



# McKeown School TIMES

May/June 2007

[www.beverlyschools.org](http://www.beverlyschools.org)

## PRINCIPAL'S NOTES

[cmcbride@beverlyschools.org](mailto:cmcbride@beverlyschools.org)

**THE VALUE OF VOLUNTEERS** Did you know that volunteering at your child's school is considered a community service? When you volunteer at your local school, you send a strong message to your child that school is an important place that deserves attention. When you volunteer, you give the gift of quality time with your child and your efforts benefit all of the children in the school. Our students and staff are grateful to all of the parents/guardians and community members who took time out of their busy schedules this year to offer assistance for the benefit of our school. It is our hope that each experience has been rewarding for our volunteers. We look forward to many more opportunities in the future. Please join us in celebration (see details below).

### ***ATTENTION ALL SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS!!!!***

TO SHOW OUR APPRECIATION FOR EVERYTHING  
YOU'VE DONE THIS YEAR, TEAM MCKEOWN STAFF  
WOULD LIKE YOU TO JOIN US FOR OUR TRADITIONAL  
**VOLUNTEER BREAKFAST.**

**WHEN: WEDNESDAY, MAY 30, 2007, 7:35-8:05 A.M.  
FOLLOWED BY A K-5 MEMORIAL DAY ASSEMBLY @ 8:15 A.M.**

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



**Reminders:** If any of your child's emergency card information has changed, kindly inform the school office. We need to have accurate information to insure a quality communication system. Thank you for verifying phone and e-mail information so that we can maintain a quality Connect Ed voice activated phone system.

For safety reasons, please be sure to call the school if your child will be absent (978-921-8303 ext.100). Thank you.

**STUDENT PLACEMENT FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2007-2008** Please be advised that our school has a specific process in place to determine class assignments for the following school year. Our goal is to have all classes equally diversified and balanced in numbers.

Although we do not accept parent/guardian requests for a particular teacher assignment, you may submit to the building principal, in writing, by **Friday, May 11th**, your thoughts regarding your child's learning style, conditions that you feel are best suited for his/her educational needs, or any other information you think is important. Your input will be taken to our placement meeting and carefully considered along with other pertinent information. Thank you.

*Special Note:* If you are planning to move, please contact Mrs. Guy, our secretary, @ 921-8303 ext. 100. In order to plan well for the next school year, it is necessary for us to have accurate enrollment figures. Also, if you know of any new families in our community who have school age children, please encourage them to register before the end of the school year.

**STUDENTS' ATTIRE:** In order to maintain a sound educational environment free from unnecessary distraction, parents are asked to assist their children in choosing clothing that is conducive to a school setting.

As the temperature increases, it is understandable that students will want to wear shorts and summer tops. With respect to that, I ask that both girls and boys wear shorts that are of reasonable length. In addition, undergarment-type clothing should not be seen, "spaghetti" straps should not be worn, and all abdomens should be covered. For the students' safety and protection, sandals with leather soles are discouraged, as well as open toe and open back shoes.

If you should have any questions regarding this request, please contact me.

**SPECIAL FAMILY EVENT:** SPRING OPEN HOUSE/ICE CREAM SOCIAL NIGHT - Hosted by the TEAM McKeown Staff and sponsored by the McKeown School PTO

When: **THURSDAY, MAY 3, 2006, 6:30-8:00 P.M.** Students will escort their parents and relatives around our school to view samples of student work. Please join the staff in the cafeteria for a FREE ice cream treat! Hope to see you there!



