

The EAGLE

A Publication of the Berkley Community School

Berkley Community School
A Great Place To Learn

Berkley Community School
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Special points of interest:

- NO SCHOOL, May 28, 2018, Memorial Day

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Math Facts...Why All the Attention?

In reviewing a recent issue of this newsletter, we noticed that at nearly every grade level, parents were being encouraged to practice Math facts: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division depending on the grade. As a faculty, we have had some discussions about this lately. It just doesn't seem that the children actually MASTER the facts; despite our efforts to measure their progress and your work in practicing them. The children may remember them for the time they are being tested, but by the time the next year or even the next month rolls around, they may not have true ownership of the facts. Math facts are not challenging in terms of content...the challenge comes in the realization that there is no quick or simple way to learn them. Math facts must be committed to memory, and the only way to commit them to memory is through repeated practice. They must be revisited during that practice until they are truly AUTOMATIC. Learning the facts that are appropriate at a given grade level is vital to Math success. It is such a struggle for students to progress with their math skills without this knowledge. One need look no further for an example of how this plays out; think about a child trying to learn long division without having a command of the multiplication facts. The process of long division is complex, but made even more so if the child is struggling to figure out the multiplication step by "counting on". So, we encourage all parents to be vigilant in studying and repeatedly practicing the appropriate math facts on an ongoing and consistent basis. You won't regret it, and your child's progress will be notable!

Sincerely,

Jennifer L. Francisco

Sarah A. Cogar



Staff Appreciation Week

Please join us in celebrating the staff of the Berkley Community School as we celebrate Staff Appreciation Week from May 7th—11th! We are fortunate to have the most phenomenal group of grown-ups to educate the children of Berkley! Thank you for all you do!

WOW Update

Since the last newsletter, the Words of the Week have been: **category, compete and treacherous.**

Here are the featured sentences for this month:

When I go in the food store there is a **category** of desserts. Written by Tehya St.Germain, Grade 2

I will **compete** in the race and it will be fun. Written by Finn McDonough, Grade 1

My old dog was very **treacherous** because she tried to bite me. Written by Layla Flint, Grade 3



Spring Concerts

Music is in the air at BCS! Soon our students will be showcasing their talents at the annual spring concerts. The concerts will be held according to the following schedule:

Kindergarten: Friday, May 25th at 10:00AM

Grade One: Friday, May 18th at 10:00AM

Grade Two: Friday, May 11th at 10:00AM

Grade Three: Wednesday, May 30th at 7:00PM

Grade Four: Thursday, June 7th at 7:00PM

IMPORTANT: Regarding Videos/Photography

Please remember to be sensitive to the needs and wishes of others when photographing/taking video footage of children at school events. Videos and photos should be for personal use only and should not contain pictures of other children if they are posted on any type of electronic media. Thank you for your cooperation.

Parking Lot

To ensure the safety of all, parking must be in designated spaces only. Cars may not park in the fire lane, the spots designated as handicapped (unless you have a proper permit) or in the spaces adjacent to the specified parking spots. Your cooperation with this matter is greatly appreciated.

Field Trip Dates

Kindergarten: May 18, Capron Park

Grade 1: May 21, Zeiterion Performing Arts Center

Grade 2: May 18, Ames Estate



Math MCAS Dates for Grades 3 & 4

Please note the following dates for MCAS testing in Mathematics:

Grade 3

Mrs. Guilmette & Ms. Nunes: May 9 & May 16

Mrs. Borges & Ms. Freitas: May 10 & May 17

Grade 4

Mr. DaRosa & Mrs. Kleinen: May 7 & May 14

Mrs. Campos, Ms. Gauthier & Mrs. Dietz: May 8 & May 15

MCAS Testing Notes:

The vast majority of students put forth a great effort on their MCAS test in English Language Arts. The students appeared to stay focused and worked hard throughout the test. If your child tends to be a fast finisher, this can have a negative impact on their MCAS test performance. As we approach the mathematics testing, it may be a worthwhile idea to talk with your child about slowing down, and taking the time needed to do his/her best!

