2012

JOE M. HALLIGAN - PRINCIPAL

Off and Running...



WELCOME BACK TO ALL NEW AND RETURNING STUDENTS AND FAMILIES!

As of Wednesday, August 22nd, the classrooms and hallways of Broadwater School were filled once again. This year marks the 103rd year that our school has been a haven for teach-

ing and learning. As I am sure you have noticed, Broadwater School is growing. This year marks the first year in over a decade and a half that our school has been home to over 400 students. While that number changes frequently, we reached 403 students on August 26th! As you can imagine in your own household, extra kids can be taxing on the facility! We are definitely prepared for the numbers we have and are excited about the growth. One way that you can help your child, and the school, is to make sure that you are on time every day. School starts with the first bell at 8:10 each morning. Students are considered

tardy if they arrive after 8:15. If your child is eating breakfast at school, they need to be here between 7:30 and 8:00 to have a hot breakfast. Students arriving after 8:00 will be given a cold breakfast, and may eat in the classroom in order to not miss important instructional time. This year, our focus is **“Every Student Learns, Every Single Day - No Shortcuts, No Excuses.”** You might hear your child taking about this. Please help them understand how important it is to be here, on time, every day!

Thanks for helping to make it a great start to the year!

Mr. Halligan - Principal

At Broadwater School...

“Every Student Learns, Every Single Day - No Shortcuts, No Excuses.”



Help Us Keep Our Kids Safe Before/After School

In case you hadn't noticed, parking around Broadwater School is at a premium. The fact that our school is not set up for convenient drop off and pick up makes it extremely important that everyone does their part in making our school safe, especially before and after school. We experience the most congestion in the morning and at our primary dismissal time, around 2:20. If you are dropping off or picking up students, please do not stop and park in the alley way north of the

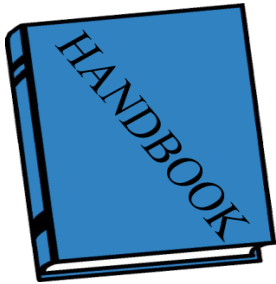
school. Not only is it dangerous, but it can cause traffic congestion all the way back to 5th Ave. Please drop your child off on Wyoming, and have them walk up to the school, if you are able. After school, at primary dismissal, do not be surprised if you are approached by a “Parking Attendant”. These people are school volunteers, and are trying to do their part to keep everyone at Broadwater School safe. The best

thing you can do is park only in designated parking areas and cooperate with school staff to ensure that everyone is safe. I know it can be a hassle, but a little bit of inconvenience for you will help us accomplish our mission every single day. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, or if you would like to help with the parking after school, please call the office at 281.6207.

DATES TO REMEMBER

NWEA Testing Window for 3rd - 6th Grades	4TH - 30TH
Broadwater School Annual Title I Meeting and Open House - 5:30 to 7:30 PM	13TH
Mid Terms go home with students in grades 4th - 6th	20TH
Elementary Early Out Day - Students dismiss at 12:00 PM	27TH
20th Anniversary of Saturday Live - Pioneer Park: 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM	29TH

Student and Parent Handbook



“Students not eating breakfast at school are discouraged from showing up too early in the morning, as supervision on the playgrounds is not available until 7:55.”

Every year the students at Broadwater School come home with a packet of paperwork that requires prompt parent attention. We know that this paperwork can become cumbersome, especially in families with multiple students, but in order for all students to be safe and well cared for, it is necessary. One of the pieces of information that you should all have, and keep with you, is the Student/Parent School Handbook.

This handbook contains information pertaining to many relevant topics with which students will face throughout

the year. Some examples may include cell phone and other electronic device usage, riding bicycles/scooters to school and daily student conduct.

By reading this handbook, you will become familiar with some of the common expectations we have at Broadwater School, and may be able to help your child(ren) answer questions they might have about their school day. This handbook is designed to be a tool for you to use

during the year, and refer to in the event you have a question. If you would like to discuss the handbook with someone at the school, please do not hesitate to call the school office and set up an appointment with Mr. Halligan.

Remember, the handbook is a “work in progress” and may be changed throughout the year. In the event of a change, you will be notified.

Thanks for taking the time to read and respond to all necessary paperwork!

Broadwater Morning Walk Program

Like many other schools in Billings, Broadwater School participates in the morning walk program each day before school. If you are new to Billings, or to Broadwater School, our morning walk program is designed to keep kids moving before school so they are ready to tackle the day. Students arriving for breakfast will be served hot breakfast from 7:30 - 8:00 each morning, and will then be escorted to their

respective playground to walk the morning circle. Students not eating breakfast at school are discouraged from showing up too early in the morning, as supervision on the playgrounds is not available until 7:55. If your child does arrive before 7:55, they are brought into the gym where they can be supervised until the morning walk.

At no time are students allowed to play on the playground equipment before school!

If you have younger children not attending school, please do not allow them to play on the playgrounds during this time, as this can be a distraction to our students. Thanks for helping us start each day on the right foot...it makes classroom time that much better for kids and teachers!

Have you Changed an Address or Phone Number?

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.

Student Name _____

Parent Name _____

New Address _____

New Phone Number _____ Please indicate: Mother Father

INFORMATION SCHOOL NEEDS TO BE AWARE OF: _____





Broadwater School - Counselor's Corner

Dr. Sylvia Rimm, child psychologist and director of the Family Achievement Clinic in Cleveland, Ohio says, "Each time we steal a student's struggle, we steal the opportunity for them to build self-confidence. They must do hard things to feel good about themselves."