## IMPORTANT DATES - MARK YOUR CALENDAR

GRADE K SNACK SALE .....	TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2007
OPEN HOUSE/ICE CREAM SOCIAL NIGHT (6:30-8:00 PM).....	THURSDAY, MAY 3, 2007
EARLY RELEASE DAY (12:00 NOON) .....	FRIDAY, MAY 4, 2007
PTO MEETING (8:15 A.M.) .....	TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2007
GRADE 3, 4 & 5 MCAS TESTING.....	MON. - FRI., MAY 14 - 31, 2007
NO SCHOOL – MEMORIAL DAY.....	MONDAY, MAY 28, 2007
VOLUNTEER BREAKFAST (7:35-8:05 A.M.) FOLLOWED BY A MEMORIAL DAY ASSEMBLY, (8:15 A.M.) .....	WEDNESDAY, MAY 30, 2007
GR. 5 “PERFORMANCE BLOCK” SHOW (12:45 & 6:00 p.m.).....	FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 2007
PTO WALK FOR HEALTH AND HUMANITY.....	THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 2007
RAIN DATE (FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 2007). NORTH SHORE SPIRIT GAME	
RIF BOOK DISTRIBUTION.....	MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2007
FIELD DAY ACTIVITIES.....	TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 2007
(Rain Date: Friday, June 15, 2007)	
PTO ELECTIONS MEETING , 7:00P.M.....	TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 2007
FIFTH GRADE ACTIVITIES WEEK.....	MON.-FRI., JUNE 18-22, 2007
CELEBRATION OF LEARNING ASSEMBLY IN HONOR OF TEAM MCKEOWN GRADUATES (8:30 a.m.) LAST DAY OF SCHOOL/NO LUNCHES SERVED EARLY RELEASE DAY (12:00 p.m. DISMISSAL).....	FRIDAY, JUNE 22, 2007



### School Wide Literacy News – Mrs. Davison.....

Batter up! It's spring and the commencement of the baseball season signals the start of our last reading event. We will once again be participating in the North Shore Spirit “Slugger” reading program. Students that read four weeks and reach home plate will receive a voucher for a free ticket and be recognized at the game. Additional tickets for family members may be purchased at a nominal fee. This has been a great family event

over the past two years. I would like to again thank parents and teachers for their continued support through all of the reading initiatives this year.

Children in grades one and two continue to do a great job with their fluency packets and are on their way to being fluent readers. Keep up the good work!

---



## Classroom News.....

### **Kindergarten News – Mrs. Lavoie, Mrs. Salvo, Mrs. DeLorenzo, Mrs. Nadeau**

The Kindergarten classes are excited about the arrival of Spring. We enjoyed our in-house field trip from the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

In Language Arts we continue our Journal Writing and enjoy sharing illustrations and sentences with friends. It is exciting to begin to spell and read new words. We continue to read our Rigby books in small groups or with partners, and it is always fun to show our Book Buddies how much we are learning this year.

Once again we thank our PTO for all the wonderful programs we have seen this year. It 's great to be a part of the McKeown Team.

### **First Grade News - Mrs. Abbott, Mrs. Staffier, Mrs. Jervinis, Ms. Sciamanna**

Spring is here and lots of exciting things are happening in first grade! Many first graders participated in our First Grade Fantastic Reader program and will now be part of the school-wide reading program with the North Shore Spirit Baseball Team! We encourage everyone to participate in this great opportunity!

This month, we would like to share the STC Science Program as our **Curriculum Highlight**. The Science and Technology for Children (STC) program is a hands-on science program developed by the National Science Resources Center in Washington, DC. It provides students with activities to learn age-appropriate skills in science by observing, measuring, and identifying properties. The three units of study for first grade are **Weather, Solids & Liquids, and Organisms**.

The first unit, **Weather**, provided activities for students to observe and measure the wind, temperature, and precipitation. Students made model flags, thermometers, puddles and clouds. They enjoyed finding out which fabric is best to wear on a rainy day!

We are currently exploring the property of miscibility to complete the second unit, **Solids & Liquids**. We observed and described the properties of 20 different solids including:

color, shape, magnetism, hardness, and sink/float. We have investigated the properties of four liquids: water, oil, shampoo and glue. Students will now investigate what will happen when they pour a liquid into a cup of water!

Our final unit, **Organisms**, will begin after the April vacation. We will plant seeds, build aquariums and terrariums, and go tidepooling at Lynch Park. It is always very exciting when the live organisms arrive!

It was great to see so many first grade scientists participate in the Science Fair this year! This program really gets students excited about Science!

We would like to thank the PTO for sponsoring our trip to the North Shore Music Theater to see **Amelia Bedelia**. We had a great time! Thanks also to our chaperones!

### **Grade Two News – Mrs. Grotto, Mrs. Willard, Ms. Fieven, Mrs. Nagle, Mrs. Raymond**

Spring is here... (at least on the calendar) and second graders will spend the last trimester learning about soils and life cycles in science.

