



HOMeward BOUND MESSAGES



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From the Principal's Desk

It is my pleasure to announce that Dr. Hayes has confirmed my choice of Mr. Jack Hughes, currently a Grade 6 Social Studies teacher at Briscoe, as Interim Assistant Principal at Briscoe Middle School for the 2009-2010 school year. Mr. Hughes has extensive middle school experience as an educator, and he also previously served as Assistant Principal at Memorial Middle School. I believe that Mr. Hughes is the right person for this job at this time and I am looking forward to working with him. His addition will allow all of us to continue forward with the outstanding instruction that has occurred at Briscoe.

Next year, we will also have some Instructional Facilitators in place at the middle school level. The purpose of these positions is to assist the administration as we continue to move forward to continually monitor and improve the high quality curriculum and instruction that is occurring at Briscoe. The content area expertise that these individuals will provide, along with our current Math/Science Department Chair and Foreign Language Department Chair, will be assets for our programs. The administration is looking forward to working with them. These individuals are as follows:

ELA – Mrs. Sherman

Social Studies – Mr. Olbash

Reading – Mrs. Lydon

Health/Wellness – Ms. Arsenault

Fine Arts – Ms. Desmond

We will be distributing a letter to be brought home by our Grade 8 students on Monday morning during homeroom that outlines the Grade 8 Recognition Night Ceremony and Dance that will take place on Tuesday, June 23rd beginning at 6:00 PM in the Beverly High School Field House. A copy of this letter also appears in this issue of Homeward Bound. Please do not hesitate to contact the school should you have any questions.

The final day of school for our Grade 6 and Grade 7 students is Wednesday, June 24th. All students will be dismissed at 1:00 PM and lunch WILL NOT be served on this day. The last day of school for our Grade 8 students is Tuesday, June 23rd, culminating with their Recognition Night and Dance on that evening. I also want to thank our parent volunteers who worked to make this a special evening for our Grade 8 students.

I want to extend my congratulations to all of our Grade 6, 7, and 8 Band and Chorus students on their outstanding performances at their recent Spring Concert. Personally, this is one of my favorite events as we are able to see the tremendous progress that these students have made over the course of the school year. I also want to thank Mr. Costa and Mrs. Nearis for all of their efforts with these students.

In addition, it was nice to be able to have the All-City Jazz Band perform with our Grade 6 students. Great job by all!

As you prepare to plan for next year, I want to let you know that we will be sending home Team Assignments for the 2009-2010 academic year in August. We have started the scheduling process. Please contact your child's guidance counselor if you have any questions or concerns. If you have questions over the summer, please contact the main office.

Again, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our parents/guardians for all of your support and cooperation throughout the school year. I hope that all of you have an enjoyable and safe summer, as this will be our last Homeward Bound edition for the academic year. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my office.

A Reminder to Families from the Department of Public Health

The Department of Public Health has asked us to remind all parents and guardians to continue to follow the recommended guidelines in order to prevent the spread of influenza-like illness. The recommendations include:

- Monitor your child for signs and symptoms of illness (fever of 100 degrees or more plus a cough, sore throat, or runny nose).
- Should any of the above symptoms develop, keep your child home for 7 days after symptoms start or until your child is completely well for a full 24 hours, whichever is longer.
- If your child or any family member is ill, please limit contact with others as much as possible.

As always, the best line of defense against illness is proper hand washing. Frequent washing with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer can be the most effective way to prevent illness. Please consult your health care provider or school nurse if you have related questions. You may also want to visit the Massachusetts Department of public health website on influenza:

<http://www.mass.gov/dph/swineflu>

Thank you for your consideration.

CHAPERONES NEEDED FOR GRADE 8 RECOGNITION NIGHT DANCE

Dear 6th and 7th Grade Parents/Guardians,

We need your help! The annual 8th grade dance is approaching and we are in need of many chaperones. This year's dance will take place on Tuesday, June 23rd in the Beverly High School cafeteria from 7:00-10:00 p.m.. Please consider chaperoning this event! It's an excellent opportunity to meet new people and to see what your child can expect when it's their turn.

Please email me @ jenncore@comcast.net if you're interested and available to chaperone. We strongly encourage fathers to volunteer as well.

Thank you for your continued support!

Jenn Salvato

8th Grade Dance Committee & PTO Co-President

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR GRADE 8 RECOGNITION NIGHT DANCE

Dear 8th Grade Parents/Guardians,

Volunteers are still needed to help with decorating and clean-up for the dance on June 23rd. We hope to begin decorating on the afternoon/evening of Monday, June 22nd and then again at 9 a.m. on June 23rd. Break-down happens at the dance pick-up on June 23rd at 10 p.m. We need to move all decorations back to Briscoe. If you can help out please contact Pam Sweet at blausweet@comcast.net or 978-927-9322. Thanks to all who have already indicated their availability!

