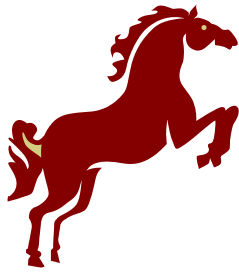


# Burrillville Middle School

Monthly Parent Newsletter  
September 2009

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## *Greetings...*

*We are excited to begin a new school year. Like all good schools, we have used our summer break to look at our performance. Most of what we see is positive and we hope that you feel the same way. We have made two changes that we would like to share with you. The first involves the schedule and the second involves our statement of expectation for our students.*

***For that reason, we would like parents attending Open House to join us in the auditorium at 6:00pm for a brief information sharing meeting. We hope to see you then.***

*Lois Short, Principal*

*Have a question or idea? Email me at [shortl@bsd-ri.net](mailto:shortl@bsd-ri.net).*



**BMS  
Grades 7 & 8  
Open House**  
September 9, 2009  
6:00 – 8:00PM  
We hope to see you there!



*Mark your calendar...*

**September 9, 2009 (Open House)  
Mandatory Meeting  
Substance Abuse/Sportsmanship  
6:45 – 7:15 PM  
BMS Auditorium**

*If your child is planning to participate in any sport – fall through spring – a parent/guardian must attend with our student-athlete.*





**YEAH!!! First Dance of the Year!**  
**September 11, 2009**

**Grade 6:** 2:15 until 4:30 in the Gym  
**Grades 7 & 8:** 6:00 – 9:00 in the Gym

Cost is \$5.00

If the cost of any event causes a hardship please call the guidance counselor or school nurse and a ticket will be provided to your child.

The Fall Sports at BMS are *cross country and boys and girls soccer*. Parents will have to be available to pick up their child after practice and/or games. Each coach will have an informational packet available in the main office. [Soccer forms will be ready after the coaches meeting next week.] Your child may stop in and pick up the forms in the main office.

**Busses to Games**

All athletes should ride to and from athletic events on the bus provided. In the event that an athlete has a scheduling conflict and needs to leave directly from the event and NOT ride back on the bus, they will be allowed to do so ONLY WITH *THEIR PARENT*.

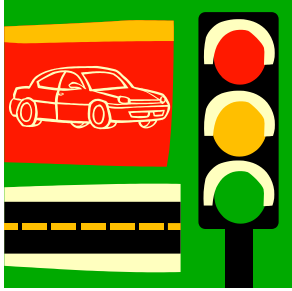
Parents who want to take their son/daughter home from a game must speak directly with the head coach. *Parents will only be allowed to take their own child home with them.* Athletes will be dismissed only to their parent/guardian that is “recognized by the coach.”



**Picture Day:**



**Your child will have their picture taken on Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. As always, there is no obligation to buy the pictures. If your child is buying the pictures, they should carry the envelope with them when they are called down for pictures. We will have a make-up day later in the year. Please look for the information that was sent home with your child.**



### Traffic Pattern - Morning

In order to ensure the safety of our students, we ask that parents drop their children off at the gymnasium entrance (left entrance when facing the building). The school busses enter and circle in front of the Central Office Building and pull up in front of the main entrance. Parents and students following this pattern will be visible to the bus driver.

**Late Bus:** We have a late bus four (4) days per week this year. **A student must have a school related reason to stay after school and sign up with Ms. Robidoux to take the bus home.**



### Burrillville Middle School Student Handbook



*We work hard to be clear about who we are and how we operate. Although it is impossible to think of everything, our Student Handbook provides a pretty clear picture. Take a look...*

#### District Website:

Parents, Guardians, and Community Members are invited to visit the School Department's web site at [www.bsd-ri.net](http://www.bsd-ri.net). All important school information will be posted on the site.

#### *By Request of Parents...*

Assignment pads will be on sale at Open House and from the main office for students in grades 7 and 8. The cost is \$4.00. These planners are the same as those purchased and distributed to the entire 6<sup>th</sup> grade class each year. We have a limited number available (about 40) and students are already coming down to purchase them. *Unfortunately, no others can be ordered.*





### **Breakfast...**

Please encourage your child to eat breakfast each morning. It makes such a difference in their ability to concentrate on academics.

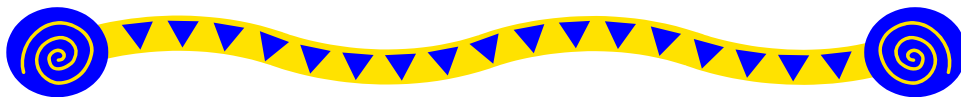
We do have a breakfast program at school. The breakfast program runs from 7:25 until 7:35. First period begins at 7:40.



