

The EAGLE

A Publication of the Berkley Community School

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

Special points of interest:

Curriculum Night
Thursday, September 20th
6:30PM–7:30PM

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Last week I took my son for a visit to the orthodontist. At the end of his visit, the orthodontist, who has such a great spirit about him, came out to the waiting room and said to me, "I'm taking a survey; is it Yahoo or Boo-Hoo?" At first I thought I wasn't hearing him right, and I thought he was asking me, "Yahoo or Google", but then I realized that my old hearing wasn't quite what it used to be! So he said again, "yahoo or boo-hoo?" I laughed as I realized that he was talking about back to school! I guess in some ways it is boo-hoo when you think about the aspect of leaving behind the restful, lazy days of summer. But for me, mostly it's yahoo! Yahoo to kicking off a new school year. Yahoo to seeing our phenomenal staff again. Yahoo to the chance to interact with the families of Berkley Community School and in the biggest way. Yahoo for the opportunity to lead our school and the 500+ phenomenal students! How could anyone ask for more?

For some of our students back to school might be partially boo-boo and partially yahoo. For them to coming back to school means leaving behind days of fun and frolic. But whether they come back with the spirit of yahoo or they say boo-hoo and it takes a bit for the spirit of yahoo to emerge, I hope all their days at Berkley Community School become yahoo. Yahoo for being part of a supportive school community. Yahoo for the learning experiences that they will have this year. Yahoo for the interactions they will have with their peers and their teachers. Yahoo for learning and growing!

So as we begin the school year I offer to you my biggest Yahoo! Let's strive to make every day a celebration of the students of Berkley Community School! We can't go wrong!

Please remember that Mrs. Cogar and I and our entire faculty are here to make your child's school year the best it can be. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us at anytime we may be of assistance to you. We wish you the best school year ahead! Yahoo!

Sincerely,



Jennifer L. Francisco

Everyday Pickup Students

We have a small number of students who get picked up from school EVERY DAY. If you are a parent who picks up your child every day, please stop in the office for an "Everyday Pickup Form". We have developed a procedure that will give you a bit of extra time and make everyday pickup easier for all. Please note that this option only applies to those who must pick their child up daily.

Student Drop Up

Please be aware of two options that are available for student drop off in the morning. Parents may pull up alongside the Principal's entrance to the building, and proceed to the yellow doors toward the back of the building. A staff member will be there to greet you and monitor students entering the building. Students then proceed to the foyer until school begins. Parents may also park in the lot and accompany students into the building. PLEASE PARK IN DESIGNATED SPACES ONLY! There is NO parking in the fire lane or handicapped parking spots. For parents who enter the school building to drop their children off in the morning, we ask that you please drop children off in the foyer, and not at the door of the classroom. Dropping students off at the door of the classroom distracts the teacher from welcoming all of the students upon arrival. Additionally, we seek to build independence in the students. If there is a specific reason to drop students off at the classroom, please come to the office first to sign in and get a visitor's badge.

Attention Grade 4 Parents...Instrumental Music Lessons Available

Instrumental Music Lessons will be offered after school to interested grade four students. Look for a flier coming home that describes the program and advertises the date of the Instrument Rental Night which will be held on Monday, September 17th.

Thank You! Bravo! Well Done!

Berkley Community School is in AMAZING shape to begin the school year due to the efforts of so many! Please join me in commending our entire building and grounds staff for the phenomenal job they did in preparing the building. Kudos to Mr. Tim McCarthy and his Community School Staff: Charlie Levesque, Scott Wager and Jill Oliveira. Thanks go out to Donna Durand who prepared all building technology for the upcoming school year, to Mrs. Jennifer Pacheco who led the many details of preparing for a new school year, as well as Mrs. Karen Gagne who assisted with the final preparations in the Principal's office. Our teaching staff has done an exceptional job in preparing their classrooms to receive students, and developing lessons that will engage them in learning from day one. Preparing for a new school year is a team effort...and I am grateful for the work of our staff!

Buddy the Eagle Presents Character Development to BCS!

This year, our school mascot, Buddy the Eagle, will present a bi-monthly character trait that we will endeavor to focus on as a school community. Our first installment will focus on the trait of KINDNESS. You can check out Buddy's Bulletin Board near the cafeteria!

Student Accident Insurance

Student Accident Insurance is available. Information is on the District Website www.berkleypublicschools.org. Click on General Information tab, Parent/Student Information and then Student Accident Insurance.