Second graders are planting seeds and talking about what plants need in order to grow. As they discuss soils and what makes some soil better than others for growing, the children will watch their own plants grow in a sunny window. In a few more weeks we will begin our study of life cycles, which is always exciting as the children watch all of the stages in a butterfly's life cycle.

In reading, children should continue to turn in monthly reading logs as part of their nightly homework. Reading and practicing fluency packets should be helpful for all to become more fluent and expressive oral readers.

In math, we have been using some terminology that you may want to use with your second grade math students. "Trade first" algorithm and arrays are terms we use while we learn about subtraction with regrouping as we develop an understanding of multiplication and when to use it.

Second grade is studying Japan during the last trimester. We will talk about the geography and culture of the country. Mrs. Grotto's class enjoyed making origami animals and learning some Japanese words and phrases with a high school student who is very knowledgeable and enthusiastic about Japanese culture. The classes will continue their study through May.

*Arigato* for now and again, thank you for your at home support with reading logs and assignments.

### **Third Grade News – Ms. Kaufman and Mrs. LaHaye**

April is National Poetry Month and in its honor, Third Graders will be exposed to a variety of poets and poetry styles. They will then progress to writing a sampling of their own poems.

In addition to completing the STC kits that rotate through third grade, students will be introduced to a study of the Solar System. Rocks and Minerals will end the year in 3L and 3K will study Plant Growth and Development.

We have completed the Reading Comprehension portion of MCAS for this year. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the PTO and the Food Service for the healthy snacks they provided. The Math portion of the Assessment is scheduled for the week of May 14<sup>th</sup>. We will test for two sessions. We invite you to visit the Everyday Math web site to review the skills your children are learning in school. ([www.center.k12.mo.us/Edtech/edm/5.htm](http://www.center.k12.mo.us/Edtech/edm/5.htm)). It is beneficial for students to come to school well rested and having had a well-balanced breakfast, especially on those days.

We wish to remind parents and students of the importance of nightly reading and frequent review of the multiplication facts. We would like to congratulate those students who chose to participate in Slugger's Reading Program.

### **AIM Program – Mr. Beane, Ms. Aube, Mrs. Marescalchi**

The AIM classroom continues to work hard in all areas of academics. The students finished the academic components of their MCAS portfolios. The students put in a lot of effort to achieve their goals.

The class continues to work on math skills using the Every Day Math Program. We are currently learning a poem about the months of the year and facts about each of the months. We continue to develop reading skills using the Wilson Phonics Program and the Rigby Reading Program.

### **Fourth Grade News - Mrs. Burns and Mrs. Pelletier**

The fourth graders have been busy! We spent two weeks in March working on the long composition and reading portions of the MCAS. Congratulations to all students as they worked diligently to complete the testing. Both classes have been prepping for the math portion of the test at school and at home. Please help your child work through the calendar problems that are to be completed each night for homework. This is a great way to prep for the test!

We're sure you've heard about how both classes were treated to the movie Because of Winn Dixie after MCAS. Mrs. Burns' students just finished the book while Mrs. Pelletier's students are just beginning. Both classes have enjoyed comparing and contrasting the book to the movie. Students in 4B have started reading Stone Fox, a great

book with a touching ending. Since the students in 4P are familiar with this story, they have promised to keep the shocking ending to themselves! Both classes will top off the year with the book [The Trumpet of the Swan](#).

As always, we continue to work on strengthening our writing skills. We've become great storytellers and writers as the year has progressed. We plan on embarking on report writing in early May. Please keep an eye out for the details on this report.

Westward ho! In social studies, the students continue their "travels" across the United States. We wrap up our study of the U.S. with the remaining two regions, the West and Southwest. On the science front, students will soon bring home projects that will "brighten" up your home. You'll soon find out why you've been saving toilet paper rolls and buying batteries.

As always, if you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact Mrs. Pelletier or Mrs. Burns by phone or email. Mrs. Pelletier can be reached via [spelletier@beverlyschools.org](mailto:spelletier@beverlyschools.org) and Mrs. Burns via [sburns2@beverlyschools.org](mailto:sburns2@beverlyschools.org). Enjoy this beautiful time of the year!

