

April 2012

BRESNAHAN BUZZ



Message from Principal Kristina Davis

Dear Parents,

As I write this newsletter, I am thinking about how quickly this year is moving along! April has arrived, the spring holidays are here, vacation is a week away and May and June will be here with a blink of an eye! I am looking forward to a bright spring with our boys and girls absorbing the freshness of the season. Maudslay State Park, the Boardwalk, and local playgrounds are becoming more and more inviting as we are yearning for more outdoor activity. With springtime's seasonal activities underway, it is time for all of us to educate our children about sun safety, good sportsmanship, and lifelong healthy living habits. Please join us in our efforts here at school, and support these very important issues with your children at home.

This year has been an unusual one from so many perspectives; I was in and out most of the fall, Ms. Mascia was acting Principal in my absence, Mrs. Maureen Farren was a long term substitute supporting Ms. Mascia and the entire school, Mrs. Lynne Cote our librarian transferred to Newburyport High School and in her absence Mrs. Dawn LaLiberty and Mrs. Michelle Soule are the acting librarians, and Mrs. Martha Trail has joined the third grade team while Mrs. Farrell is enjoying her newborn. Furthermore, we have adjusted to sharing Mrs. Carolyn Wilson, Team Facilitation Leader, Dr. Michele Clark and Ms. Wendy Adams, School Psychologists with the Brown School. I would like to acknowledge all these folks for stepping up to support our students and school. It takes a team!

Grade Three MCAS

Third grade students have completed the ELA MCAS test and now it is time to begin planning for the May administration of the Grade Three Mathematics Spring 2012 MCAS Tests. All tests are based on the learning standards documented in the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. At this point I would like to draw your attention to the testing schedule as it is very important that your child(ren) are in school for these assessments. The mathematics test will be administered on May 8th and 10th at 8:30 AM. It is important that children arrive to school on time, well-rested and have had a nourishing breakfast the week of MCAS. Thank you!

Dates to Remember

April

April 5, Early Release Day and last day of PTO Sponsored After School Program

PTO Sponsored Science Fair, 6:30 -7:30 PM

Good Friday, April 6th

Spring Break Week of April 16th

Incoming First Grade Parent Coffee, April 30, 10:00 - 11:00 AM, Bresnahan School Library

May

Incoming First Grade Parent Coffee, May 1, 7:00 - 8:00 PM, Bresnahan School Library

May 3, Early Release Day

Spotlight on Second Grade, May 7th and 9th, 7:00 - 7:30 PM

Third Grade MCAS, May 8 and 10

Memorial Day Ceremony, May 25 at 9:00 AM

Memorial Day, May 28, No School

Grade Three "Mighty Minds", May 29th and 31st, 7:00 - 7:30 PM

June

June 5th, Kindergarten (to Bresnahan) and Third Grade (to Molin) Transition Day

June 5th and 7th, First Grade "Tall Tales" Night, 6:30 - 7:00

June 6th, First & Second Grade Field Day

June 7th, Early Release Day

June 12th, Movin' Up Day for Third Grade

I wish all of you a happy holiday and an enjoyable April vacation!

Happy Spring!

Message from Assistant Principal Karina Mascia

Dear Parents!

It is just the beginning of Spring and it has been a very busy and productive one! The weather continues to be great for outdoor activities and I love to see the flowers coming back alive!

I would like to mention a few reminders from recent communication:

RECESS

I would like once again to call your attention to these notes about our recess:

Just recently we have implemented a change about children not bringing their own toys to schools - including handheld electronics, dolls, balls, stuffed animals, among others. This was a decision made on a building leadership level due to the number of problems children encountered every day while playing at recess with their own personal belongings. Sharing becomes personal and that can cause a lot of issues. Although **tag** has been a popular game, unfortunately, this game has led to a number of injuries, some of which have been serious. The increase in these incidents has been concerning to us. Therefore, a couple of months ago, I made an announcement to our students: to brainstorm different activities to be played outside and avoid the game tag. It is a very tall order to make of 6, 7, and 8 year olds, but with the number of incidents along with the seriousness of them (due to this game), occurring due to this game, it was absolutely the right call to ensure all kids are safe while continuing to have fun during recess time.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions or concerns.