Don't Miss Out...Bill Harley Concert on May 4th at BMS

Bill Harley, a renowned entertainer of children and families will perform at the Berkley Middle School on Friday, May 4th at 7:00PM. Tickets may be purchased at the Berkley Public Library. Don't miss this very special event!

Morning Drop Off...Thank You!

Thank you to the many families who are availing themselves of school bus transportation! This has greatly decreased the traffic into the school parking lot in the morning, creating a safer school environment for all! Your help is appreciated!

Massachusetts State Grange: Anawan Oakton Chapter #221

Thank you to the members of the Anawan Oakton Chapter of the Massachusetts State Grange that provided all of our third grade students with their very own dictionaries! If you would like to learn more about the Grange organization, you can check it out at www.massgrange.org

Preschool News

During the month of May, the 3 year old program will focus on music and sound. The 4 year old program will focus on night and day and dinosaurs. We will continue to review number sense, measurement, shapes and patterns as well as directionality. The literacy curriculum will focus on counting words in sentences and environmental print. We will have the Roger Williams Zoo Mobile visit our preschool classes on May 25th and May 31st. This traveling zoo will bring in different animals focusing on the topic of animal coverings (fur, scales and feathers). We are looking forward to these exciting events here at our school.

Grade 2 News

Happy Spring! Our second graders will be exploring Borderland State Park in North Easton this year for our annual field trip on May 18th. The rain date will be June 1st. Field trip information packets and permission slips have already gone home with your child. Permission slips and money donations are due to your child's teacher by May 4th. We will send home separate chaperone request letters soon. Also, opinion writing, measurement, geometry and our science unit on rocks, sand and silt are only some of the topics we will be involved with this month. Please continue to practice your math facts and read each day! As always, thank you for your support!

Kindergarten News

This month in Kindergarten we will be learning about the life cycles of plants and animals, and our 5 senses. In math, we will be learning about 3D shapes, and of course we will continue to strengthen our decoding and kidwriting skills in literacy! Be on the lookout for details about our upcoming field trip to Capron Park and Kindergarten concert! It is hard to believe we are in the home-stretch now! Happy Spring!

Grade 3 News

Happy May! In Math, we began working with two-dimensional shapes in our Geometry unit. Students will continue to be quizzed on their multiplication facts weekly until the end of May, please study often! Also, third graders are showing great interest in our current science units. We had fun with beetles and crayfish and are now excited for Magnetism and Force. Be on the lookout for our last project of the year! Students will be creating their own game to go along with a novel they have read in class.

Skills for Life News

We are so excited that Spring has truly arrived! Our beautiful purple tulips are ready to bloom in our Outdoor Garden. Please stop for a moment to take time to enjoy them. In the month of May, we will be learning about Zero Waste. This basically means that we REDUCE what we need, REUSE as much as we can, send little to be RECYCLED and COMPOST what we cannot. With just one step in the right direction, we CAN change the world. As The Lorax (Dr. Seuss) said:

“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,

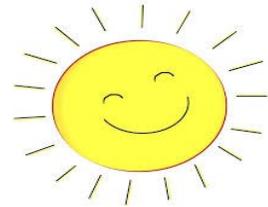
“Nothing is going to get better,”
“It's not!”

Grade 1 News

The first graders have an exciting month of May ahead of them. First, students will be working on an interactive Science unit of Life Cycles. This is a fun unit and the students are looking forward to learning about butterflies. In addition, students are preparing for their concert. Many are excited to show off their hard work and musical talents. Finally, students will be preparing to go on a field trip to the Zeiterion Performing Arts Center on May 21st. For many students, this will be their first chance to see a play performed on stage. Please check your child's backpack for additional information coming soon.

Grade 4 News

Congratulations to all 4th graders for completing their first round of MCAS on the computers. All students worked very hard on the ELA portion of the assessment and we are proud of their computer skills as well. In the month of May, each class will participate in the math portion of the MCAS with two sessions on two different testing days. On May 10th, the 4th graders are invited to a Step-Up Social with the 5th graders at the Middle School. This is a great social experience for the students to visit BMS at a fun event, see some familiar faces and meet a few new people. Information and permission slips will be coming home shortly. As always, please continue to check your child's home/school folders for important information and completed work.



