

B. J. H. S.

The Husky Herald



A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 2

OCTOBER 2017

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Happy October! We have completed our first month of school and are well underway. I am impressed, but not surprised, at how well our 6th graders have transitioned into Brunswick Junior High School. I want to thank all our teachers, and the 7th and 8th graders for making our new students feel welcome.

As you know, we have been walking outside before each lunch period. The weather has been spectacular and this has helped us get into the new routine. However, we know that there will be times when the weather conditions would not be conducive for outdoor activity. During those days, the students would go directly into the lunchroom. We are looking for some small table activities for the students to do with the extra time. If you have a deck of cards, old boxes of trivia questions, small puzzles, etc, we would love to have them for our cafeteria. Your child can give them to his/her advisor and we will put them together for our students to use if they choose.

One of our ongoing goals involves reducing and eliminating bullying. Through our school structure and advisor program, the Anti-Bullying Committee, service clubs, and behavioral expectations, we are committed to helping our students with any concerns of bullying and harassment. If you believe your child is a victim of bullying, you can always contact the school or fill out an online report. The online report is found on our webpage on the left hand column.

Thank you for helping us get off to a great start to the school year. As always, if you have a school related question or concern, please contact the school at 319-1930.

Sincerely,

Walter Wallace



Picture Day! October 20th

Mark your calendar! Picture Day is coming Friday, October 20th. Look for more information on your child's Picture Day flyer/order form.

Visit www.lifetouch.com for online payment details and more.



Teacher Prep has started again and we need volunteers! If you can help, please come on Thursday mornings anytime between 8-11 a.m. Please join other parents in volunteering to help our teachers with copying, sorting, cutting, etc. It's a great time!



Notes from the Nurse

2017 Flu Vaccination Clinic Information:

CHANS Home Health Services and the Brunswick School Department are hosting a seasonal flu clinic. This service is offered free of charge and is available to all staff, students, parents, family and community members. Even though this is a free clinic, donations to CHANS will be accepted. Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. No appointment is necessary and forms will be available at the clinic.

Date: Saturday, October 14, 2017

Location: Harriet Beecher Stowe School Gymnasium

Time: 8:00 am to 1:00 pm

Any questions, please contact me at school.

See you there!

Helen Tetu, RN

School Nurse



SPORTSMANSHIP

Sportsmanship for me is when a guy walks off the court and you really can't tell whether he won or lost, when he carries himself with pride either way."

-Jim Courier

When you win, say nothing, when you lose, say less." - Paul Brown

We support the initiative that school athletics promote the values of respect, integrity, cooperation, self-discipline, sportsmanship, and citizenship. It is important to learn to control one's emotions and conduct, not only in defeat, but in victory as well. Threatening, negative or abusive language and/or behavior have no place in our school-sponsored activities. It is our goal to have Brunswick recognized for our sense of fair play, sportsmanship, outstanding effort, and character. We expect our students and parents to accept the officials' decisions and conduct themselves in a respectful manner at all times.

What Is Fluency?

How Can I Help My Middle School Child?

An important step in becoming a good reader is developing fluency. Fluency refers to the ability to read accurately, with appropriate speed and expression.

The fluent reader sounds good, is easy to listen to, and reads with enough expression to help the listener understand and enjoy what is being read.

The word *fluency* comes from a Latin word that means *to flow*. So, thinking about flowing—fluent reading is smooth and effortless.

A fluent reader recognizes words automatically and does not have to concentrate on sounding out words. When the reader has to put lots of attention on recognizing words, it does not leave much time for understanding what is read. A fluent reader does not read word-by-word and can see phrases when reading. There is time to think about what is coming next.

When your child can read the words easily and automatically, he can pay attention to making sense of what he is reading.

You probably already do two important things to help your child build his fluency. One way your child will build fluency skills is to listen to you read to him. Another way he will improve his fluency is reading aloud to you. Finding 15 minutes a day for reading to your child and listening to him read will help in his overall reading growth.

Read aloud to your child often and with expression. When you read to your child, you are modeling fluent reading. Your child hears good reading and will transfer those experiences to his own reading. During these read-aloud times, try to make your reading as fluent as possible. Draw attention to the way you use your voice. Ask questions like, "What did you notice about the way I used my voice?" or "How did I use my voice to show emotion?"

Each time your child reads aloud to you, he will gain confidence. Praise him for the things you hear. "I loved the way you used your voice in this section! You really sounded scared." "I like how you paused between the sentences. It gave me a chance to think about what was happening." You may be able to help your child understand how his reading is improving with a comment like "Your speed was so much better on this page. I was able to think about what might happen next."

Whether you are reading to your child or listening to your child read to you, try different types of books. Many children love to read about famous people, countries, animals, and science related topics.

Reading to and with your child at any age is important!





