

Birch Island Team



Dear Birch families:

Welcome to December!

We want to thank all the families that came to Parent-Teacher conferences. Your involvement in school is crucial for your child's success.

A big shout out to Mr. Kosak's advisory group who won the Givember challenge!

We have three weeks before holiday break and your child is going to experience new things during this time.

Activity Day: this is a half day for students where they get to enjoy different interests with several teachers and students from all grades.

Team Bees: students will compete in both Geo and Spelling Bees for a chance to participate in the school's editions.

Surprise, Surprise: we are in the works for a very exciting experience. Please stay tuned for upcoming details.

Santa Fund Auction: This is a fun way to welcome the holiday season and our second community project of the year. This auction benefits The Times Record's Santa Fund to help local families during the holidays. Please see attached flyer for details. We will be taking donations for the next three weeks. Thank you for your support.

- December 6th **Activity Day; Early Release**
- December 9th **Music Boosters Wreath and Tree sale**
- December 11th **Band and Chorus Concert**
- December 22nd **Santa Fund Auction**
- December 23rd - January 1st **Holiday Break - no school**

Andrew Kosak
Social Studies
Advisor

Kelly Dorr
Math
Advisor

Christine Capobianco
Science
Advisor

Carrie Sullivan
Language Arts
Advisor

Catherine Nein
Guidance
Counselor

Becky DeMars
Special Education
Advisor

Pete Stevens
Gifted & Talented
Advisor

Kari McCarthy
Art
Advisor

Tatiana Lera
World Languages
Advisor
Team Leader

BJH Music Boosters Annual Christmas Tree & Wreath and Multicultural Bake Sale



**Saturday, December 9th
8:00 AM to 11:00 AM**

Freshly cut trees in a variety of sizes, decorated wreaths, delicious baked goods from our families' favorite holiday recipes.

Come early for the best selection!



The Husky Herald
December edition available



From World Languages at BJHS:

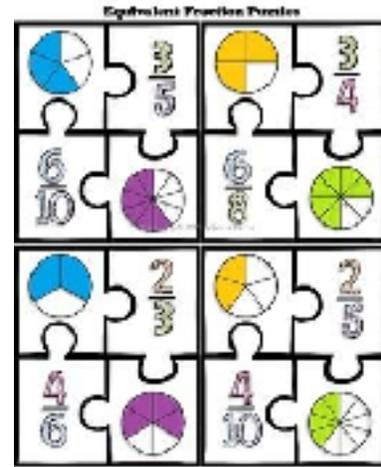
Dear parents,

Your sixth grader has switched from **español** to **français** starting with the new quarter. Students have worked hard on a globe depicting where the Spanish and French are spoken in the world.

Merci, gracias.

Math

Our first week of algebra was a success. Simple steps now will make the harder steps be much more understandable later. Kids seem to be enjoying it. I can't wait until next week when we apply the distributive property to our work. So fun. In the other classes we moved on to multiplying fractions. Now that the hard part is behind us, adding and subtracting fractions, I'm sure we will move along at a faster pace for the rest of the unit. Kids are working hard. Keep supporting them with the homework piece at home. What a difference it makes with retention.



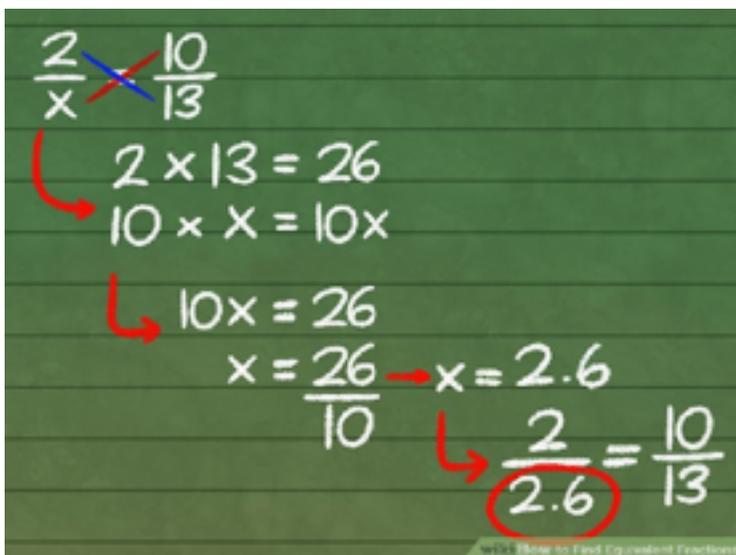
FRACTIONS! So far we have worked on Adding and Subtracting fractions both with common denominators and unlike denominators. We have even challenged ourselves to tackle borrowing with subtraction. We are constantly reviewing how to simplify fractions, change from improper fractions to mixed numbers, as well as being able to compare fractions. Check in with your son/daughter and check out their hard work!



Kelly Dorr
room 306
kdorr@brunswick.k12.me.us
207-319 1930



Robyn Belanger
room 307A
rbelanger@brunswick.k12.me.us
207-319 1930



Social Studies

We have moved on from our intensive study of the ancient civilizations' geography to their religion. We've learned about some of the key gods of the Sumerian and Babylonian pantheons during the "God of the Day" portion of class. In addition, students have

read a Babylonian story about the creation of humans and become an expert on a particular Babylonian god (see the pictures for their interpretations of some of these deities).



Students have also begun to explore how the Mesopotamians created their alphabet and how they used writing. They've read about scribes and their education, and some students have compared modern and ancient education. Over the next few days, students will also read about the evolution of the cuneiform alphabet and create their own symbol language (check out one language in the picture).



SANTA AUCTION

Friday, December 22nd, 2017

2017



ITEMS FOR SALE:

crafts
games (with all the pieces)
gently used toys
movies
unwanted video games
holiday decorations
books
etc, etc, etc....

**Please, no used clothes,
cosmetics, hats, or shoes.**

Time to CLEAN HOUSE!

Send in the gifts you
received last year and
really don't need or want.

How does it work?

- We operate under the practice that one man's junk is another man's treasure.
- Students bring in gently used items to put up for sale.
- A teacher will be the auctioneer.
- Nothing will sell for more than \$5.00.
- If an item is "hot" and more than one child is willing to pay five dollars, we have a raffle.
- Students may bring in money (no more than ten dollars) to purchase items. We encourage them to buy gifts for others, not themselves.
- All proceeds go to the Santa Fund through the Times Record, which provides holiday help to local families.
- Unopened toys will be directly donated to the Santa Fund.
- Families may make a cash or check donation. Checks should be made out to the *Santa Fund* and we will deliver it to the Times Record with the proceeds from the auction.