Jumping in to solve problems for kids who need to be thinking about and generating their own solutions can take away their opportunity to learn what abilities and potential they have. When we solve a problem for a child, we take ownership of that child's problem. A child should always do more thinking about their problem than we do. Offering assistance too early risks sending the child subtle messages which can erode his/her confidence in their own abilities:

You are not capable of solving this problem on your own.

I don't have confidence in you.

You are not responsible.

You cannot succeed without my help.

We all know that practice makes perfect...or practice at least gives kids lots of experience! When we solve a child's problems prematurely, we eliminate his/her opportunities to solve problems. Without these opportunities, it takes longer for children to acquire this skill.

Children can become increasingly hesitant in their abilities to solve problems when we don't allow them to struggle.

Strengthen your child's problem-solving skills by following these steps:

1) Ask your child to explain their struggle/problem. Let them tell you in their own words and don't interrupt!

2) Reflect back/Repeat what you heard the child say. This communicates understanding and validation.

3) Ask, "What have you tried?...How did that work?...Do you have any other ideas?"

4) If they can't think of additional options, say "Would you like some other ideas?...Other kids in your situation have done this..., Would any of those work for you?"

5) Model how to handle frustrating feelings by using overt, but under-your-breath self-encouragement for your child(ren) to "overhear". For example, when the DVD player is not communicating with the television, say something like, "I'm so frustrated that I can't get this to work! I'm going to keep trying until I figure it out, though. I know I can do this!"

For more information about this segment of the Counselor's Corner, or to schedule a visit with our School Counselor, Maureen Klaboe, please call the school at 281.6207.

Fall Book Fair at Broadwater School

Starting on Monday, September 10th, our school library will be hosting the fall Book Fair in the old building. Hours of the sale will be sent home with students, but please make sure you are with them before or after school. Students will not be allowed in the Book Fair without a parent and/or money if it is before or after regular school hours. All classes will be given an opportunity during the week to visit the Book Fair. Those visits will be during their regularly scheduled library times.

PowerSchool for Parents

At Broadwater School, like other schools in the district, parents and families have access to their 4th - 6th grade student's classroom progress reports throughout the year. These updates can be sent through email every day, if you desire. In order to access your child's account, you must get a letter from their teacher which has all pertinent information regarding username and password. If you would like help getting set up, please contact Mr. Halligan, and he will get you rolling! It's a great way to stay up to date on what is happening every day!

After School Plans

Whenever possible, please make sure your child(ren) know what the plan is after school. Every day we have students coming to the office to call parents to try to rearrange things. If we do not hear from you during the school day, we will follow the procedures that students are used to. Unless it is an emergency, students will not be allowed to call home from the office after school. Please make all arrangements beforehand, so that kids are not left wondering. Thank you!

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

**THANKS
CORPORATE
SPONSOR - ST.
VINCENT MEDICAL
CENTER**

“THE MISSION OF BROADWATER SCHOOL, ALONG WITH STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES, IS TO DEVELOP SELF-DIRECTED, LIFE-LONG LEARNERS BY PROVIDING RELEVANT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES IN A SAFE, CARING ENVIRONMENT.”



THE HONEST TRUTH ABOUT BULLYING BEHAVIOR

Throughout the year at Broadwater School, we have a number of topics about which we try to communicate with students and parents on a regular basis. One of these topics is bullying. That word is used and misused every day, and we feel it is important to teach our students the realities and truth behind true bullying behaviors. 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, etc.) usually repeatedly. The balance of power between the bully and the target is NOT EQUAL. Every day we visit with students to help them determine whether or not what they experience is truly bullying. We never turn a blind eye to unwanted behavior, and we try to help our students become problem solvers. If your student expresses to you that they are being bullied, please encourage them to talk with an adult at the school. If necessary, we will set up a meeting to help any way that we can. Your help and support is greatly appreciated.

Odds and Ends...

Parking/Picking Up

Thanks to everyone who has helped to make our parking and student pick up process more manageable and successful! With the designated “Pick-Up” zone for daycare providers, we have been able to create a safer and more ‘user-friendly’ system!

Lost and Found Items

Please check the lost and found in the main building at the bottom of the stairs on the right. Because of the huge amount of clothing, items will be bagged up and donated to Family Services if they are not claimed!

Cell Phone and Cartridge Recycling

Our 4th grade classes collect and recycle used cell phones and computer ink cartridges to earn money for field trips and other special programs. You can drop off your items by the office area. Please help our students and the environment through this recycling program!

Medications at School

All prescription drugs need to have a form signed by a physician. The original prescription bottle must be kept at the office and be locked in the safe. Non-prescription, over the counter medication, needs to be in the original bottle and a form to administer must be completed by parents. If medication is sent to school with students, they will not be allowed to take it without this form completed.

Thanks to Ed and Joy Thurner for sponsoring our recycling program at Broadwater School!

Box Tops for Education and Campbell Soup LUPC labels are being collected at Broadwater! Please have students turn them in to their teachers!

Principal’s Pen

Thank You All For a Wonderful Start!

Our 2012 - 2013 school year is off to a terrific start! With the exception of some very hot and uncomfortable days at Broadwater School, everyone is settling in nicely. I know that being a part of this learning community has a tremendous upside, but one of the difficulties with which we are faced is trying to conduct “business” in a 103 year old building that has just not kept up with the changing times. Thank you to everyone for your patience and understanding as we try to remedy some of these difficulties - I appreciate your desire to be part of the solution and not the problem!

With Excitement for the new year,

Joe M. Halligan - Principal