

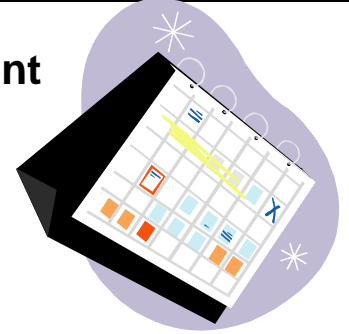


Breton Beat

March 12, 2010

Upcoming Dates

3/15	NO SCHOOL Y5s-12, Professional Development
3/18	PTA Meeting, Breton Media Center, 9:00 AM Melodies in March, 7:00 PM, EGRHS PAC
3/21	Schuler Book Fair
3/25	Parent/Teacher Conferences STUDENTS DISMISSED AT 2:00 PM
3/26	"Swiss Family Robinson" 7:00 pm at Wealthy Auditorium
3/27	"Swiss Family Robinson" 1:00 pm at Wealthy Auditorium
3/29	Parent/Teacher Conferences STUDENTS DISMISSED AT 2:00 pm
4/2-4/9	Spring Vacation



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

One of the elementary math goals in our district is for our students to have a clear understanding of fractions. Here are some tips you can use at home to help your children work with fractions:

- ▶ Next time you see a sale price or are cooking with a recipe, tell your child, "There is another fraction!"
- ▶ Playing card games are a great way to help your student practice comparing and adding fractions. You can make fraction cards using index cards and then play *Fraction War*, *Fraction Race*, in which each person has three cards and races to put his/her fraction cards in order from smallest to largest, or *Fraction One*, in which each person must try to get as close to 1 without going over (similar to 21).

Enjoy this warm, spring-like weather and have a wonderful weekend!

Wendy

ODYSSEY OF THE MIND

The Breton Downs Odyssey of the Mind Team tied for second place at their regional competition on Saturday and advance to the state tournament on April 17th. They won the long-term problem part of the competition with their skit, Food Court. For the long-term problem the team had to create a humorous performance where a food item is accused of being unhealthy and must defend itself among its food peers. All characters are food items and had to include "the accused", "the accuser", a jury that is not portrayed by team members, and additional team-created characters. The jury had to reveal its decision to the audience but couldn't be team members. The team worked together to solve the problem, write a script, assign roles, make costumes, build a set and most of all, practice. They also had to compete in a spontaneous problem in which they walked into a room, were given a problem they had never seen before and within minutes had to work together to solve the problem. OM members: Alex Adams, Macy Albaitis, Michael Barnes, Caroline Bell, Ben Knape, Ellie Lancaster and Eleanor Lowen. Congratulations!

36th Annual Melodies' in March Choral Festival

The 36th annual Melodies in March concert will be held on March 18th at 7:00 P.M. in Pioneer Auditorium. All Elementary Choirs and select Choirs from the Middle School and High School will be featured, including a fantastic massed Choir Finale of over 350 voices singing an inspiring arrangement of "Bridge over Troubled Water." We are thrilled to have Dr. James Borst, our new High School Choral Director as the clinician for our students' morning rehearsal as well as the conductor that evening. Please plan to join us on March 18th for a wonderful evening of music!



Breton PTA

Next PTA Meeting Thursday, March 18 in the Breton Media Center

As always free childcare is available.

Contact Andrea Borden at andrea_borden@comcast.net or 957-1587.

Schuler's Book Fair - Sunday, March 21st

Our book fair is Sunday, March 21st from 10 am - 7 pm. It is a perfect time to stock up on books, music and activities for your Spring Break trip! Please plan on coming out to Schuler's to support our Media Center - 20% of all sales will come back to Breton! There will be give-a-ways and entertainment. We are still looking for volunteers. If you are interested in welcoming people to the book fair and distributing vouchers for an hour shift, please contact Ann Sheridan at sheridanfamily1@mac.com

Spanish Help Needed

Senora Laarman needs help with various projects. Activities vary from helping out at school on special days to cutting and assembling games at home. If you have some time to volunteer at school or at home please contact Senora Laarman at llaarman@egrps.org

Swiss Family Robinson - March 26 & 27

Our talented Breton Students will be performing the play Swiss Family Robinson on Friday, March 26 at 7:00 PM and Saturday, March 27 at 1:00 PM at Pioneer Auditorium. This year's cast involves 140 Breton students. Please plan on attending to support our future Broadway Stars!

Become a Sponsor of Breton's Swiss Family Robinson Production.

You can support our play in three different ways. First, you can **advertise** in the program. Ads range in price from \$15-\$40 each. You can also place a **Personal Support Sentence** in the program. This section of the program includes comments to cast & crew members from family & friends. They offer support & encouragement & are fun to read! The cost is \$5 for a maximum of 80 characters including punctuation & spaces. Finally, you can become a **Swiss Family Robinson Sponsor**. There are three sponsor donation levels. **Maple:** \$1-\$50 donation; **Oak:** \$51-\$100 donation; and **Redwood** \$101 and above. You will be noted as a sponsor in the program. A sponsorship/advertising form can be found at the end of the newsletter, is available under the forms sections of the PTA website, and are also available in the office. Return completed forms to the office by March 19th. All money raised will be used to help underwrite the production. If you have any questions please contact Jenny McMahon at mcmahon.jennifer4@gmail.com or 464-6116.

