



HOMeward BOUND MESSAGES



Volume 8, Issue 10– February 8, 2008

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From the Principal's Desk

I would like to let all Briscoe Families know that the 29th Annual Good Friday Walk will take place on Friday, March 21st beginning at 9:30 AM. For more information and sponsor sheets, please visit the website, www.goodfridaywalk.org.

Any student who is interested in auditioning for The Open Road Theatre's production of Alice in Wonderland should participate in the open auditions on Tuesday, February 12th from 3:00 to 5:30 PM at the Hamilton-Wenham Public Library. The rehearsals will also take place at the Hamilton-Wenham Library beginning March 3rd, Monday through Thursday. The performance will be at the Memorial Building on May 16th and 17th. For more information, please visit their website, www.theopenroadtheatre.org.

Congratulations to Alison Gove, a Grade 8 student, who was recently recognized by the Veterans of Foreign Wars as a Finalist in their Annual Patriot's Pen Contest. She was a guest at their recent Voices of Democracy Banquet held at the Sheraton Hotel in Milford. Congratulations for a job well done.

Last week, we hosted our Grade 5 Move Up Night for parents/guardians and students. It was great to see so many people attend this event to learn more about Briscoe Middle School. Our Grade 6 teachers, along with other school staff, put together an informative presentation for this group. I just want to thank all whom participated for a job well done. However, special thanks must go out to those Grade 6 students who performed a Frequently Asked Question Skit for those in attendance to help welcome those students who will be attending Briscoe next year. These students include: Caitlyn O'Fiesh, Jackson Martz, Caroline Decker, Alissa Conant, Joseph Bachini, and Mary Cate Flaherty. Great Job!

On Friday February 1st, we had several students perform their musical that they had developed in collaboration with the North Shore Music Theatre during the last period of the day. These students had been working with the Music Theatre for approximately 3 weeks in preparation for this performance, and they did a wonderful job – Congratulations!

On Friday, February 15th, all the students who are involved in the Band Program at Briscoe have been invited to attend a performance of the Marine Corps Band at Beverly High School. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to experience. A special thanks goes out to Beverly High School and our own Band Director, Adam Costa, for organizing this for our students and community.

As we start to look ahead, MCAS ELA testing will be taking place from March 24th through April 2nd. The MCAS Math, Science, and History tests will be conducted from May 12th through May 23rd. I will be sending home a more detailed calendar of these events; however, the March and May testing periods look like this:

March 24 th – Grade 8 ELA Session I	May 12 th – Grade 7 Math Session I
March 25 th – Grade 7 ELA Long Composition	May 13 th – Grade 7 Math Session II
March 26 th – Grade 8 ELA Sessions II and III	May 14 th – Grade 7 History Session I
March 27 th – Grade 6 ELA Session I	May 15 th – Grade 7 History Session II
March 28 th – Grade 6 ELA Sessions II and III	May 16 th – Grade 6 Math Session I
March 31 st – Grade 7 ELA Session I	May 19 th – Grade 6 Math Session II
April 1 st – Grade 7 ELA Sessions II and III	May 20 th – Grade 8 Math Session I
April 2 nd – Grade 7 ELA Long Composition Make Up	May 21 st – Grade 8 Math Session II
	May 22 nd – Grade 8 Science Session I
	May 23 rd – Grade 8 Science Session II

Hopefully, this will allow you to plan accordingly. If you have any questions, please contact your child's guidance counselor.

A reminder to all Briscoe Families that February Vacation is February 18th through February 22nd. I hope that you all have safe and restful break.

Just a thought as we all try to comprehend Super Bowl XLII – 5 days until pitchers and catchers report to Spring Training for our World Champion Red Sox!

PTO Announcement

The next scheduled meeting is Monday, March 17th. Dr. Hayes was scheduled to be our guest at the January meeting. He will attend our final meeting on May 19th. The PTO will be sponsoring an MCAS breakfast for all students in March during testing. Further details will follow. Any parent interested in helping out with the book fair in June should please contact Alix Woznick, Briscoe's Library and Media Specialist at awoznick@beverlyschools.org

Briscoe Yearbooks are on sale now!