Counselor's Corner

Happy fall! We hope your year is off to a good start. It was wonderful for us to be able to see so many familiar faces of students and parents at the open house. Thank you for coming by! This month we have been busy preparing and presenting our 6th grade guidance unit on goal setting and stress management. Our objective is to support students in having a successful 6th grade year. Please check out our bulletin board near the 6th grade hallway the next time you are at the Junior High! In addition, we have gone into 7th grade health classes to teach suicide prevention. This is a valuable lesson for students to learn how they can help a friend in need of some extra support. Please contact us any time with questions or concerns you may have.

Tips for Encouraging Great School Attendance

Regular attendance is one of the most influential factors in a child's success in school. Children can't learn if they are not present in school, so attendance is a must. By 6th grade missing 20% (or two months of school) is a critical warning sign of school drop-out. By 9th grade, missing 20% of school can be a better predictor of drop-out than 8th grade test scores. Here are a few helpful tips:

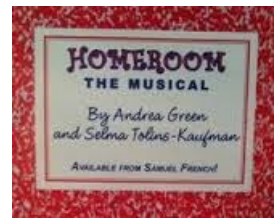
- ◆ Tell your children the importance of attending school every day.
- ◆ If possible, avoid scheduling appointments or family trips during school hours.
- ◆ Make sure your child eats nutritious food, drinks water, exercises, and gets plenty of rest.
- ◆ Try not to make excuses for your child when they are absent or tardy to school.
- ◆ Be a positive role model.

Stay warm,

Mrs. Roy
aroy@brunswick.k12.me.us
Maquoit House:
Bailey, Jewell,
& Chebeague

Mrs. Nein
cnein@brunswick.k12.me.us
Merrymeeting House:
Birch, Great Diamond
& Eagle Islands

Guidance office: 319-1932



We are proud to announce the dates for this year's BJH Musical! This year, we will be performing "Homeroom," Book and lyrics by Andrea Green and Selma Tolins-Kaufman with music by Andrea Green. Our performances will be on Friday, November 3 and Saturday, November 4 at 7:00pm in the BJH gym. Tickets are \$8.00 and will only be sold at the door.

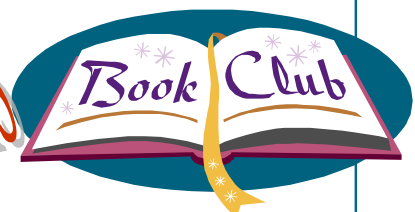
Our show begins with Jeff expressing the belief that kids in his homeroom have nothing in common except the fact that their last name begins with the letter "V." Fifteen songs later as the play develops, a closer look into the lives of the students reveals how they have much more in common than they first believed. The characters explore their connections, how they cope with life, and just general school stuff as they grow up in a world that can be very complicated. Please join us for this amazing musical experience!



The Annual BJH Music Booster Tree, Wreath and Multicultural Bake Sale is scheduled for Saturday, December 9 from 8:00AM until 11:00AM. Please mark your calendars and plan to arrive early to get the best selection of yummy baked goods, wreaths and trees! We will also have our student musicians performing live as you shop so plan to join us for a morning of fun!

You are invited to join the BJH Book Clubs, led by Melissa Orth of the Curtis Memorial Library. The sixth grade book club meets on Thursdays from 2:30-3:30 in room 313. The seventh and eighth grade book club meets on Wednesdays from 2:30- 3:30 in room 211. Students will need to arrange a ride home at 3:30. Please see Mrs. Acheson in room 112 for details.

Book Clubs At BJHS



Help your child succeed in Math!

TIPS FOR PARENTS TO ENSURE A SUCCESSFUL YEAR IN MATH

For students in middle grades, when parents are involved in their children's education, they will do better in school. Here are some tips for parents on how you can help your child succeed in math.

- Encourage your child to use a daily math assignment book.
- Follow the progress your child is making in math. Check with your child daily about his homework.
- If you don't understand your child's math assignments, engage in frequent communication with his or her teacher.
- If your child is experiencing problems in math, contact the teacher to learn whether he or she is working at grade level and what can be done at home to help improve academic progress.
- Ask your child's teacher when extra math help times are available.
- Use household chores as opportunities for reinforcing math learning such as cooking and repair activities.
- Try to be aware of how your child is being taught math, and don't teach strategies and shortcuts that conflict with the approach the teacher is using. Check in with the teacher and ask what you can do to help. Ask the teacher about online resources that you can use with your child at home.
- At the beginning of the year, ask your child's teacher for a list of suggestions that will enable you to help your child with math homework.

WAYS TO MAKE MATH HOMEWORK TIME PRODUCTIVE

Be supportive during homework completion:

- ⇒ Encourage your child to write down a solution to each question – even if he's not sure it is correct.
- ⇒ Check to see that all questions and all parts to the questions are complete.
- ⇒ Suggest corrections be made in pen, and ensure corrections are made.
- ⇒ If no homework is assigned, review and reorganize previous work.