Snack and drink donations will also be needed for the dance. We will be sending out a list of items needed in mid-June. Thank you!

Pam Sweet

8th Grade Dance Committee & PTO Co-President

Yearbook Distribution

Yearbooks will be distributed on the last day of school. Those Eighth graders that ordered yearbooks will receive their books before lunch on June 23rd. Sixth and seventh graders will receive them during homeroom on June 24th.

For those who did not order a yearbook, there will be a limited number of yearbooks on sale for \$25. Eighth graders will be able to purchase them in the lobby on June 23rd from 12:30 - 1:30. Sixth and seventh graders will be able to purchase any remaining yearbooks in the lobby from 8:40 - 9:30 on June 24th. Please write the check for \$25 to Briscoe Middle School.

Math Team News - One More Time ...

The members of our first place Math Team will get together one more time this year. They have been invited to join Mrs. Vanne in room 322 at 3:00 PM on Tuesday, June 16 for an ice cream social to celebrate our successful season. Certificates will be awarded, and some Math will be done, of course! Check out www.imlem.org this summer.

Team 7-Gold News

The teachers of Team 7-Gold are pleased to congratulate the following students who received **Student of the Month Awards** during the school year: **Marissa Gabriel**—September, **Mary Cate Flaherty**—October, **Matthew Page**—November, **Diandra Crowley**—December, **Kevin Cuneo**—January, **Zachary Duguid**—February, **Camden Vitale**—March, **Caitlyn Ofiesh**—April, and **Jacqueline Cohen**—May.

6 Gold News

Thank you to both our students and their guardians for a wonderful school year. Please mark your calendars for the upcoming end-of-year events:

1. Friday, June 19--Lynch Park field trip
2. Monday, June 22--Crane Estate field trip
3. Tuesday, June 23--Ice cream social

It has been our pleasure and privilege working with you and your children this year. May you have a relaxing and safe summer! Ms. Chambers, Mrs. Marquis, Ms. Rhodes, and Mrs. Sherman

From the Reading Department

All 6th grade students will have the opportunity to participate in a Book Swap on June 16th and 17th. If you have any gently used books at home that you would like to donate, please send them in to school with your child before June 16th. Also, please see the attached flyer about our Bookmobile Fundraiser! Thank you! Happy Reading! -The Briscoe Reading Team.

LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER NEWS – From Ms. Woznick

Book Fair a Success – Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who helped make our book fair a success this year – the volunteers, the teachers who brought students down, the students and parents who spent money at the fair. We raised over \$800 credit at Banbury Cross at the fair and have already used some of that to purchase about 75 new books – fiction, biographies, science and social studies books, and other non-fiction of interest to middle schoolers.

Does your student have overdue library materials?

As of Friday, June 12, about 120 students still had overdue library books. These must be returned IMMEDIATELY. No fines will be owed, but students who have lost their books will need to pay for a replacement copy. If students believe they have received overdue notices in error, they should come to the library to speak directly to Ms. Woznick.

Summer Reading Information

With summer fast approaching, be sure your students are aware of summer reading requirements and steps.

1. **Signing up for a book** - All students should have selected a book and signed up for it online. They must do this immediately if they haven't already!
2. **Getting the book** - Students who pre-ordered through the Banbury Cross order form will receive their books this week in school. Others may purchase their books at any local or online store or borrow it from the library. Please be VERY organized if you are borrowing from the library and return your book in a timely fashion so others may use it.
3. **Book response** - Students will receive the book response assignments this week. They will have several choices, both written and artistic. The assignment will also be posted on the Summer Reading website as well.
4. **Book Club** – A one-time "book club" will meet shortly after school starts in the fall (but not the first couple of days) where students will meet to discuss their selection and bring in their response.

Questions? Go to the Briscoe website and follow the link for summer reading. A list of students book signups and copies of the assignment will also be available in the office over the summer.

Volunteers Needed in September for Book Club day!

We will need a number of volunteers in early September on the day of our book club, to help direct traffic, assist in classrooms, and hang up displays of student book response projects. If you would like to read a specific book and lead or help with a discussion, we can use help with that as well. The date should be set before we get out for the summer. Please send an email to Ms. Woznick at awoznick@beverlyschools.org to get on a list to receive more information.