Surround Care News

There will be **NO SURROUND CARE** on Monday, May 28th due to the holiday. Please remember that weekly payments are due at your contracted amount regardless of the short week. If your child is on a per diem schedule and you would like to substitute an alternate day for the holiday, a one week notice should be given. We would like to thank the 45 out of 121 families that took the time to complete a surround Care Needs Assessment. Your input and suggestions are always helpful when planning our program from year to year. Thank you for your participation and feedback. We would like to send out a special congratulations to the family of Liam Carvalho who was the winner of the “FREE WEEK” of Surround care raffle!!! Summer Surround Care will be available from June 26—August 10. Registration Forms have already been sent out and must be returned along with the \$10/child registration fee by MAY 4th to secure a spot for your child in our summer program. Please be advised that even if your child is currently enrolled in Surround Care, a registration form and non-refundable \$10.00 registration fee is required for any child to attend our summer program. Any forms received after the due date will be placed on a waiting list. Students must be signed up for at least 4 weeks out of the summer with a 3-day minimum per week. If you have any questions regarding Surround Care, please contact Michelle Terrien at 508-822-8567. ****REGISTRATION FORMS FOR THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR WILL BE SENT OUT IN JUNE!**

PTO News

We hope everyone enjoyed their Spring Vacation! The Scholastic Book Fair was a success, we hope the kiddos are enjoying their books! The Mother/Son all-Star event is fast approaching on Friday, May 11th from 6:00PM—8:00PM at Teamworks in Somerset. The cost for the event is \$10 per person and pizza and drinks are included with your tickets and payments are due to BCS by May 3rd. Also, be on the lookout for Square 1 Art flyers which have gone home. May is the last month to collect Box Tops for our school, so please send your Box Tops in! Lastly, our next PTO meeting will be held on May 9th. All are welcome to attend and free babysitting is always offered.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



The Student of the Month Brunch will be on Thursday, May 17, 2018 at 10:00 AM in the café. We congratulate the following “Students of the Month” for April:

Mrs. Clement	Katherine Castonguay	Ms. Nunes	Gabriel Gonsalves
Ms. Crockett-Hicks	Mikaella Spearin	Mrs. Campos	Kaleb Auclair
Ms. Mastromarino	Dominic Mele	Mr. Darosa	Conor Westerlund
Mrs. Maxwell	Troy Enos	Mrs. Dietz	Mia Brewer
Mrs. Carlesi	Emily Lacasse	Ms. Gauthier	Thomas Kane
Mrs. Como	Jillian Musante	Mrs. Kleinen	Lily Pittsley
Mrs. Lindsay	Isabelle Vincent	Art	Ava Fitzgerald (3G)
Mrs. Vieira	Joshua Uon	Music	Olivia Sousa (4K)
Mrs. Borges	Kadey Dagenais	Physical Education	Maggie Bock (4PC)
Ms. Freitas	Morgan Boyle	Computer	Karissa Auclair (3G)
Mrs. Guilmette	Kiernan Coyle	Library	Joseph Yannizze (4G)

Introducing...Mrs. Juliene Mills, Kindergarten Teacher

Mrs. Mills attended Freetown Elementary School, George R. Austin Middle School and Apponequet Regional High School where her dad was her History teacher! She attended UMass Amherst and graduated from Bridgewater State University. Mrs. Mills' favorite subject was English. She loves to read and write! Her favorite children's book is *The Sneetches* by Dr. Seuss. It has a great message and it's fun to read all the rhymes! This is Mrs. Mills' 15th year teaching at BCS! The best part of her job is spending her days learning and growing with her Kindergarten friends! BCS is such a supportive, creative and inspiring place to teach! Her colleagues are the best! Mrs. Mills has been married to her awesome husband for almost 28 years. They have 2 wonderful daughters, Kaylyn, age 23 and Kelsey, age 20. They also have a cute little dog named Gracie! Mrs. Mills' favorite foods are lobster, steamers and strawberry cheesecake! She doesn't have a favorite color because she likes them all! Her favorite vacation spot is Disney World! In her spare time, she likes to read, walk, spend time with her family and friends, play games, travel and go to Fenway! We thank Mrs. Juliene Mills for being featured in this month's newsletter!