

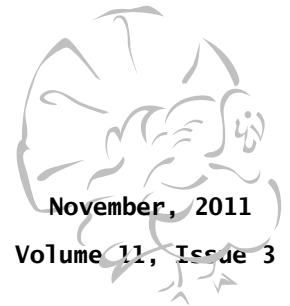
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...ol year is going very well and our students are working hard to make indi-  
cally while developing skills to work cooperatively and collaboratively  
as for our middle school students as well as for our instructional practices in

order to best prepare our students for their future. Gaining independence and fostering an internal motivation are keys to their success in middle school and beyond. We will be busy collecting can goods and non-perishable food items in homerooms for the Open Shelves Food Pantry this month and appreciate any support your family can give. Our Student Council is up and running and doing some wonderful things to support our school and community. Please be on the lookout for their Uncle Jerry's Tees fundraiser. Parent/Teacher conferences are scheduled for 11/21 & 11/22 of this month and information regarding how you can schedule an appointment with your child's teachers was sent home last week. Our website [www.berkleypublicschools.org](http://www.berkleypublicschools.org) is updated regularly and has useful information for families to plan ahead and stay involved.

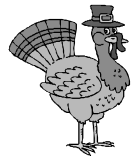
### BMS IMPORTANT DATES

|            |   |                                       |
|------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Nov. 3     | PTO Meeting-Admin. Conf. Rm.<br>5th & 6th Gr. Social                | 6:30 PM<br>2:30-4:00 PM               |
| Nov. 8     | No School-Professional Development                                  |                                       |
| Nov. 10    | Picture retakes   |                                       |
| Nov. 11    | No School-Veterans Day  |                                       |
| Nov. 14    | School Committee-Library  | 6:30 PM                               |
| Nov. 17-28 | Scholastic Book Fair  |                                       |
| Nov. 18    | Term I Report Cards Go Home   |                                       |
| Nov. 21    | Early Release-No Lunch Served<br>Parent Teacher Conf.-By appt. only | 12:00 PM<br>12:45-3:45 & 5:30-7:30 PM |
| Nov. 22    | Early Release-NO LUNCH SERVED<br>Parent Teacher Conf.-By appt. only | 12:00 PM<br>12:45-3:45 & 5:30-7:30 PM |
| Nov. 23    | Early Release-Thanksgiving Recess                                   | *11:00 AM                             |



### UPDATES YOU SHOULD KNOW!

- As a way to fully utilize and support our online grade book system, as of Term 2, we will **NO LONGER** issue warning notices at the mid-way point. Parents/families have access to their child's grades throughout the entire term and can stay in communication with teachers' as needed. If a parent/guardian does not have access to the internet, they can communicate that to their child's homeroom teacher and we will make arrangements to share updates in an alternate way.
- With the colder weather approaching we wanted to remind students that they should be wearing appropriate clothing to school. Jackets/coats are not allowed to be worn during the school day but sweatshirts are allowed.
- As a point of clarification, leggings are only appropriate with a shirt or top that covers a student's body to the knee or below. We are trying to support an atmosphere of respect and learning. We appreciate your help in this matter.
- Only clear water bottles are allowed for use during the school day. We must be able to see through the container, if not, the student will be asked to keep it in their locker.



### BERKLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS HANDWRITING EXPECTATIONS

It is the expectation of the Berkley Public Schools that students will be instructed in the skill of cursive reading and writing beginning at Grade Three. Students will be given opportunities to practice this skill throughout their elementary and middle school years. There is no grading of cursive writing in particular, but assessment of cursive could be included in the overall grade of a neat and well presented work product. As with all learning objectives, modifications to the expectation of cursive writing may be made as necessary for students with Individualized Educational Plans.

### BUS BEHAVIOR

Riding the bus in middle school is a privilege not a right. Appropriate behavior on the bus to and from school is a necessary priority in order to ensure the safety of all students. It is very difficult for our drivers to be aware of all that is happening on the bus while focusing on road safety. Per the 'Bus Service' policy listed on pages 16-17 of our students' agenda books, it clearly states the following: Students should remain in their seats. Students should keep their hands, etc. to themselves. Students talk on the bus should be reasonable both in what is said and how it is said. We will be continually reminding our students of these expectations and appreciate your help and support in sharing this message with your child. Please note that our buses are running at full capacity. It is **not** possible to honor requests for students to ride home on **any bus other than their own**.