FACEBOOK:

Please join us on Facebook for updates on our school!!!!

Like our page! Search the name: Francis T. Bresnahan Elementary School (Bee Hive Logo) - This is another avenue for us to involve parents, students, staff, and the community, to share events, news, and updates! We welcome your participation and communication with us!! Through this page, we hope to share what is happening at our school' news, events, and pictures, that will enhance our communication and keep you informed of what is happening at your children's educational world! Hope you join it and provides with feedback!

JIMMY FUND / DANA FABER - RED SOX RALLY AGAINST CANCER!

Mrs. Davis and I have decided to continue to support the Jimmy Fund and Dana- Farber Cancer Institute this year with a school fundraising activity.

This fundraising will give us a special opportunity to support this great cause. All participants can wear their Boston Red Sox hats and shirts (or the color red) to school on April 13th, Opening Day at Fenway Park, in exchange for making a gift to the Jimmy Fund.

There are different ways of giving to our Rally team:

Students will be able to donate money at school with Mrs. Boulay at the designated days:

Wednesday, March 28	Friday, March 30	
Monday, April 2	Wednesday, April 4	Friday, April 6
Monday, April 9	Wednesday, April 11	

This year we have the bracelets once again! We have planned for all 500 students to receive a bracelet as they make a school donation! Please know that we needed to be mindful of numbers, therefore, we can only provide one bracelet per student donation.

Parents can access our team online -

Go to: www.rallyagainstcancer.org

Click on "Join a Team"

Find (Francis T. Bresnahan) in the drop down menu and help Rally Against Cancer!

All students that participate through the "purchase" of the bracelet will also enter a drawing.

We will be also raffling! This year we have:

6 Red sox lanyards

12 Red Sox baseball hats

Hope you will join us for this great cause!

TEAM MEETING SCHEDULE

Every last Thursday of each month, we host Team Meeting for our students! This year we have had a number of very talented groups visiting with our students. The schedule for the remainder of the year is as follow:

April 26th - Incredible Assemblies - Curriculaughs - Jeff Nathan

May 31st - American Meteorological Society

Thank you PTO and Cultural Enrichment support for helping us make this happen for our children and staff!

ARRIVAL / DISMISSAL

Our arrival and dismissal procedure has been going very well for the most part, and we thank you for your continued support and help in making both arrival and dismissal orderly and safe for our students. I ask that you take a moment to review the arrival and dismissal procedures below. A few areas that need special attention are underlined.

- ⇒ Those who drop off and pick up students at the back turn-around may find that parking space is limited. If you feel that you need to get out of your car to drop off or pick up your student, please be aware of this limitation. If you need to park, for any reason, please use only the parking spaces available on the left side of the long driveway, the circle area after the yellow lines, or available space at North Atkinson Street. We ask that you do not park along the right side of the driveway as this limits space for cars that are entering and exiting.

- ⇒ Many cars are still coming up from Low St. and attempting to turn left into the driveway. These cars create a traffic blockage that does not allow for other vehicles, particularly police and fire vehicles, to pass if there were an emergency. When proceeding to the school for arrival, please enter North Atkinson from the High Street end and after drop off and pick up proceed out the driveway, right, towards Low Street. This one way pattern will help to relieve traffic congestion.

- ⇒ Our playground has many children on it at the a.m. arrival time. We ask that all parents and little brothers and sisters wait behind the fence to help with supervision efforts.

- ⇒ During inclement weather we understand that traffic increases during AM arrival. Parents please be mindful that school begins at 8:20. However, on these bad weather days we are allowing some extra time for drop off. After 8:30 we are asking parents to please drop your child at the front door to ensure they are safely entering the building. All other doors will be locked at that time.

- ⇒ At p.m. dismissal, it is helpful to put a sign in the window of your car so that we can call your students as we see you drive up. If you regularly pick up your child and do not have a sign please contact the office (978-465-4431) and we will have one made for you.

Enjoy the rest of your Spring! It will go by very fast!

Karina Mascia

First Grade News

Happy Spring to all!

There are signs of spring everywhere and the students are very excited to get out and play. We are discussing the seasons and what helps us to know when they change. Some classes have created murals showing what spring looks like.

