

# The EAGLE

*Berkley  
Community  
School  
A Great Place  
To Learn*

*Berkley Community School  
59 South Main Street  
Berkley, MA 02779  
508-822-9550*

*Jennifer L. Francisco  
Principal*

*Sarah A. Cogar  
Assistant Principal*

## ***A Publication of the Berkley Community School***

### **From the Principal's Desk**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Many of us likely spent last Sunday afternoon watching the Patriots win the AFC Championship game; their key to a spot in the Super Bowl. Whether or not you are a Patriots fan, there are lessons to be learned from that game for us as parents and educators. The Patriots didn't win on execution alone, rather, they won due to unyielding practice and conditioning on the practice field, and excellent coaching from the many experts along the sidelines; which is the tie-in for us as educators and parents. We will serve our children well if we teach them to have high expectations for themselves in all areas of their lives! We have an important job to do in encouraging our children to do their best, pointing out if they make an error and showing them ways to improve their performance, and reminding them that there is always room for improvement; which we refer to as having a growth mindset. Most importantly though, we have a duty to teach our young learners to never give up, no matter how daunting the challenge! Nothing is absolute or insurmountable if they work hard. That is not to say that our students will be successful in every task they set out to accomplish, but, similar to the Patriots, having persistence, determination and the will to succeed goes a long way to ensuring success. With persistence and perseverance, they can achieve great things! Let's allow the tenacity of the Patriots remind us of our important role as parents and educators and cheer on our little ones as they make great strides in their learning at BCS. And, of course, GO PATS!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Jennifer L. Francisco

Mrs. Sarah A. Cogar



### **E-Mail Addresses**

Great News! You may have noticed that we are using our email system to send information home to you about school events and happenings. It is very important that we have a valid email on file for each child's family. If you have not been receiving emails from us, please submit your email address, with your child's name to the office so we can add you to our database! This is a great way to get information to you, and we hope you find it helpful.

### **Word Ring Volunteers...WE NEED YOU!**

An important component of our reading instruction at BCS is the Word Ring Program. We are in need of additional volunteers for this program. We are looking for individuals that can commit one to two hours per week to monitor word rings for various classes. Training is available, and the rewards are immense! Being a word ring volunteer is a great way to contribute to the success of our students; won't you consider helping? Please contact Mrs. Francisco at 508-822-9550 or via email at [jfrancisco@berkley.k12.ma.us](mailto:jfrancisco@berkley.k12.ma.us) if you are interested.

### **Warm Clothing for Outdoor Recess**

We will have outdoor recess as often as weather and temperature permits. Please make sure your child brings appropriate outdoor clothing including a hat and mittens or gloves. Students who want to play in the snow (when we have snow!) may bring snow boots and snow pants. Please let your child know whether the boots they wear to school are allowable for the snow!

### **MCAS Tutorial Program**

These programs are up and running! The morning program runs from 8:00AM—the start of school and the afternoon program runs from the close of the school day until 4:15PM. We are so glad that so many children are taking advantage of this tutorial!

### **Student Drop Offs**

When dropping your child off in the "drop off line", please do not exit your car as it holds up the flow of the line. If you need/wish to exit your car, please feel free to park and accompany your child into the lobby. Please follow the established traffic patterns.

### **Math Facts Reminder**

Please remember to have your child practice his or her math facts EVERY DAY. This is an essential skill. It is important that children know their basic facts (addition and subtraction at the younger grades, and multiplication beginning at grade three). The best way for children to learn their facts is through repeated practice. Flash cards and written practice are "old standbys" that really help with accomplishing mastery of the facts. There are also many excellent online practice websites and games. A combination of these techniques will result in student proficiency with the basic facts, and a great foundation from which to learn more complex mathematical concepts and procedures.

### **Substitutes Needed**

There are openings for substitute teachers, substitute paraprofessionals and substitute nurses. Please call Mrs. Silvia in the Superintendent's office at 508-822-5220 for more information.

### **Fluency Fun!!!**

- What is Fluency??  
It is NOT just reading quickly.
- It IS the ability to read accurately, quickly, expressively with good phrasing and with good comprehension. (Resins)

### **Activities and Ideas to Promote Fluency**

- Read aloud to your child to provide an example of how fluent reading sounds.
- Use books on tape; have the child follow along in the print copy.
- Read the same book together multiple times. Practice makes perfect!
- Choose books that are not too difficult for your child to read.
- Time your child when reading. Can they beat their scores the next time?
- Read together every day!

### **February Recess**

Berkley Community School's Winter Recess will begin at the close of school on Friday, Feb. 16, 2018 (regular dismissal time). School will resume on Monday, February 26, 2018.

### **All Call System**

Please remember to notify the Principal's office if your phone number changes. This is important so that you receive calls from the "All Call System" about important events including "no school announcements".