Yearbooks are now on Sale!!! You can order either through your child's homeroom by sending in the order form with a payment of \$20.00 or you can order on-line at Jostensyearbooks.com. Checks should be made payable to "Briscoe Middle School." Order early! The deadline is February 22, 2008.

Briscoe T-Shirts, Sweatshirts, & Polo Shirts

Please consider buying an official Briscoe Middle School T-Shirt, Polo/Sports Shirt, and/or Sweatshirt. The order form is attached. These shirts are made locally at Todd's Sporting Goods and are only available through Briscoe Middle School. Please complete the attached order form if you are interested and return it to the main office of Briscoe Middle School at your earliest convenience. Please expect 2-3 weeks for our entire order to be filled. Students will receive their orders during the homeroom period after our order has arrived. All checks should be made payable to BRISCOE MIDDLE SCHOOL. Thank you!

Team 6 Blue Announcements:

Valentine Fudge is for sale on Team 6 Blue! Please take advantage of a super opportunity to help a sixth grader support their team activities by purchasing some absolutely scrumptious Winfrey's chocolate butter-cream fudge. The fudge is on sale for only \$6.00 per heart box and the proceeds will certainly benefit some exciting learning adventures on Team 6 Blue. Come one, come all - get it while it lasts - Winfrey's **Yummy** chocolate butter-cream **FUDGE!** Thank you for your support and Happy Valentine's Day!

Team 6 Blue “ROCKS”

Rocks and minerals are the focus of the Team 6 Blue field trip to the Harvard Museum of Natural History in Cambridge, March 12. The students will participate in hands on activities and interactive demonstrations, as they investigate a myriad of specimens and artifacts. A scavenger hunt is scheduled to provide an exploration of natural and cultural history within the museum. The activities planned for this field trip are designed for the students to ask questions, search for answers, and dig deeper as explorers in their studies throughout the rocks and minerals unit. We look forward to an exciting adventure at The Harvard Museum!

Attention 6th Grade Parents/Guardians: Nature’s Classroom Payment Reminders

The next payment of \$150 for Nature’s Classroom was due on or before Friday, February 1, 2008. The final payment of \$140 for Nature’s Classroom is due on or before Friday, March 28, 2008. THE DEADLINE to commit to this trip has been extended to Friday, February 15, 2008.

6th Grade Movie Night Scheduled for Friday, March 7, 2008 from 6:00-9:30 PM

At last night’s planning meeting for the 6th grade movie night, the following was decided:

- Students will have an opportunity to vote on the movie they will be seeing on March 7th. The movie will need to be rated G or PG.
- In addition, there will be fun and games in the cafeteria for students to enjoy. The games so far include the following and will cost \$1 to play:
 - Balloon popping with darts.
 - Basketball shoot-out.
 - Putting green.
 - Every piece of candy purchased will earn students one or more raffle tickets according to the prize amount hidden on the candy.
 - We are still in the process of researching other games. More ideas are welcome.
- The entry cost will be \$10, but this will include the price of admission, two slices of pizza, a drink, and a raffle ticket.
- In addition to the pizza and drink, we will also be selling candy and more pizza and drinks.
- The movie will be shown in the auditorium, beginning at 7:00 PM. There will be an intermission halfway through the film.
- We are looking for items to be donated for the raffle. New and gently used items are welcome. Items should be geared toward 6th grade students. Any and all items are welcome.
- There will be a flyer sent home with every student and e-mailed on Monday with more information.
- If you have any comments, questions, or concerns please contact one of the parents below:
- PARENT CONTACTS:

6 Blue	6 White	6 Gold
Mrs. Kathleen Whitehair kmwhitehair@comcast.net 1-978-922-4508	Mrs. Irene Christ-Kirkpatrick ichristk@comcast.net 1-978-927-8244	Mrs. Elisa Horack Efhorack63@hotmail.com 1-978-922-4346

Grade 8 Trip Update

The second payment for the trip to New York City was due on Monday February, 4, 2008. Please write your student's name on the check for \$100 made out to Festive Adventures and have your student give the check to their homeroom teacher that morning. Please look for more information regarding medical forms, future payments, roommate request forms and the next mandatory parent/guardian meeting in May to be coming soon. Also, don't forget to buy tickets for the Comedy Night in March. It should be a fun night of food, entertainment and some great raffle items. Thanks for your cooperation and we look forward to a great trip!