In math, the students just finished up the unit on measurement. Students developed accurate measurement techniques as they measured the length of various objects using several different units; inch tiles, craft sticks, baby feet, and basketball feet. They solved comparison problems, measured lengths to determine not only which is longer but how much longer. Students are now working on a unit about facts. They are focusing on combinations of 10, developing strategies for combining numbers as they solve problems and play a variation of familiar games.

Literacy lessons continue to focus on strategies good readers use such as getting our mouths ready to read a new word, rereading from the beginning of the sentence to make sense, and checking the pictures to see what the words may be about. We are practicing fluency and expression and working on comprehension skills. Our word work lessons have been about short vowel spelling patterns. Making connections between words we know how to spell and words that they will help us spell.

In writer's workshop we have been working on editing/revising our work and trying different genres. Most of the year has been spent working on non-fiction small moments about our lives. This past month students tried writing fictional stories. We have also looked at authors as mentors, discussing their techniques for writing and seeing if we can incorporate some of their styles into our own writing.

Our science lessons have been about physical science. Students have learned about matter and how it can be changed. They learned about liquids, solids, and gases. They learned how sound travels, shadows are made, and what gives off heat. They have had a lot of fun learning how to move objects and how magnets work.

Reading is such an integral part of our lives; please encourage your child to read to you every day. 10 to 15 minutes a day can help to strengthen your child's reading.

The First Grade Team would like to thank you all for your continued support.

Second Grade News

It looks as if the snow is gone for good and spring has sprung! A lot has been going on in second grade since our January/February newsletter. Here's what's happening:

Literacy: Students continue to focus on a spelling principle every week using the Buddy Study Spelling system. The children are responding to reading in writing. Sometimes the students and teacher will share the pen to respond, other times the children are responding on their own. These written responses to reading aid in reading comprehension and may happen throughout the day; during guided reading, shared reading, independent reading, centers, science and social studies.

Opinion Writing: During writers' workshop, the children wrote pieces in which they introduced their opinion, supplied reasons that support the opinion, used linking words to connect opinion and reasons, and provided a concluding statement. Students gave their opinions about the books they read, the foods they ate, the movies they watched, the video games they played, and the best places to vacation. They were great!

Math: Investigations in Math Unit 6 mathematical emphases:

- Whole Number Operations- Making sense of and developing strategies to solve addition and subtraction problems with totals up to 100.

- **Counting and Quantity:** Developing an understanding of the magnitude and sequence of numbers up to 100. Counting by equal groups.
- **The Base Ten Number system:** Understanding the equivalence of one group and the discrete units that comprise it.
- **Whole Number Computation:** Using manipulative, drawings, tools, and notation to show strategies and solutions.

Investigations in Math Unit 7 mathematical emphases:

- **Rational Numbers-** Understanding fractions as equal parts of whole, fractions as equal parts of a group, and using fraction terms and notation. ($1/2$, $1/4$, $1/3$, $2/3$, $2/4$, $3/4$)

Social Studies: In Social Studies, we continue to learn about Famous Americans and the contributions they have made to our country as well as continuing to explore where we are in the world through geography. In the next few months, second graders will begin to learn about where their family and ancestors came from. They will research traditional foods, customs, sports and games, and music of the place they came from.

Science: Many second grade students examined the physical world around them. They might have sorted objects by observable properties such as size, shape, color, weight, and texture. Many learned about the three states of matter and how heat can change matter from one state to another. Position and motion of objects is another area of study for second grade.

Second Grade Team

Third Grade News

The third graders have been working hard! In math, we have been working on multiplication, division, area, and perimeter. Please have your children continue to study their addition and subtraction facts, as well as their multiplication tables. In language arts, we are working on writing informational pieces along with doing research in the library, tech lab and our classrooms for upcoming projects. In science, we've begun our unit study on Earth Science, which will culminate with a field trip to the Harvard Museum of Natural History. In Social Studies, the children are learning about the people and times of colonial Massachusetts. Be sure to look in homework folders for permission slips and updates regarding end of the year events. HAPPY SPRING!!!