### **School Council Input Sheet**

All families should have received an input sheet on which to record ideas about our school. You can also link to an online version of this survey from our website at [www.berkleypublicschools.org](http://www.berkleypublicschools.org) and select Berkley Community School. Sharing your ideas greatly helps us to recognize programs that are going very well, and to make improvements as necessary. Your input also helps to shape our plans for the future. Please take a minute to fill out this sheet and return it to the office or fill out the form online. Your contributions are appreciated!

### **Safety and Security Reminders**

School doors are locked all day until 5:30 PM. Parents are not permitted to open doors or hold open doors for others when they enter. Office staff can only know who is in the building if they buzz them in. School staff are not permitted to open doors for parents or others for this reason as well. Parents and students who enter the building for evening activities, such as BAA, should not do so before 5:30PM, when the doors are unlocked. Surround Care personnel are only allowed to open doors for parents of children in their program. Please do not ring their doorbell to enter the building before 5:30PM.

### **Next Generation MCAS Testing**

The Next Generation MCAS test includes a variety of questions. Some questions are standard multiple choice questions, some require a narrative response, and some are "technology enhanced" questions. Technology enhanced questions include performing tasks using computer features such as "drag and drop"; for example, drag and drop the given story events in to boxes to show the sequence of the story. Written response items range from fill in the blank items on the Mathematics test to short responses of approximately a paragraph and text based essays which require a response of approximately a typed page on the ELA test. The Mathematics test also has open response items in which the students write a response to a multi-part problem. Our teachers are working diligently to prepare our students by teaching the grade level curriculum and skills which they will be able to apply this assessment.

### **Informational Forum**

There will be an informational forum about net school spending in the BMS Cafetorium on February 13th at 6:30PM.

### **Words of the Week**

The Words of the Week for January were: **barrier** and **boost**:

I built a **barrier** so my sister couldn't come in my room. Written by Jillian Brown, Grade 1.

The trampoline gave me a **boost** over the wall. Written by Shea McCoomb, Grade 3.

**Preschool News**

During the month of February, the preschool program themes are friends and transportation. The color of the month is pink. The literacy program will focus on book handling skills, sequencing words, writing a description and continued letter and letter sound review. The math unit will focus on patterns and measurement.

**Grade 2 News**

February will be here and gone before you know it! We will be starting the first of our three science units: "Solids and Liquids". In math, we will begin adding and subtracting 3-digit numbers. Mastering the math facts will be crucial for further success in this topic. As the year goes on, we will be putting more focus on the different types of writing such as opinion writing, personal narrative and expository. Also, please encourage your child to read as much as possible.

**Kindergarten News**

This month our kindergarteners will be celebrating the 100th day of school with many fun and engaging activities involving the number 100! We will also be opening up Post Offices in our classrooms and writing letters to our family and friends. We will continue our work in literacy, decoding short words, writing sentences and using our kidwriting. We will finish up addition and begin subtraction in math. We will also celebrate Friendship Day before our February vacation!

**Grade 3 News**

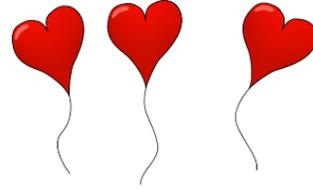
Third graders have started their science units. Students will explore weather and climate. In math, we have started our fraction chapters. Students will work on understanding fractions and comparing and ordering them. Students continue to be quizzed weekly on their multiplication facts. Lastly, please remember that their Book Jacket Projects on the book, Revolutionary War on Wednesday are due on February 15th. We can't wait to see them!

**Skills For Life News**

Happy February...the month of Friendship! This month we will focus on what it means to be a good friend. How do friends treat each other? How do we build friendships? Did you know that February is Black History Month? We will learn about several Black Americans who are important to our history.

**Grade 1 News**

First grade students will begin a science unit called "Balance and Motion". This unit has a focus on how objects in our everyday life move. In addition, students will experiment with balancing objects and using counter weights for equilibrium. This unit is hands on and full of exciting activities. Students will work cooperatively within a small group. In math, students will be learning how to model and compare numbers. Please continue to work with your child's fact fluency. Finally, we ask that you check your child's folders on a daily basis. There are many important notices that will be going home.

**Grade 4 News**

This month, classes will continue working on their Historical Fiction book reports for Mrs. McNamara. All projects are due on February 9th. In order to prepare for MCAS, students are continuing to work in reading centers, literature circles and computer-based practice. Students are being exposed to various question types and genres as well. Continued daily reading and discussion of reading is highly recommended to increase and maintain both reading fluency and comprehension. We continue to encourage you to go through your child's planner and home folder to make sure homework and projects are completed and corrected work is checked over and left at home. Keep reading and practicing math facts over vacation!