#### **Fifth Grade Newsletter – Mrs. Boutin and Mr. Anderson**

The fifth graders have begun their MCAS inquiry questions that will be presented to their peers just before MCAS testing in May. In this project, the students revisit several of the science investigations they have experienced in elementary school. They will be introduced to some new science concepts through research as well. The project goals are:

- 1) To activate prior knowledge.
- 2) To review, re-learn, and acquire new information on the essential understandings behind each topic by participating in this mini-research project.
- 3) To plan 10-15 minute class presentation
- 4) To teach their classmates
- 5) To complete MCAS exams for homework (These tests focus on one science strand: life, earth, physical, technology, inventions and simple machines.)

The students have a rubric for researching and presenting. Work is begun in class and finished at home. Please check your son/daughter's progress daily to ensure success.

While science areas are being explored, fractions are being reinforced in addition and subtraction with a greater emphasis on multiplication and division strategies being introduced for further investigation and learning.

Grade 5 Social Studies continues our examination of the colonies and the events that lead up to the American Revolution. Students will soon begin a project on the types of jobs colonial trades people did. We also look forward to a visit from the Beverly Historical Society.

Our community service clubs are still going strong. Congratulations to the Care Package Committee who successfully organized a large donation of baseball related items to send to the troops. The bookmarks for the River House Homeless Shelter are ready for sale so look for information regarding that project. Finally the Recycling Club members, recently featured in several newspaper articles and on BEV-CAM's Beverly Life Program, have set up programs to celebrate the Earth through the month of April and even into May. Keep up the good work!



### Media Center Notes

*from Mrs. Babb*



---

Kindergarteners have been listening to seasonal stories and books by Jan Brett. They have been creating self-portraits using the software program *HyperStudio*.

First graders have been listening to stories about money and drawing our coins using the website [www.littleexplorers.com](http://www.littleexplorers.com). They are presently creating pictures to accompany the book Ten Black Dots by Donald Crews.

In second grade, students are practicing their time and money skills on [www.playtolearn.com](http://www.playtolearn.com). They have learned the basics of *Inspiration*, a webbing program, and have produced their own webs.

Third graders have learned and have been practicing the use of *Athena*, our computerized catalog/circulation system. They are completing their *HyperStudio* presentations. Through all of their computer work, they are strengthening their typing skills, introduced in *Typin Time*, our keyboarding program. They have written and typed original animal poems in *Microsoft Word*.

Fourth graders have completed dictionary work, comparing print and online dictionaries. They are acquiring the skills needed to navigate the library by learning the Dewey Decimal System. They have also graphed data in *Microsoft Excel*.

Fourth and fifth grade students, who had read five books from the list, voted for their favorite among the Massachusetts Children's Book Award choices. We are waiting to hear the winner from votes cast around the state.

Our second RIF Day will be held soon, with a third one scheduled for June.



## **Physical Education News**

**Mrs. Shropshire and Mrs. Athanas**

### **Tuesday and Friday Classes**

Our upper grade level students have been working hard in gym classes. They have been demonstrating their fitness skills in our President's Challenge Physical Fitness Test. I am pleased to report that many students must be practicing at home because their bent knee sit-ups, flexibility and push-ups look great. After the April break with the arrival of spring-like weather, we will work on our endurance run and allow any students to retest, if they wish.

In addition to our fitness skills, we have started our Volleyball Unit. The overhead passes, digs and underhand serves are looking better each week with the help of partner coaching on these skills. The net is up and we are ready to discuss volleyball rules and learn how to rotate around the court. Volleyball is a great lifetime sport that can be enjoyed by all age groups.

Our primary level students really seemed to enjoy their introduction to yoga. They learned that yoga started thousands of years ago in India by people imitating the movements and postures observed in animals. We discovered how flexibility and muscular strength in yoga contribute to our overall fitness level.

These students also explored introductory basketball and volleyball skills. Our basketball dribbles and volleyball overhead passes are starting to look very nice. These skills will help the younger students prepare for those fun field day events in June.

I look forward to seeing everyone enjoying the fresh air and sunshine during outdoor activities over the upcoming months. Happy Spring!

### **Wednesday Classes**

All of the students did terrific work with the basketball unit. Many skills were practiced, such as catching, passing, dribbling, and shooting, as well as the basic rules of the game. The third and fourth graders were able to finish up the unit by putting the skills to work through a basketball game. I hope all the students continue to enjoy the game of basketball outside of school. It is fun, challenging, and contributes to many components of physical fitness.

