

# THE BROADWATER BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 2013

JOE M. HALLIGAN - PRINCIPAL

## *Off and Running...*



**WELCOME BACK TO  
ALL NEW AND RETURN-  
ING STUDENTS AND  
FAMILIES!**

As of Wednesday, August 28th, the classrooms and hallways of Broadwater School were filled once again. This year marks the 104th year that our school has been a haven for teach-

ing and learning. This year marks another first for Broadwater...we are now only a K-5 school, since our 6th graders are attending Lewis and Clark middle school. We miss our oldest students, but welcome the "breathing room" that we so desperately needed! Currently we have about 350 students enrolled, and are excited to work with each one of them. 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 has been dubbed the year of EXCELLENCE and we still believe that **Every Student Learns, Every Single Day - No Shortcuts, No Excuses.** You might hear your child talking 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

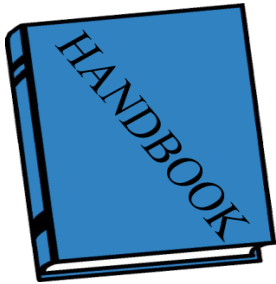
thing you can do is park only in designated parking areas and cooperate with school staff to ensure that everyone is safe. I know it can be a hassle, but a little bit of inconvenience for you will help us accomplish our mission every single day.

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 - 5th Grades	9TH - OCT. 11TH
Broadwater School Annual Title I Meeting and Open House - 5:30 to 7:30 PM .	11TH
<b>Superintendent Bouck will be at Broadwater to discuss the upcoming Bond issue!</b>	
Elementary Early Out Day - Students dismiss at 12:00 PM	26TH
Mid Terms go home with students in grades 4th - 5th	27TH
20th Anniversary of Saturday Live - Pioneer Park: 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM	28TH

## Student and Parent Handbook



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. A change at Broadwater, this year, has to do with our Student/Parent School Handbook.

In years past, our handbook has been sent home with students. As we look at ways that we can save money, one

thing that we are doing this year is posting our handbook on our school website, rather than print hard copies for all families.

This handbook contains information pertaining to many relevant topics with which students will be faced 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 a hard copy, please let us know. Otherwise, you can access the handbook under the Parent Page on our website:

<http://broadwaterschool.weebly.com>

**“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.”**

### *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 encouraged to show up closer to 8:00 AM, 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!

If you would like to walk the morning circle with your child, you are always welcome!

### *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

### Attendance Matters!

September 2013 is the launch for the first ever Attendance Awareness Month. One of the most important things your child can do to achieve academic success is also one of the most basic: Going to school every day, on time. In fact, research has shown that your child's attendance record may be the biggest factor influencing their success now, and into the future.

Regular school attendance is critical for academic success. Our goal is to ensure that every student attends school regularly and on time. Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's success starting in Kindergarten and continuing through high school. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school safely every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and in life.

We realize that some absences are unavoidable, due to health problems and other circumstances. But we also know that, when students miss too much school, excused or unex-

cused, they can fall behind academically. Your child is less likely to succeed if he or she is chronically absent, which means missing 18 or more days a year, or two to three days a month. Research shows that:

- Chronic absence in Kindergarten is associated with lower academic performance in 1st grade, regardless of gender, ethnicity or socio-economic status.
- Children who are chronically absent in K and 1<sup>st</sup> grade are much less likely to read at grade level by the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.
- By 6<sup>th</sup> grade, chronic absence is a warning sign for students at risk of dropping out of school.
- By 9<sup>th</sup> grade, good attendance can predict graduation rates even better than 8<sup>th</sup> grade test scores.
- Going to school regularly in the early years is especially critical for children from families living in poverty who are less likely to have resources to help children make up for lost time in the classroom.
- Students who chronically miss school are more likely to be at risk for anti-social or criminal behavior.

Learning is a dynamic progressive activity; each day's lessons build upon those of the previous day. Reading

material and completing work independently does not compensate for the loss of insight gained during class discussion or the loss of competency acquired through teacher explanation. Many classes use discussion, demonstrations, experiments and participation as part of the daily learning activities, and these cannot be made up by students who are absent.

### What can parents do to help?

Parents must model the value of education, including the importance of regular school attendance. Make sure that your child goes to school regularly and arrives on time. You will establish a good habit that will carry on through life. If your child starts missing school, work with the school to make things right. Make sure your child knows you don't approve of them missing school. If your child is ill, or must miss school for some other reason, contact the school immediately. If you ask for homework, make sure your child completes it. If you are experiencing other barriers that prevent you from getting your child to school, please contact us so we can partner with you to problem solve and ensure a plan for regular attendance.

Mrs. Klaboe - 281.6426

### Broadwater Open House 2013

On Wednesday, September 11th at 6:00 PM, Broadwater School will be hosting our annual Open House for parents and families of our students. During the evening, classroom teachers will be spending time discussing the procedures and expectations of their classrooms, as well as familiarizing you to some important things happening at our school this year. As part of our Open House, Superintendent Bouck, along with Lew Anderson the Executive Director of Facilities, will be hosting a question and answer session regarding the upcoming bond issue. Please mark your calendars to attend this important night, and make sure to stop by the gym to listen to Mr. Bouck and Mr. Anderson!

### PowerSchool for Parents

At Broadwater School, like other schools in the district, parents and families have access to their 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> 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 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...*

THE MISSION OF BROADWATER SCHOOL... "EVERY STUDENT LEARNS, EVERY SINGLE DAY...NO SHORTCUTS AND NO EXCUSES."



### **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 Student Council collects and recycles 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 2013 - 2014 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 104 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