**Preschool Parent Information Meeting on Thursday, March 8th 6:00PM - 6:45PM in BCS Cafeteria**

- This meeting is intended for any **NEW** families to our Preschool Program.
- This meeting will provide parents with information about Berkley's Integrated Preschool Program for children who will be 3 & 4 years of age by August 31, 2018. Please note, you **must** be a resident of Berkley to enroll your child.
- At this meeting parents will:
  1. Automatically enter their child in the May 17th lottery for selection to participate in preschool.
  2. Select an appointment for the required developmental screening.
- Developmental screenings will take place April 23rd, 24th, 25th and 26th, 2018 from 9:15AM—1:30PM.
- If you are unable to attend this meeting, screening appointments can be made by calling Jen Pacheco at 508-822-9550 beginning on April 2, 2018.

**Surround Care News**

Surround Care will be available to Surround Care families during the February vacation (pending enrollment) on **February 20th, 21st, 22nd and 23rd**. We will not be open on February 19th due to the holiday. Surround Care for the vacation week will be located at the Berkley Community School for all grades (K-8) and the hours of operation will be **6:45AM—5:30PM**. February Vacation Request forms have already been sent out and are due on January 26th. Any forms received after this date will be placed on a waiting list. Please be advised that we will need at least 15 students signed up each day in order for the program to be in session. Surround Care 2017 payment statements have been sent to each family currently enrolled in the program. If you misplaced it or need another one, please contact Michelle Terrien at 508-822-8567. Payment statements are only available upon request for families not currently enrolled in the program. Please send your child to school dressed in seasonally appropriate attire and prepared for the winter weather as we do play outside as often as possible. It is also highly suggested to label any articles of clothing brought in by your child. We had some coats go missing these past couple months, so putting your child's name on them will assist us in easy identification. We thank you in advance for your assistance with this matter.

**BCS Activities Committee News**

Mark your calendars...the "Me & My Guy Dance" Luau for all BCS girls and their guest will be on February 9th 6:00PM—8:00PM in the BCS Gymnasium. Box Tops continue to be a success, as we have raised \$1,540.20 so far this school year! Please continue to cut them and send them into school. Our Square 1 Art fundraiser is underway and our little artists will be making their masterpieces that can be transferred to a number of items from keychains to water bottles. Upcoming in April, Brian Ledbetter will return to present his Magic Show. This is a great event and we hope to see you all there! Also, coming up is Mother/Son event, with more information to follow.

# STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

The Student of the Month Brunch will be on Thursday, February 8, 2018 at 10:00 AM in the café. We congratulate the following "Students of the Month" for January:

Mrs. Clement	Chloe Gravito	Ms. Nunes	Madison Lafrance
Ms. Crockett-Hicks	Brad Mello	Mrs. Campos	Kayden Reed
Ms. Mastromarino	Sydney Medeiros	Mr. DaRosa	Lucas Figueiredo
Mrs. Maxwell	Emaline Resendes	Mrs. Dietz	Kylie Hicks
Mrs. Carlesi	Emma Turcotte	Ms. Gauthier	Kamryn Ruest
Mrs. Como	Sophia McAuliffe	Mrs. Kleinen	Markus Whittaker-Sprah
Mrs. Lindsay	Cameron Kelly	Art	Piper Cody (1C-H)
Mrs. Vieira	Addison Raposo	Music	Danielle Kinney (4LD)
Mrs. Borges	Tyler Moskos	Physical Education	Kyle LaCivita (3F)
Ms. Freitas	Kadence Lefaivre	Computer	Sadie Him (4PC)
Mrs. Guilmette	Vivianne Correia	Library	Meghan Costa (4G)

**Introducing...Jen Golsby, Paraprofessional**

Ms. Golsby was a student at Berkley Elementary School until 4th grade when her family moved to Dighton. She graduated from Dighton Rehoboth High School. She attended Bristol Community College, UMass Dartmouth and Bridgewater State College. Her favorite subject in school was Math, but she also enjoyed Art. Ms. Golsby's favorite children's book was Little Bunny Follows His Nose. She has worked as a paraprofessional at BCS for three years. She is glad that both her children are a part of the BCS family. Ms. Golsby said that BCS students, staff and families are so wonderful! She has a son, Gavin who is in grade 3 and a daughter, Lucy who is in grade 2. Ms. Golsby's family has just finished building a new home in Berkley and have a friendly pup, named Sandy. Her family loves the outdoors and they spend most of their time either by the water or in the mountains. They love skiing, camping, hiking and spending summer weekends on their sailboat. Their favorite vacation spot is Block Island and Cuttyhunk. They love making pizza together, and Ms. Golsby loves sushi. In Ms. Golsby's spare time she likes to spend it with her family and also gardening. We thank Ms. Jen Golsby for being featured in this month's newsletter!