Third Grade Team

Physical Education News

With the warm weather continuing during this unusual Spring, we have been bringing the Physical Education classes outside as much as possible for the students to do their cardiovascular laps. The beginning of April brings the end of our Gymnastics Unit, as all grades are working on putting together their routines or what we like to call "Movement Sentences". Students have been learning about the skill components that go into Educational Gymnastics such as static and dynamic balances, rotation, flight, and transferring body weight from one body part to another. Students have a strong handle on the difference between these concepts and should be able to tell and show you an example that they can do for each one. Looking ahead, students will be working on playground activities for recess in the spring in addition to the skill of volleying.

The Teams of Tomorrow (T.O.T) 3rd grade performers put together an awe-inspiring performance at the T.D Garden on March 31 in front of a large crowd. Students worked very hard the entire month in preparing for this performance, as well as two local performances that they put on at Newburyport High School. We want to take the time now to thank all of the students and parents who took the time and dedication to make this such a success and positive experience for everyone involved!

Just a reminder that the Bresnahan Field Day will take place the first week in June. It's never too early to consider volunteering for the day's events. Contact either Mr. Craddock or Mrs. Hill if you are interested. Looking ahead to warmer weather, we remind you that students should be wearing or bringing their sneakers with them on days that they have Physical Education.

Awesome Website Alert If you have time, check out our brand new website which is an excellent resource for you and your children* <http://bresnahanpe.weebly.com/national-standards.html>,

Stay active and enjoy the warm weather,

Mr. Craddock & Mrs. Hill

A Message from Title I Reading Teachers

Dear Parents,

Thank you for praising your child's efforts in reading and writing!♥ Your encouragement makes a big difference in your child's success and self-esteem. There's a quote in *Life's Little Instruction Book* which reads, "Let your children overhear you bragging about them." So be sure to let your child know when you notice any improvement, big or small. ☺

Thoughts and Suggestions for Supporting Reading at Home

It is very important that your child reads the book(s) he or she brings home in their book bag. The more your child reads, the better reader he or she will become. You may notice that often your child brings home the same book (or books) for a few days. **Rereading familiar books** supports the development of expressive, phrased reading and builds self-confidence. The books we send home should be easy and enjoyable for your child to read. If your child becomes frustrated, please contact us so that we can support you in this process.

Parents often ask us what **reading strategies** they can use at home to help their child when he or she struggles with a word while reading.

When your child gets stuck on a word:

Say: "**What can you try?**"

Your child should:

- **reread** and **think about the story** (prompt him if he doesn't);
- **see if something in the picture can help**, then **reread**;
- **reread** and **say the sound of the first letter of the tricky word** – this often results in the correct prediction "popping out of their mouths" (again, prompt him to if he doesn't);

or when all else fails...simply tell him or her and continue! ☺

When your child applies reading strategies successfully:

Say: "**I noticed that you...** (for example) **checked the picture** and **fixed the word you said.**" This feedback reinforces your child's good reading behaviors.

Most importantly, remember that rereading at home should be a pleasant experience for both you and your child!

Happy Reading~
Title I Reading Teachers

From the Literacy Coach

Emily Russin

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Do you have favorite words in your vocabulary? People who have large vocabularies tend to be intrigued with words. Having large vocabularies influences our comprehension as readers. How can you make words come to life for your children at home?

Be a model language user.

Show your own intrigue with words

I wonder what this word means.

Isn't the title of this book funny? Listen to how they play with words.

Use quality words in your speech that have everyday uses

You've been very persistent about wanting ice cream.

I'm feeling kind of drowsy today. I'll have to go to bed early.

Break language down; build language up

When you introduce a new word, break down the concept.

Those are constellations. Constellations are patterns of stars in the sky. You can imagine pictures in them.

Build the concept back up to bring the new word into play.

So, when you see patterns of stars in the sky that make a picture you might be seeing a constellation.

Choose words in books that could be fun to use everyday.

Read books aloud

Books offer a broader range of words than we use in our speech.

Notice new and interesting words together

Pay closest attention to words that your child may already know the concept for such as budge; prefer; sensible; persistent; drowsy; immense; leisurely, etc.

Give an example of the word being used beyond the book.

When you get your clothes ready to wear to school before you go to sleep, that is very sensible.