8TH GRADE NEW YORK CITY TRIP

At this time, 264 eighth grade students will be attending the New York City trip on June 12th and 13th, 2008. Since Festive Adventures, the tour company organizing the trip, needs to confirm the number of theater tickets, (the play is *Hairspray*), rooms and meals that will be reserved, we have closed registration for the trip.

The second payment for the New York City trip is due on February 4th. Please make checks out to **Festive Adventures** and turn them in to your homeroom teachers. Please be sure to write your child's name on your check on the memo line. We are including another copy of the payment schedule for the remainder of the year so that families can budget the remaining payments.

Payment	Due Date	Amount Due	Amount Pd	Balance Due
Deposit	11/28/07	\$100.00		
2 nd payment	02/04/08	\$100.00		
3 rd payment	03/17/08	\$100.00		
4 th payment	04/28/08	\$75.00		

At this time, most CORI checks have been returned to Briscoe. Returned CORIs and a final determination of the number of students who will attend the trip are critical pieces of data needed to establish the number of chaperones that will be required. We anticipate letting parents know by mid February if they will be needed to accompany students to New York. Again, our thanks to all parents who have volunteered two days in June to make this trip possible. Choosing those who will best fit our needs and compliment the staffs' strengths is a difficult task.

Our second and last mandatory meeting will be held on **Thursday, May 8, 2008**.

Coming soon:

- Scholarship awards
- May 1- chaperone meeting
- May 8 - second and last mandatory parent / guardian meeting
- Medical forms
- Roommate request forms

....and don't forget to purchase your tickets for the **Comedy Night** on March 9th at the Franco American Club in Beverly. This is the major fundraiser to support the NYC trip. If you have questions please call Dianne Salmonsens at 978- 927-8590 or Donna Jenko at 978-921-6103.

Homeward Bound Notes from Mr. Costa & the Band Program

6th Grade Band News –

- **Return to the BCOA!** – Plans are still in the works to take the 6th grade band back to the Beverly Council on Aging on Thursday, March 13 for a special Music In Our Schools Month performance. More information will be available in the next Homeward Bound newsletter.

7th & 8th Grade Band News –

- **MICCA Concert Festival** – The 7th and 8th grade bands will be traveling to King Philip Middle School in Wrentham, MA on Sunday, April 6 to compete in the 2008 festival. Our performance times are set for 1:30pm and 3:30pm respectively. Though it a longer commute than the formerly used site in Lexington, this venue is specifically reserved for elementary and middle school ensembles only, guaranteeing that the bands will be exposed to other groups with students their own age and music at their level. Both bands have already been given their performance music. For more information about this festival (which we have traveled to for the past three years) and/or parental involvement in it, please email Mr. Costa at acosta@beverlyschools.org and browse www.miccmusic.org. Parental chaperones are one of the keys to the success of this competition! A detailed itinerary for the day's events will be available in early March.