Parent Survey on Library Media Services

We are currently working on a 5-year plan for the district library media services and are seeking input and feedback from all of our various communities - parents, staff, and students. Please take 2 minutes to go to the main page of the Beverly Schools website (www.beverlyschools.org) and follow the link for the "Parent Survey About Library Services". Thank yo!

Thank you so much! I hope you can get it in.

Homeward Bound Notes from Mr. Costa & the Band Program

1)6th Grade News –

- **Standard of Excellence Book Return:** Any 6th grade student who does not wish to keep their copy of the *Standard of Excellence Vol. 1* method is kindly asked to donate it back to the band program for future 6th grade band students. Please return your copy to Mr. Costa as soon as possible.

2)7th & 8th Grade Band News –

- **All City Jazz Band:** New this year, we are making next fall's audition music for the All City Jazz Band available before school ends for the summer. If your child is entering 7th, 8th, or 9th grade and plays one of the instruments listed below, please contact Mr. Costa to obtain the audition music. Auditions traditionally take place at the end of October. The band will begin rehearsing on Tuesday afternoons from 3:15-4:30pm in early November. Jazz band instrumentation: alto sax, tenor sax, baritone sax, trumpet, trombone, guitar, bass, piano, and drum set.

3)News For Everyone –

- **Summer Instrument Rental:** All students in possession of a Briscoe band instrument must go through a check out process with Mr. Costa before the instrument can be taken home for the summer. All of our instruments must be inventoried so that it can be estimated what the cost of our annual summer repairs will be. If it is determined that an instrument's condition renders it

in need or repair, it will be sent away for the summer and will become available again at the start of school in the fall.

- **Performance Calendar:** Below are the remaining performances for this 2008-2009 school year.
 1. Tuesday, June 23 at BHS: 7th Grade Band (8th Grade Promotion at 6:00pm, band arrives at 5:30pm)
- **Briscoe Band T-Shirts:** Our annual band t-shirt design was a big hit this year! More than 50 shirts were sold to members of the band. Unfortunately, all extra shirts have already been scooped up.
- **4th Quarter Playing Tests and Practice Sheets:** The deadline for band students to complete their 4th quarter playing test was last Friday, June 5th. All make up tests have been completed at this point. Please be aware that failure to complete a band playing test will have a significant impact on a student's grade. 4th quarter practice sheets were due this past Wednesday.
- **Briscoe Music Parents Organization:** Thank you to all of the parents who contributed their time, talents, and ideas this past year to this parental music support group. We will resume our monthly meetings beginning on Monday, September 28 at 7pm. All parents of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade band and chorus students are encouraged to attend. If you are interested in taking a proactive approach to music education at Briscoe, please join us in the fall!
- **Annual Boston Pops Trip:** A fabulous time was had this past Tuesday night at Symphony Hall! 64 music students and 9 chaperones enjoyed the virtuosic power of the Boston Pops and guest Broadway vocalist Linda Eder. A special thank you to Mrs. Howland, Mrs. Schalch, Mrs. Bishop, Mrs. Lupini, Mrs. Christ-Kirkpatrick, Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. Costa, and Mrs. Shea for chaperoning this exciting field trip!
- **Summer Camps:** Mr. Costa has photocopied several packets of the brochures that come in each spring for various musical summer camps. Please contact him if you'd like one to peruse with your child.
- **Blog:** The band blog (briscoemiddleschoolband.blogspot.com) will continue to be maintained throughout the summer months. Please email Mr. Costa for instructions on how to obtain a blogger account, or simply visit www.blogger.com for further information!
- **Thank You:** The Briscoe Band has once again experienced a wonderful year of growing and evolving, all the while providing an encouraging environment for Beverly's middle school students to continue their musical development. It is with sincere gratitude and appreciation that I wish all Briscoe band students and their families a fantastic summer. I am looking forward to what next school year holds for us!

News From the Student Assistance Counselor

On Friday June 5th we held an 8th grade assembly and hosted the notable Improbable Players. They are a theatre troupe that addresses substance abuse and alcoholism in a comedic, yet very real way. The actors are all former addicts, so it brings a sense of reality to their performance! Some student comments that I received from a feedback form given out during health class about the assembly include: "The play was a good way to learn about drugs-it was funny and serious at the same time". "The best part was that the actors were recovering addicts, so they could relate, rather than just saying don't do drugs." "This wasn't just a boring presentation on drugs, they were real people with real problems so it made it more interesting, bring in more programs like that." If you haven't talked to your 8th grader about the assembly, ask them to tell you about it! Thank you Briscoe PTO for funding this event.