What is something you could do to impress your teacher? Why?



GRADE ONE FAMILIES...
SAVE THE DATE!!!!
“1ST GRADE TALL TALES”

***** Monday June 4 @ 6:30 pm in the gym**

Mrs. Ticcioni Mrs. Harrington Miss Hallett Mrs. LaBay

*****PLEASE NOTE ...THIS IS A CHANGE FROM THE ORIGINAL DATE**

Thursday June 7 @ 6:30 pm in the gym

Mrs. Doyle Miss Barry Mrs. Mailloux Mrs. Ahern Mrs. Crisham





GRADE TWO FAMILIES...
SAVE THE DATE!!!

“Spotlight on the Second Grade”

Monday, May 7 @ 7:00 in the gym

Mrs. Nieves Mrs. Hoiseth Mrs. Westgate Mrs. Crowley

Wednesday, May 9 @ 7:00 in the gym

Mr. Gangemi Mrs. Andrade Mrs. Cahill Mrs. Callahan



GRADE 3 FAMILIES...SAVE THE DATE!!!



“MIGHTY MINDS”

Tuesday, May 29 @7:00pm in the gym

Mrs. Ames, Mrs. Notargiacomo, Mrs. Farrell and Mrs. Olson

Thursday, May 31 @7:00pm in the gym

Mrs. Sharland, Mrs. Barrows, Mrs. Whitney and Mrs. Boucher,

Visual Art Spot



Grade 3 students:

It's mrpicassohead time for students! During the month of March students will create various works of art on mrpicassohead.com. Students are working toward creating many mini paper "canvas cards" which will earn various points for variety, detail and other element of art as students follow the rubric for this project. You may have a few Picasso requests at home when your child is struck by the creative spirit and works on picassohead.com.



<http://www.picassohead.com/create.html>

Students are also looking forward to spring and various painting lessons ahead. Student art work will be on display at City Hall for Cultural Night.

Looking ahead students will be working on their own self portraits and using pastel to create a Picasso like image!

Grade 2 students:

Color Wheel A color wheel (also referred to as a color circle) is a visual representation of colors arranged according to their chromatic relationship. Begin a color wheel by positioning primary hues equidistant from one another, then create a bridge between primaries using secondary and tertiary colors.



Students are creating a Wizard of Color learning how to draw it using the shape of a triangle
These terms refer to color groups or types:



Primary Colors: Colors at their basic essence; those colors that cannot be created by mixing others.



Secondary Colors: Those colors achieved by a mixture of two primaries.

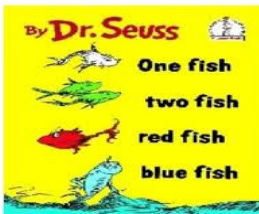
Ask your children about the wonderful world of color, they are experts!

On their way to creating various paintings in different color schemes!

Looking ahead, grade 2 students will be creating works of sculpture with paper bags, creating a small village.

Grade 1 students:

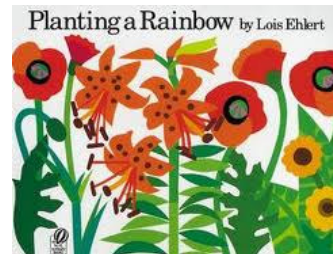
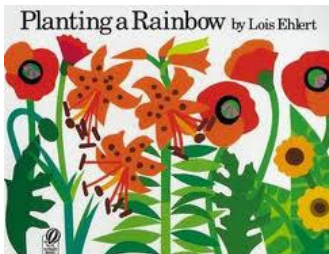
It's Dr. Seuss time! Time for One fish, Two fish, Red fish, Blue fish



Grade one students are creating NEW fish!

They are practicing their new skill of cutting paper without drawing first and gluing it to create new, never before seen fish!

Looking ahead, Grade 1 students will continue the art of paper cutting and design, by working from the children's book, Planting A Rainbow



PTO Fundraiser entitled:

**Original Works is in the works look for order forms coming soon!!
Delivery in May!!**



You will be able to order your children's work of art on various unique products



Look for this flyer in our hallways !!

All the best!

Mrs. Jamison, M.ED---Visual Art Educator