News For Everyone –

- **Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser** – Back by popular demand, the band and chorus programs are throwing a spaghetti dinner extravaganza on Wednesday, March 26 from 5-8pm (location TBA). An event of this scale takes many hours of preparation and organization. Please email Mercene Perry (kevin.perry1@comcast.net) or Anne Barbin (aebbeverly@comcast.net) if you are willing to volunteer your time and efforts to this major fundraiser for our music department!
- **MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH** – Now an annual tradition, this very long, MCAS-intensive month is one of the band program's busiest and most exciting. This year's schedule of events includes:
 - The 6th Grade Band – Council on Aging Performance (Thursday, March 13 during the school day)
 - The All City Jazz Band – Night of Jazz Performance (Thursday, March 20 at 7pm at BHS)
 - Select Briscoe Musicians – MMEA Junior District Festival (Saturday, March 15 at Lowell High School)
 - The Entire Music Department – Annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser (Wednesday, March 26 from 5-8pm, location TBA)
 - Select Briscoe Musicians – Annual School-Wide Talent Show (Friday, March 28 during the school day in Goding Auditorium)
- **Combined Band Rehearsals** – Below are the second round of dates for the spring rehearsals. Please remember that attendance at these rehearsals is a part of your child's grade.
 - 6th Grade – February 11 (3:15-4:00pm)
 - 7th Grade – February 25 (3:15-4:30pm)
 - 8th Grade – March 3 (3:15-4:30pm)
- **Briscoe Band Parents Organization** – This informal parents group had its second meeting of the school year in the last week of January. Many upcoming events and ideas were discussed among the twenty people in attendance; including the annual MICCA festival trip some new ideas for this year's spaghetti dinner and Music In Our Schools Month. If you have any thoughts or ideas regarding Briscoe's band program and would like to voice your input, please consider joining us at our next meeting on Monday, February 25 at 7pm in the conference room next to the band room.
- **Boston Pops Trip** – We have secured 60 student tickets to the June 10th Boston Pops concert at Symphony Hall! This year's theme is *JazzFest*. The opportunity to reserve tickets for the show involves the submitting of a payment of \$22 (made payable to Briscoe Middle School) along with a permission slip (available from Mr. Costa). 8th and 7th grade registration is now closed. There are 15 tickets still available for 6th grade students, who must turn in their forms no later than Friday, February 15. We are still in need of 3 adults to accompany us on this wonderful field trip. Email Mr. Costa if you are interested!
- **Spring Mini-Musical & Pit Band Auditions** – We are once again collaborating with Beverly High's choral director, Carolyn Pilanen, to offer a spring production. This year we are producing an all-Disney show! Auditions for those wishing to perform in the show must be present this coming Wednesday, February 13 from 3-5pm in Goding Memorial Auditorium. Any student interested in being a part of the pit band needs to sign up for an audition time on the band bulletin board outside of the band room. Auditions for the pit band are being held on the same afternoon (February 13) as stage auditions. Further information is available from Mr. Costa.
- **Marine Band Field Trip** – The Beverly High School music department is sponsoring a performance by the US Marine Band on Friday, February 15th from 1:15-2:30pm at the high school. All band students may attend this unique and exciting performance opportunity as long as a permission slip (available from Mr. Costa) is returned no later than Wednesday, February 13th.

Blizzard Bonus Cash Calendar Update

The Briscoe PTO would like to thank you for supporting the Blizzard Bonus cash calendar fundraiser. We have made a profit of more than \$16,000 and couldn't have done it without all of your support. The money raised will directly benefit the students at Briscoe. A special thank you to the following people for volunteering their time to help with this year's cash calendar fundraiser: Mary Alice Cookson, Maria Decker, Andrea Green, Erin Lipkowitz, Laurie Pritika, Stephanie Steege, Karen Vitale, Lisa Gillis, Madeline Cattell, Mercene Perry, Wendy Hinman, Annie Flagg, Tracey Rosenberry, Susan Koenig, Brett Kirkpatrick, Sarah Manfre, Dani Cairns, Ivy Mahan, Mrs. Quinn, Ms. Bristow, the Student Council and other student volunteers. Also, we would like to thank Rock Beaudoin for making the giant calendar in the school's foyer. Thank you to all of the homeroom teachers for encouraging calendar sales and supporting our fundraising efforts. The calendar drawings will continue through the end of the month. Congratulations to all of the winners! Thanks for supporting the Briscoe PTO!

Have Summer Fun in the Beverly Schools!

Summer is now even better in the Beverly Public Schools! Developed as a result of a search to do more for our young people, our Summer Academy will open its sixth year with many opportunities for students to enrich their learning through fun and creative activities! See the attached flyer for more information. We are putting together a variety of one-week programs. We're offering them at very affordable prices, and if it's not "affordable" given your circumstances, scholarships are available.

Welcome Ms. Sherry Zide as the new Student Assistance Counselor for Briscoe & BHS

Hello Briscoe Community! My name is Sherry Zide, and I am the new Student Assistance Counselor at Briscoe and Beverly High School. I am employed by Health and Education Services, and I will be onsite for 20 hours per week at Briscoe, offering a variety of services, including individual counseling, group work, and classroom presentations. Briscoe is committed to providing its students with the most current information and the necessary tools and skills necessary to make healthy, responsible choices. I am pleased to inform you of two very exciting programs that we are introducing in our efforts to help students lead a healthy lifestyle. North Shore Recovery High School students are entering our 8th grade health classes to share their life experiences, as well as provide an open forum for discussion. We are also honored to host one of the coaches and a player from the CanAm baseball team, the Worcester Tornadoes, to present his Healthy Lifestyles Program to all of the 6th grade health classes. This program focuses on making responsible choices regarding nutrition, physical activity, and how to resist peer pressure in order to live a substance-free life.