Beverly Bootstraps is looking for snacks! Bootstraps serve lunches Monday-Friday to Beverly kids who are part of the summer Rec Program and they are in need of healthy snacks. Some suggestions of appropriate donations would be: pretzels, juice boxes, crackers, individual gold fish packets, and granola bars. Please drop off all donations at Beverly Bootstraps at 371 Cabot Street.

On Tuesday June 16th we will be hosting a student health fair. We have approximately 25 attendees from local community organizations that offer services to Beverly youth and their families. Most of the

attendees will be bringing brochures and fliers with information about their organization, so make sure to ask your child what he/she collected at the health fair!

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have at 978-921-6103 ext. 150 or via email: szide@beverlyschools.org. Have a safe and happy summer!

Notes from the Nurse

A reminder to all parents that any medication or medical equipment must be picked up by the last day of school. Please call our office if you need to plan for this.

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy summer.

Elaine Moffett, RN

Karyn Linck, LPN

From the Cafeteria

It has been a pleasure serving you this year. Please have all money owed paid in full by the end of the week. Have a great summer!

Boxtops for Education

To date we have raised \$463.40 by sending in Boxtops. Also, with our latest submission we should go over our initial goal of \$500. We would like to continue receiving Boxtops either by dropping them by the office or mailing them in to my attention. The address is: Maria G. Bonaiuto, Briscoe Middle School, 7 Sohler Road, Beverly, MA 01915. Also, we would like to entertain suggestions to purchase something permanent for the school – perhaps a bicycle rack? All suggestions are most welcome. Once again, thank you for your involvement in this worthy cause.

Recycling

Empty ink cartridges can be donated to Mrs. Kline to support the Physical Education Department. The physical education department has teamed up with a new recycling company, Advantage Cartridge Recyclin. In addition to inkjet and toner cartridges, we will also be recycling cell phones. Please visit the Kash For Kids website at www.kashforkids.com to get a complete list of cartridges we accept. Please bring all cartridges and used cell phones to the main office of Briscoe Middle School.

IMPORTANT EVENTS

- June 15 Extended HR from 8:50-9:15 AM for Youth Risk Behavior Surveys
- June 16 Extended HR from 8:50-9:15 AM for School Climate Surveys
Youth Health Fair in the Briscoe Gym from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
- June 18 Grade 8 Recognition Night Rehearsal (A & B Block)
- June 19 Grade 8 Recognition Night Rehearsal (A & B Block)
6 Blue Field Trip to Fenway Park & 5 Wits
- June 22 6 Blue Field Trip to Lynch Park
6 Gold Field Trip to Lynch Park
Grade 8 Recognition Night Rehearsal (A & B Block)
- June 23 Grade 8 Recognition Night Rehearsal @ BHS (E, F, A, & B Blocks)
Grade 8 Students receive purchased yearbooks
Grade 8 Recognition Night @ 6:00 PM @ BHS Field House
- June 24 Last Day of School (No School for Grade 8)
Grades 6 & 7 Students receive purchased yearbooks

“All educational and non-academic programs, activities and employment opportunities at Beverly Public Schools are offered without regard to race, color, sex, religion, ancestry, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, and any other class or characteristic protected by law.”



Beach Blanket Reading Buddies

Thursday, June 18, 2009

Dear Parents of Reading Students,

The Briscoe Reading Team would like to support the Beverly Public Library's Bookmobile by holding a "Beach Blanket Reading Buddies" day.

The Bookmobile is a valuable resource to Briscoe!

The Bookmobile has visited our school every week, all year, and has delivered countless books to students and teachers. Students are able to browse, check out, request and return public library books directly through the Bookmobile without ever leaving school! However, the Bookmobile needs to be replaced! We would like to support the public library's efforts to raise money for a new Bookmobile.

We need your help!

On Thursday, June 18, reading classes will read outside on our beach blankets or towels during reading class. To raise money for the Bookmobile, we ask that you make a donation to the Bookmobile for this day. Pledge money will be collected on or before June 17. Please fill out the pledge form below if you would like to make a donation to the Bookmobile. No donation is too small. Also, please remind your child to go to school with a book and a blanket or towel on June 18!

Thank you! Happy Reading!
The Briscoe Reading Team
978-921-6103

Questions? Email Mrs. Boucher at sboucher@beverlyschools.org.

-----Cut here -----

I pledge \$_____ in support of my child, _____ reading on "Beach Blanket Reading Buddies" day to raise funds for the Bookmobile.



Parent/Guardian Signature

**PLEASE RETURN WITH PLEDGE MONEY TO YOUR CHILD'S READING TEACHER
ON OR BEFORE JUNE 17, 2009.**

Please make checks payable to "Beverly Public Library".