Be resourceful when stuck:

1. Re-read the problem out loud – check the meaning of math terms.
2. Highlight important information in the problem.
3. Look for examples of similar solutions in texts and notes.
4. Break the problem into parts.
5. Discuss alternative approaches.
6. Take a break and try again later.
7. Phone a friend.
8. Look for information related to the topic on the Internet.

Help your child develop an assignment action plan:

- * Begin immediately and have a time plan.
- * If any portion of the assignment seems confusing, clarify with the teacher immediately.
- * "Chunk" lengthy assignments into parts.
- * Follow instructions: if it is to be submitted in pencil, ensure this is done.
- * Proofread math – suggest your child ask herself:
- * Have I made proper and effective use of mathematical terminology?
- * Have I used mathematical tools to ensure precision?
- * Have I included correct units where required?
- * Have I answered the question that was asked?
- * Would someone else understand my solution process as it is written?
- * Have I completed all parts of the assignment?



The Arts are Alive at BJHS!

Here at BJHS we educate the whole child by ensuring that all of our students receive a rich and memorable visual arts education. Ms. Bucknam and Mrs. McCarthy are looking forward to seeing creative growth in all their students this year.

We are very impressed with the art work of students these first few weeks of school. They are very engaged and productive in areas such as painting, self-expression, collage-making, symbolic self-portrait masks, imaginary creature sculptures, and perspective drawing! Soon their work will be on display in our hallways and we welcome you to come and admire their work.

Art Boosters – Join the Art Department and help make art events happen throughout the year! We are actively seeking volunteers to make events like Family Art Night and the end-of-year Art Show possible. Our first Art Boosters meeting will be in November. Email Ms. Bucknam (cbucknam@brunswick.k12.me.us) or Mrs. McCarthy (kmccarthy@brunswick.k12.me.us) if you are interested in volunteering with the Art Department!



This is a reminder of what our bell schedule is (below). **Please remember that your children are tardy after the 7:50 morning bell and will need to check in through the office.** All tardies will be unexcused unless we have a note or sign-in from their parent/guardian. Please make every effort to get your students to school on time every day.



**Bell Schedule
2017-18**

7:42	Entry Walkers and Cafeteria (Announcement)
7:43	Entry Gym (Bell)
7:47	Warning (Bell)
7:50	Tardy (Bell)
7:52	Announcements
7:50 – 8:03	Advisor
8:06-8:54	Period One
8:57-9:45	Period Two
9:48-10:36	Period Three
10:39-12:46	Period Four-Six
<i>Grade 6</i>	
10:39 – 11:27	Period Four
11:30 – 11:55	Period Five Lunch
11:58 -12:46	Period Six
<i>Grade 7</i>	
10:39-11:27	Period Four
11:30 – 12:18	Period Five
12:21 –12:46	Period Six Lunch
<i>Grade 8</i>	
10:39 – 11:04	Period Four Lunch
11:07 – 11:55	Period Five
11:58 – 12:46	Period Six
12:49-1:37	Period Seven
1:40-2:25	Period Eight
2:25 – 2:30	Locker Break
2:30	Announcements for Dismissal
Dismissal ~2:40	



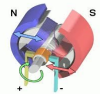
Our first Science Club meeting of the year is on Tuesday, October 17. We will study Data Analysis and Statistics. The meeting takes place in Room 108 from 2:35 – 4:00.

Upcoming Science Club topics include:

*Building Bridges
Staying Warm*



Electric Motors



*Shapes in Nature
Color*



Day at the Beach



*And
Rockets*



Join us once,
or join us at
every meeting,

**Science is
cool!**

Fall is Here!



HOMWORK CLUB
MEETS EVERY
TUESDAY AND THURSDAY
AFTER SCHOOL UNTIL 3:30
IN ROOM 317
THERE ARE SNACKS!

Curtis Memorial Library comes to BJHS

For several years now, Curtis Memorial Library Teen Librarian Melissa Orth has been working with BJH School Media Specialist Betsy Mitchell to present suggestions of great books students can read during Period 8 for SSR (Sustained Silent Reading). Reading is key to academic success and the partnership between CML and BJH allows for a broader scope of books available to students for free choice leisure reading. Melissa brings a selection of titles weekly to BJH Library and presents book talks to a few classes from the same grade, visiting all students on a six week rotation. Students may borrow the books during that period directly from Melissa or from the BJH Library if the book belongs to the school library.

Here is some key information for parents and caregivers to know regarding these library visits:

Does my child need to have a Curtis Memorial Library card for these visits?

Yes, if he or she wants to borrow items from Curtis, the student must have a library card in good stead from CML but there is no need to have the physical card present. If your child brings home a Curtis Memorial Library card application sent home through school, please fill out it, sign it in pen, and return it to your child's advisor.