If you would like any additional information regarding either of these programs, or if you have any other questions or concerns, please feel free to email me at szide@beverlyschools.org. My office at Briscoe Middle School is room 314A and my phone extension is 150. I look forward to hearing from you, and I am honored to be a part of the Briscoe community!

Recycling

Empty ink cartridges can be donated to Mrs. Kline to support the Physical Education Department. Please visit the *Kash For Kids* website at www.kashforkids.com to get a complete list of cartridges we accept. Please bring them to the Briscoe Middle School main office.

Box Tops for Education Update

Thank you for continuing to send in your boxtops. We have earned \$80 so far this school year. Please continue to send them in the entire school year. We are entertaining ideas for spending the money. One thought is to buy a new bike rack. Any ideas will be appreciated. Feel send your ideas to Ms. Bonaiuto at mbonaiuto@beverlyschools.org - Thank you all for your continued support!

UPDATED INFORMATION: Do you wish to receive Homeward Bound & other correspondences via E-MAIL?

We have created three separate databases of addresses so that parents/guardian need only receive the e-mails that pertain to their child(ren). We will now have the option of sending e-mails to all parents/guardians at Briscoe Middle School or to just the parents/guardians of grade 6, 7, and/or 8 students.

Please read and follow the steps below:

- Any parent/guardian wishing to be added to our 6th grade list of parents/guardians should e-mail lists@beverlyschools.org and put in the following subject: **subscribe homewardbound6**.
- Any parent/guardian wishing to be added to our 7th grade list of parents/guardians should e-mail lists@beverlyschools.org and put in the following subject: **subscribe homewardbound7**.
- Any parent/guardian wishing to be added to our 8th grade list of parents/guardians should e-mail lists@beverlyschools.org and put in the following subject: **subscribe homewardbound8**.

In order to remove yourself from a list, the subject should be as follows: **unsubscribe homewardbound6**, **unsubscribe homewardbound7**, and/or **unsubscribe homewardbound8**.

IMPORTANT EVENTS

February 15	Briscoe Band Students will be at BHS in the afternoon for the US Marine Corps Band
February 18-22	No School – February Vacation
February 29	Last Day of 3 rd Expressive Arts Classes
March 3	First Day of 4 th Expressive Arts Classes Sonia Weitz Assembly for Grades 7 & 8 School Council Meeting at 4:00 PM
March 5	Faculty Meeting – No After School Activities for Students
March 7	3 rd Quarter Progress Reports go home with students
March 11	Early Release for Students @ 12:15 PM Parents' Afternoon Back from 1:00-4:00 PM
March 13	6 th Grade Arts Festival Performance at the Council on Aging
March 17	PTO Meeting @ 7:00 PM
March 19	Grade 7 Geography Assemblies by Jan Reynolds entitled <i>Vanishing Cultures</i>
March 20	All City Jazz Band Arts Festival Performance @ BHS
March 21	No School for Students (Good Friday)
March 28	Music in Our Schools Month Talent Show for Students

Nature's Classroom

We need your help!

Nature's Classroom is an important part of Briscoe's 6th grade experience. We would love for all of our 333 6th graders to attend this outstanding trip. This year we would like to set a school record with at least 90% of our students attending. The deadline to commit to the trip is this Friday, February 15, 2008.

Fundraising has already begun:

- Briscoe T-Shirt, Sweatshirt, & Polo Shirt Sale so far.....\$750 raised
- October 19th Concession Stand at *The Illusionist*.....\$230 raised
- Various 50/50 raffles.....\$635 raised
- Donations..... \$1,970 donated
- March 7th Movie Night..... \$To be announced

TOTAL THUS FAR: \$3,585.00

We are very grateful for the generous contributions of:

The Armstrong Family

The Curtin Family

The Cahill Family

The Dean Family

The Dodge Family

The Mitchell Family

*The Christ-Kirkpatrick
Family*

The Coz Family

The Fickenwirth Family

The Garrity Family

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