Requests for Use of Buildings/Fields

Requests for after hours use of the building and fields are being processed through the Principal's office. These requests are handled on a first come/first served basis. Long term requests are accepted through December 31, 2018 ONLY. A new request form for the remainder of the school year must be made prior to this date.

Buddy the Eagle Says, "Accept the Strive for 5 Challenge"

This is the 3rd year that the Berkley Public Schools is challenging all students to meet the STRIVE FOR 5 CHALLENGE. Being present at school is the best way to ensure progress! THE STRIVE FOR 5 CHALLENGE is a way for parents, students and schools to work cooperatively to ensure maximum school attendance. We challenge all of our students not to exceed a combined total of 5 absences, days tardy or dismissals. Last year, we had 79 students meet this important challenge, and we strive to have even more students meet it this year! We will recognize children that meet this challenge at the mid-point and end of the year. Good luck! Working together, we can achieve this goal! School attendance is SO IMPORTANT.

Substitutes Needed!!

We are in need of Certified Teachers, Paraprofessionals & Nurses to work as substitutes at both BCS and BMS. For further information, please call Mrs. Silvia in the Superintendent's Office at 508-822-5220.

Early Childhood Screening

Where: Berkley Community School

Date: October 2nd & 3rd

Time: 9:00AM– 1:00PM

Do you have a child between the ages of 2 years, 6 months, and age 5? If so, we would encourage your child to participate in our free Developmental Skills Screening. The screening is designed to measure student strengths and highlight any child who may benefit from extra support in areas of speech and language, motor skills or pre-academic skills. Please contact Jennifer Pacheco in the main office at 508-822-9550 to schedule an appointment.

Welcome New Staff

Berkley Community School is pleased to welcome the following new staff members this year: Ms. Mikayla Siedentopf who will teach Kindergarten, Ms. Victoria Rusek who will teach our grade one lab and Mrs. Laurie Smith who will teach in The Learning Center. Mrs. Devin Fagan will be joining us as a first grade paraprofessional and Mrs. Katherine Sullivan has been hired as a long-term substitute paraprofessional. Please also welcome Mrs. Kimberly Mosher who will be an addition to our nursing staff.

Morning Drop Off

The school day begins at 8:55AM. Students should be in their classrooms and ready for instruction to begin promptly at 9:05AM. If you drop your child off at school, please ensure that they are in the school building **by 8:55AM**. Please note that no student should be dropped off prior to 8:45AM as there are not staff members on supervisory duty at that time. Please be respectful of this time guideline!

BCS Attendance Procedures

Please note that the Berkley Public Schools follow a strict attendance policy. Students are expected to be on time for school and to stay all day. Students are not expected to be absent from school other than in cases of illness or emergency. Any student who is absent, tardy or dismissed from school for a doctor's appointment should bring a note from the doctor's office upon his/her return to school. Children cannot enjoy the benefits of a full classroom experience if they are not present at school.

Cafeteria News

Welcome back! Just a few reminders...the cost of lunch is \$3.00 or \$15.00 for 5 days. Grab and Go Breakfast is also available daily for a cost of \$1.80. Students can drop off a check in their classroom on any day to be applied to their account. Please remember to put your child's name in the memo of the check. Families may also choose to monitor their child's account on the "My School Bucks" website accessible through the BPS website: www.berkleypublicschools.org. If you have any questions please contact the BMS business office at 508-822-5220.

Surround Care News

Wow! It is hard to believe another school year is upon us. The Surround Care before and afterschool program begins this year with a total enrollment of 117 families and 150 children ranging from Kindergarten through Grade 8. We are proud to be serving so many families! If you have a child enrolled in Surround Care, please remember to check your family mailbox this week to get your parent handbook and payment calendar. Mailboxes for children enrolled in Kindergarten - Grade 4 will be located across from the cafeteria at the Berkley Community School. If your child is in the Berkley Middle School program, your mailbox will be located in the Cafetorium at the Middle School. If you have a child in each building, your mailbox will be located at the Community School unless you are told otherwise. These family mailboxes are used for outgoing mail only. Please be sure to check it each day for important notices regarding the program. Weekly payments are to be left in the locked Surround Care mailbox located outside the cafeteria at the Community School or in the mailbox located in the Cafetorium at the Middle School. Children should not be responsible for delivering weekly payments! Welcome back to our Surround Care staff members Susan Medeiros, Tracey Velozo, Candy Maguire, Courtney Holt, Chelsea Augustine, Alexis Manter, Karleigh Prinzo, Sarah Springer and to our new staff members Casey Chodkowski and Ashley Sanville, all of which will provide students with a variety of activities and experiences in an atmosphere that is safe, supportive, creative and fun. Best wishes to all of you in another successful year!!! If you would like information about the Surround Care Program, please contact Surround Care Coordinator, Michelle Terrien at 508-822-8567.