After the basketball unit the students were able to increase their fitness level by participating in Tae-Boe workouts. Tae-Boe helps blend your own hidden strength with moves from Tae-Kwon-Do, boxing and dance, and combines the workouts with great

music. Tae-Boe helps to make children fit, build confidence, athletic endurance and coordination. Since it improving their overall health, it was wonderful to see The children really enjoyed this different type of fitness workout.

The kindergartners and second graders will leap into Spring after April vacation by enjoying different manipulative activities. Students will use balloons, balls, paddles, jump ropes, and the parachute during this unit. Manipulative activities can strengthen both hand-eye coordination, as well as develop dexterity in handling a variety of objects. This is always a fun and exciting unit for the students.

The third and fourth graders will be finishing up the Presidential Physical Fitness Test this month. The students will be going outside and being timed on the one-mile distance run around the soccer field. The students have really challenged themselves to do their best and the results show. It is great to see them understanding the importance of physical activity and the benefits. Physical activity and fitness are an essential part of making your life and your child's life more healthy and enjoyable!

---



**Music News - Mrs. McDonough and Mrs. Retallack.....**

### **Monday Classes**

We have begun to sing about it Spring! The Kindergarten is singing a Korean Spring Flower song along with learning about Opera through Humperdink's "Hansel and Gretel." The second grade is singing songs from around the world and learning about different cultures through their music. Meanwhile, Grade Four is studying Beethoven, his life and his music. They are learning the theme to Beethoven's ninth symphony and will sing several arrangements of that piece. All grades continue to work on the music fundamentals such as note values, note reading, style, form and rhythm. We are getting ready for our Memorial Day Assembly during which we will feature songs of peace and hope for the future, as we create a vision to honor our fallen heroes.

### **Wednesday and Friday Classes**

This spring we are focusing on early American Folk Music. Students have been learning dances and play party games in First grade and Kindergarten. These songs reflect a rich heritage in our country and students enjoy the fact that other children from a time long ago enjoyed the same songs.

In third grade we also discovered American musical roots and a bit of history, as we sang these folk songs. In fifth grade our focus has been preparing for the Performance Block

production that is coming June 1st. In both music class and performance block, we have been diligently rehearsing the songs for *Treasure Island*.

The AIM class continues to integrate music that is learned in the third grade curriculum. These students are enjoying the singing, playing instruments and dancing. As we wind up the year we prepare for the Memorial Day ceremony and review music skills through the month of June.

---



**Art News – Mr. Wassell and Ms. Piekos.....**

**Wednesday Classes**

The students have all been working very hard on developing their art skills. The third and fourth graders have all been learning the basic techniques involved in understanding One Point Perspective. They have been creating three-dimensional, geometric drawings that look like they are traveling back into the picture plane. The second graders are finishing up a Japanese Fish Design project in which they had to section off their own realistic drawing of a fish. I asked them to come up with a new design for each section. The pictures look great! The kindergarteners have also been making fish art while learning about color mixing and identifying warm and cool colors.

**Thursday and Friday Classes**

For the last several weeks Grade 5 has been concentrating on drawing and painting schools of colorful, tropical fish. They learned concepts of balance and overlapping in creating an interesting art piece. To create the water, students used a toothbrush to splatter a fine mist of paint in the background for an interesting effect. Mrs. Pelletier's fourth grade class learned concepts of positive and negative areas in art. They created black and white designs on some very interesting bottle shapes. Third grade students in Mrs. LaHaye's class listened to a story titled "A Chair For My Mother" which described how a big, comfortable chair can be very important to a family. They designed a living room scene centering around a big, comfortable chair. What wonderful ideas they had in designing their living rooms! Mrs. Willard's second grade class just completed a great project drawing dinosaurs. Some concepts they learned included foreground, middle ground, background, warm colors and cool colors. Dinosaurs never looked so good! And cats never looked so good as they did in the first graders' art projects. They painted paper to resemble cat's fur by applying watercolors to wet paper. After they cut their wonderful cats out they created rugs for the cats to sleep on. Mrs. Salvo's kindergarten class dove hands first into clay to form pinch pot, which they are very anxious to take home. Super job Kindergarteners!

***HAPPY SPRING !!***