### **SIT**

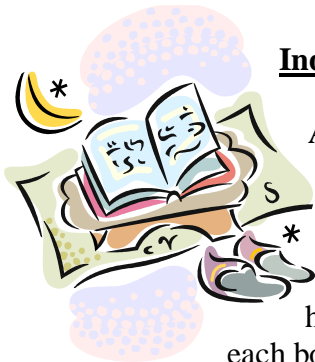
The SIT (School Improvement Team) is a key decision-making group in our school. It is charged with strategic planning and periodic assessment of progress. It works to align professional development funds to the key components of our strategic plan. Because all

stakeholders are present it is the forum to discuss issues of importance to all members of the school community. Our parent volunteer group works as a subset of the team. The first SIT meeting is Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 until 8:30pm in the BMS Media Center. Please join us.



### **We are going green!**

Within the next two months families will be able to request an electronic copy of this newsletter and it will be emailed directly to you. We will keep you posted.



## **Independent Reading – Parent Permission Form**

A key focal area at BMS is to develop strong literacy skills and to instill a love of reading in our students. One of the ways that teachers accomplish our goal is to have classroom libraries available to students. Our teachers carefully select books that are appropriate for young adult readers and then allow students to select a book of interest to them. However, each parent has his/her own definition of appropriate and some parents prefer to approve each book their child selects for independent reading. If you would like to approve the independent books your child reads, please complete the form attached to this newsletter and have your child return it to his/her homeroom teacher. If the form is not returned, students will be allowed to freely select books from classroom libraries.

## **Engaging Families in Literacy Development**

(Rhode Department of Education PreK-12 Literacy Policy, First Edition; December 2005; Page 52)

In order to produce a literate society, schools must construct opportunities for family engagement. These opportunities encourage and support student learning and recognize families as partners in the education of their children and adolescents. It is critical that families be informed frequently of their child or adolescent's literacy progress.

Hess and Holloway (1984) identified five broad areas of family functioning that may influence reading development at all grade levels. These include:

- Placing a value on literacy: by reading and writing themselves, families encourage their children and adolescents to read and write.
- Expressing expectations for achievement: if children and adolescents understand what is expected of them, they are more likely to reach toward achieving them.
- Having reading materials available: literacy experiences are more likely to occur in homes that contain books for children and adolescents, as well as other reading and writing materials.
- Reading together: literacy is the result of social interaction, of discussing the ideas espoused by the printed word.
- Making opportunities for verbal interaction: by discussing ideas, children and adolescents extend their repertoire of ideas and determine their own opinions.

“Effectively engaging parents and families in the education of their children has the potential to be far more transformational than any other type of education reform”

(*National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement Programs*, 2004).

# Ask your child what he/she is reading!

September 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Reading plays a large role in the curriculum of the Burrillville Middle School. To encourage a love of reading and to develop good reading skills, each English and Reading teacher at the middle school maintains a classroom library for student use. Throughout the course of the year, your child will have the opportunity to sign out books from these libraries.

The appropriateness of a book is a subjective and very personal decision. Although our teachers maintain libraries that they believe are age appropriate for the students in their class, a parent may feel differently. There is no question that you know your child best. Over the years, there have been instances of parent disapproval brought to our attention. However, in these cases we were dealing with the situation *after the fact*.

Burrillville Middle School is attempting to openly engage parents in the decision making process. We have attached a form to this letter which, when returned to school, will allow you to pre-approve a title before the book is signed out from a teacher's classroom to your child. **If you complete the form, your child will select a title and take a permission slip home for your approval of the title. If the form is not returned, we will operate as we have and your child will be allowed to sign out books using the discretion of the teacher.**

If you have any questions, feel free to call and speak to your child's teacher, counselor or school principal.

Sincerely,  
Lois Short

### **Independent Reading (Parent Request Form)**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade & Team: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Classroom Teacher,

I would enjoy assisting my child in selecting his/her independent reading books. *I understand that my child will not be allowed to take a book from a classroom library without my permission.* You will complete the form shown below each time my child selects a book from a classroom library. Once I make a decision to allow my child to read the book, I will return the form with my signature.

Thank you,

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/ Guardian Signature

(Here is a copy of the form you will receive.)

**Independent Reading (Parent Permission Form)**

Your child, \_\_\_\_\_, has selected \_\_\_\_\_ (Book Title) by \_\_\_\_\_ (Author). Please go on line (barnesandnoble.com; amazon.com; borderstores.com), visit a library, or stop in a book store to review the title. If you decide that you would like the classroom teacher to loan the book to your child, please sign below.

My child has my permission to borrow the book listed above from his/her classroom teacher's library.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date