BCS Activities Committee

We are very excited to begin another great year of working together to make our children's time at Berkley Community School both special and memorable!! We would like to invite everyone to be part of your child's experiences at BCS, whether it is volunteering in the classroom, joining them at one of our many events or maybe even by running an event! Do you have an idea for an event, a suggestion how we can improve a current event, or just wonder what it is that the Berkley Activities Committee does? We want to hear from you! Please join us at our first meeting on September 12th at 6:30PM in the cafeteria. Free babysitting is always provided. Everyone is welcome and we would LOVE to have you join us! We look forward to seeing everyone on September 12th!

2018-2019 Berkley Community School Improvement Goals

Goal One: The Berkley Community School faculty will implement strategies and materials recommended and taught by the Bay State Reading Institute in order to improve the teaching of reading/language arts at all grade levels.

Goal Two: To focus on providing a safe, secure, nurturing, environment for students by maintaining up to date school safety and crisis procedures.

Goal Three: The Next Generation MCAS test, a redesigned version of the original MCAS test was administered for the first time in the spring of 2017 and for the first time as a computer-based version to grade three in 2018. These changes make it difficult to set expectations for growth. Thus, the goal for the 2018-2019 school year is: To achieve scores on the Next Generation test at approximately the same (or improved) distribution of the 2017 scores in order to establish a benchmark. Specifically:

ELA: Grade 3 should maintain or increase over 58% of students scoring Advanced or Proficient, and Grade 4 should maintain or increase over 68% of students scoring Advanced or Proficient.

Math: Grade 3 should maintain or increase over 54% of students scoring Advanced or Proficient, and Grade 4 should maintain or increase over 66% of students scoring Advanced or Proficient.

Goal Four: To investigate expanding the use of technology as a learning tool at Berkley Community School.

Tips for a Happy, Successful School Year

During September and October, we will share some tips for a successful school year from the Positive Discipline Website. You can visit the whole article at <https://www.positivediscipline.com/articles/7-tips-happysuccessful-school-year>. Here are the first few tips:

1. Project a positive attitude about school and confidence that your children will experience success and happiness. Communicate to your children through words and body language that you are excited about the new school year and confident they will enjoy it. Children pick up on the messages we send, so make those messages optimistic and hopeful.
2. Establish supportive home routines. The school year calls for renewed attention to home routines, such as those surrounding bedtime, morning, and meals. Children appreciate and thrive on the routines that we parents establish. It gives them comfort and security and better prepares them for the routines and expectations of the school day. One routine consistently correlated with success in school is the family dinner, all family members around the table together—make it a habit as often as possible.
3. Avoid the temptation to make schooling a competitive sport by over-focusing on grades. Our culture is plagued by competitiveness in all areas of life—sports, fashion—parents can decrease the tendency toward hypercompetitiveness by encouraging children to focus on their own gifts and talents and avoiding comparison with others.

A+ Rewards at Stop and Shop

Our school earns money through the Stop and Shop A+ rewards program. This money helps to fund field trips and other endeavors for families who need financial assistance. To participate, you must register your Stop and Shop card and designate our school as the beneficiary. Our School is ID 08506. You can register your card at www.stopandshop.com/aplus.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The annual Welcome Back to School Curriculum Night will be held on Thursday, September 20, 2018 from 6:30PM—7:30PM. Please mark the date on your calendar as your child's classroom teacher will review the curriculum and grade level classroom expectations. This night is designed for parents only, and does not include activities for the children. We look forward to kicking off the year with this important event!

Box Top Program

The Berkley Community School Box Tops program will be running in full force this year. We raise a considerable amount of money through this initiative; please keep sending in your box tops! Thanks to all those who have participated in this program!

Amazon Smile

The Berkley Activities Committee is participating in the Amazon Smile Program as a way to raise money. Amazon Smile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/04-3404921> you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to Berkley PTO to benefit the Berkley Schools. Happy shopping and thanks for helping us!