### GRADE 6 & 7 CAMP BOURNE DALE

Grade 6 & 7 families our students will be attending Camp Bournedale from April 9-April 13, 2012. Packets have gone home with all students. Payment schedules(\$325. Gr. 6. \$350. Gr. 7). deadlines, help-



### SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

The Scholastic Book Fair will run from Nov. 17-28 during school hours. On Nov. 21& 22 the public is welcome to visit during Parent Teacher conference hours. Thanks for your support to this fundraiser which will allow us to



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## ROUND CARE NEWS

Following days this month: Nov. 8 (Staff Professional Day Thanksgiving Recess). Please remember that weekly payments amount regardless of a holiday or short week. Substitutions one week notice is given and the space is available. Please contact Michelle



Fiola at 508-822-8567 if you have any questions. There will be THREE Early Release Days this month-Nov. 21, 22 & 23. Surround Care will be available to Surround Care families from the time of dismissal to 6PM. Again this year, we will be sponsoring some children in the Salvation Army Clothe-a-Child Assistance Program. We will be seeking help from families to assist us in clothing some needy children for the holidays. Further information will be sent out in mid-November.

## GRADE 5 NEWS

**Ms. Urbanek: Math:** We will be finishing up our study of decimals this week. Fractions – here we come. We will practice comparing, ordering, and finding equivalent fractions. Please continue to practice multiplication facts with your child each night. **Science: Measurement:** Students will participate in experiments which include measuring length, width, mass, temperature, and volume of liquids. Visit the F.O.S.S website for more information (<http://www.fossweb.com/modules3-6/index.html>). Please check your child’s science folder for classroom experiments, notes, etc.



**Mrs. Graca Writing: Monster Exchange:** We’ll partner with 2 schools from around the globe to draw a monster and write the directions for recreating it using good organization and description. Then our partners will send their instructions and we’ll all post our redrawn versions online and view the results. Instructions will follow for accessing the online gallery. **Reading:** Moving onto the novel *The Kidnapped Prince*, book reports due 11/17. **Social Studies:** Maya, Aztec, Inca projects are due 11/7. World exploration is next.

## GRADE 6 NEWS

**Mrs. Freelove : ELA-** Students are reading the novel *The Family Under the Bridge*. The focus is on Comprehension skills. Culminating event for this book will be a coat drive. Watch for book report packet to be sent home around Nov. 1.

## GRADE 7 NEWS

**Mrs. Terrien: ELA-** Students have finished the novel, *Freak the Mighty* and will begin learning about Edgar Allen Poe. Students will also be getting Wordmaster words and the test will be the first week in December.

## COMPUTER NEWS

**Computer Science News** Grades 5 and 6 classes are working on Word and Inspiration (respectively) in the CUE Lab. Grade 5 students have completed their first project about how the Spell Checker may not work on their computer-ask to check out WHY when they bring the assignment home! Meanwhile, grade 5 students are learning about the new Bullying Law and how it applies to them, with technology. You should see a survey on their online habits to make them more aware of what they do and how while on the Internet. Please consider using survey this as an opportunity to discuss and setup good, safe habits for your children’s use of the internet. Why not make it a shared experience? Grade 6 students are learning how to organize chronological events within a graphic organizer in Inspiration. Discussion includes the timeline to freedom in the USA.

**Technology & Engineering News** Grades 7 and 8 classes are working on their assigned modules in the TEL Lab. These Paxton Action Learning labs are meant to develop cooperative and collaborative learning skills that they will need for group projects in school and later on at their future workplace. Meanwhile, they are applying math and science concepts with the technology and engineering scenarios using their computer and software. Attendance and focus in these classes are outstanding!



**Funding Factory Update-Earning points towards new Technology-** Please consider BMS when recycling ink jets, printer cartridges, copier cartridges and cell phones! Each will be sent to the Funding Factory organization for recycling and they will, in turn, award us with points towards the purchase of new technology. Your efforts really do help defray the costs of purchasing new technology!

## GUIDANCE UPDATES

**REPORT CARDS:** 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders- Please continue to obtain the BEST attendance, grades, conduct, effort, and teachers’ comments on your report cards. Copies of both grades report cards are attached to high school applications. **HIGH SCHOOL APPLICATIONS-** 8<sup>th</sup> graders- Please submit your signed high school application(s) ASAP, **due Nov. 4** to Mrs. Bousquet **OPEN HOUSES AT HIGH SCHOOLS-** Bristol Aggie & Bristol Plymouth had their Open Houses in Oct. Bristol Aggie will arrange for a tour, parent/guardian needs to call- 508-669-6744, ext. 111, Mrs. Mello. There will be a tour of Bristol Plymouth Dec. 8; sign and returned permission slips must be in to Mrs. Bousquet by date requested for 8<sup>th</sup> graders to attend. BP will provide us with lunch free of charge. More info to come & see our BMS website for information at: [www.berkleypublicschools.org](http://www.berkleypublicschools.org) More Open Houses coming up in Nov.-Coyle and Cassidy High School- Sun, 11-13-11, 1-4 PM , Bishop Connolly High School- Sun, 11-20-11, 1 PM, Bishop Stang High School- Sun, 11-6-11, 1-3 PM

## “ORIGINAL WORKS “ ART FUNDRAISER

Our “original works” art based fundraising program is under way! This program allows you to have your child’s own artwork, created in school using the regular art curriculum, reproduced into a selection of nearly 30 quality products. An information and