Do I have to go to Curtis Memorial Library to return the materials?

No, although that is the best option and we would love to see you at Curtis, any student can return library materials at BJH library or in the BJH library book drop in the school lobby and the item will make its way back to Curtis within the week.

My child brought home a book that says it came from Kennebunkport Library. Please explain?

In order to meet the demand for popular items, Melissa brings in multiple copies of popular titles gathered from 150+ Maine libraries in the Minerva system. These items can also be returned at school or at Curtis Memorial Library directly. Please note that some libraries do not honor Curtis Memorial Library's longer three week loan period so do check your email for notices to renew items online.

My child owes overdue fines on a book borrowed from Curtis through BJH but I know the book was returned to school on time. What can be done?

Sometimes the materials returned at BJH take a while to get back to CML due to the school or Melissa's schedule or unexpected circumstances such as snow days. While it is better to return items directly to Curtis, getting to the public library may be a hindrance for some families. That is why we are providing these visits to bring more books to students. If you feel there was a delay in transit, or you have any questions at all about this partnership to promote free choice reading to the students of BJH, please give Melissa Orth a call at 725-5242 x227 or email morth@curtislibrary.com

Melissa M. Orth

Teen Librarian

YALSA Serving the Underserved Trainer

for Improving Library Services to Teens

Teen Services and Materials Online Instructor, UMe at Augusta

Curtis Memorial Library

23 Pleasant Street

Brunswick, ME 04011

207/725-5242 ext. 227

morth@curtislibrary.com

<http://www.curtislibrary.com/teenzone/index.html>



MathCounts

Students in grades 6, 7 and 8 can participate in the MathCounts competition in addition to their grade level math team. The MathCounts Competition is a combination of written and oral mathematical problem solving. Students do not have to be on a math team to participate in MathCounts. There are a separate set of practices for this competition, which is very challenging problem solving. The regional competition is usually the last Saturday in January and students who qualify will advance to the final state competition in March. The top four students in the state win an all-expense paid trip to the National MathCounts Competition.

If your child is interested in participating in MathCounts, please have him/her contact Mrs. Weddle in Room 202 or email her at sweddle@brunswick.k12.me.us. MathCounts practices will be on Thursday afternoons from 2:45pm to 3:30pm. The practices will begin after the fall sports season is over.

MATH TEAMS ARE STARTING

Does your child love math and enjoy a challenge? The BJHS math teams are starting their practices for the upcoming season next week. Students who have any interest are welcome to come check it out and see if it is for them. We compete in meets with other schools in Maine, but if competition is not for your child, he/she can still join and enjoy the weekly challenges.

All math teams meet on Wednesday mornings starting at 7:10am. The season goes from now through the first week in May, however, students are welcome to join for part of the year if they have conflicting activities during a particular time of the year.



Details on each grade's team are listed below:



6th Grade – Coach Pete Stevens Email: pstevens@brunswick.k12.me.us Held in Mobile Unit 4. Compete in four Southern Maine Elementary Math League meets during the school day, and Math Olympiads.

7th Grade – Coach Michelle Russo Email: mrusso@brunswick.k12.me.us Held in Mobile Unit 3. Compete in four Southern Maine Math League meets; three are after school on week days and the last meet is during the school day. Compete in three Central Maine Middle School Math League meets on Saturdays.

8th Grade – Coach Susan Weddle Email: sweddle@brunswick.k12.me.us Held in room 202. Compete in four Southern Maine Math League meets; three are after school on week days and the last meet is during the school day. Compete in three Central Maine Middle School Math League meets on Saturdays.

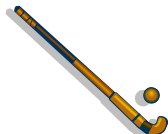
BJHS Fall Sports Update:

The fall sports teams are off to a good start. There are 150 +/- BJHS students involved in a fall activity. Our student athletes are doing well managing practices, games, and schoolwork. Directions to away games are posted on the athletics webpage. Parents are encouraged to sign up for the school notification emails and receive our announcements daily. (You can do this by subscribing on the school's homepage.)

Winter sports at BJHS are boys and girls basketball (7th and 8th) and cheering. This season usually begins the week of Veteran's Day. Sign-ups will be the last week of October and will help us gauge how much interest there is this winter. Look for the recreation department's flyers for 6th grade travel basketball teams and their 6-8 rec basketball league.

Bus Transportation Etiquette:

It is expected all student athletes behave appropriately, including using appropriate language, no obscene gestures or actions, keeping heads/hands inside the bus and remaining seated on the bus. Students are to keep the aisles clear, equipment, laptops and bags cannot be in the aisles and food and trash may not be left on the bus. Please reference the Bus Transportation Rules Form on our website if you have further questions.



Homework Club
Meets every Tuesday and Thursday
After School Until 3:30
In Room 317
There are snacks!