Upcoming Events

Schuler Book Fair - March 21 at Schuler's Books and Music
Parent Teacher Conferences and Student Art Fair - March 25 and March 29
Swiss Family Robinson - March 26 and 27 at Pioneer Auditorium

BOX TOPS

A huge thank you to everyone who helped count Box Tops. I'm still working on the final numbers and will let the winning class know soon. Please remember to keep clipping those Box Tops there will be another collecting right after the start of school next fall.

Kim Hall

Box Tops Coordinator

POETRY READING BY EGR'S OWN LINDA NEMEC FOSTER, FIRST POET LAUREATE OF GRAND RAPIDS

When: Saturday March 27, 2010

Where: East Grand Rapids Library

Linda Nemec Foster was selected to be the first poet laureate of Grand Rapids from 2003-05. She is the author of nine collections of poetry including Amber Necklace from Gdansk (finalist for the Ohio Book Award in Poetry) and Listen to the Landscape (short-listed for the Michigan Notable Book Award). A new book, Talking Diamonds, was published in 2009 by New Issues Press. Her poems have appeared in numerous journals and anthologies throughout the country, been translated in Europe, exhibited in museums and galleries, and produced for the stage. Her collaboration, Contemplating the Heavens, with jazz musician Steve Talaga was nominated for the 2007 Pulitzer Prize in Music. In 1997 she founded the Contemporary Writers Series at Aquinas College and currently is a member of the Series' programming committee.

WALKING AIDS FOR HAITI

Calling all crutches, walkers, canes, etc. Rays of Hope, a local organization, is seeking used walking aids to deliver to Haiti. The organization can use crutches of all sizes and walkers without wheels for shipment to Haiti. East Grand Rapids Drop-off spots are:

McLain household - 2920 Pioneer Club SE, EGR, leave inside door on North side of garage

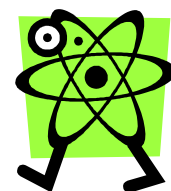
Stewart household - 2541 Beechwood SE, EGR, leave in box inside garage (door is NOT electric)

For additional information, please contact Pat Hoekman, pkhoek@charter.net, or 616-847-8346.

MAD SCIENCE: GO-GO GADGETS! (Grades K - 5)

This afterschool program is sure to get your child moving. Inertia...gravity...force...need we say more? Children will love experimenting with stunt planes, machines, even electricity. Following each session, students receive a different project kit to take home and keep for further exploration. Classes meet in the art room of each elementary school, one day per week. The first 10 minutes of each program will be snack time. Please have your child bring their own afterschool snack. Visit www.madscience.org/kalamazoo to learn more about Mad Science classes. Classes will not meet the week of April 5 due to Spring Break! Instructor: Mad Science of Greater Kalamazoo.

Min. 10/Max. 20 Register now by calling 949-1750 or register on-line at www.eastgr.org



<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>CODE</u>	<u>DAYS</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>RES</u>	<u>NR</u>
Lakeside	44421-A	M	3/22-5/3	3:35P-4:35P	\$99	\$109
Wealthy	44421-B	W	3/17-4/28	3:35P-4:35P	\$99	\$109
Breton	44421-C	Tu	3/23-5/4	3:35P-4:35P	\$99	\$109

SEVERE WEATHER POLICY UPDATE



• **SEVERE WEATHER**

If there is a severe weather WATCH or WARNING during school hours, the students will remain in school until regular dismissal. They may be detained beyond the school's regular dismissal time if weather conditions warrant. Parents may pick up their children at any time, or the child may be released to any adult designated by the parent.

• **TORNADO WATCH**: Conditions conducive for tornado formation exist in the area. Children and staff may be detained beyond regular dismissal if weather warrants.

• **TORNADO WARNING**: One or more tornadoes have been sighted in the area. Take cover immediately. Children will NOT be sent home.

• **SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WATCH**: The possibility of severe storms, including dangerous lightning, damaging winds and possible hail exist in the watch area. Children dismissed at regular time unless severe weather conditions exist.

• **SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING**: Storms as described above are in the area and are imminent. Children may be detained.

In the event of any of the above conditions, keep tuned to the radio or television for details.

Parents are encouraged to provide alternate home arrangements for their children if there is a need to release students for other types of emergencies. Please review your family's plan with your children on a regular basis during the school year.

Thank you for your cooperation with the above-mentioned procedures. The safety of our students is of the highest priority. Please feel free to contact the school office if you have any questions, 235-7552.

BRETON PTA MEETING February 25, 2010 9:00 a.m.

PTA President, Jennifer McMahon, began the meeting at precisely 9 a.m.

EGRPS Budget Update- Kevin Phillips

Mr. Phillips gave a wonderful power point presentation that can be found on the PTA website.

Superintendent's Report- Dr. Sarah Shubel

Dr. Shubel stated that our community is very fortunate to have a budget committee. Usually communities have a superintendent and maybe one other person to make recommendations. There are seven of our community members on the school board who help make decisions regarding the school budget. The committee *only* makes recommendations. This was in response to suggestions regarding salary cuts made by several parents present at today's PTA meeting.

EGR School Foundation Report- Amy Stuursma

Forty-four percent of households in East have children in schools. The foundation is looking to increase the number of households that donate to the Foundation. The Foundation is there to provide financial support to our schools during challenging budgeting times, like these, and also to be there for a future endowment program.

There is a great need for volunteers on the foundation. Data base entry, the Hurrah committee, the Distinguished Alumni and Community Recipient committee, mailings (i.e. stuffing envelopes). Sign up with Amy Stuursma if you are interested.

Parent Advisory to Special Education (P.A.S.E.)- Carol Lippert

Tuesday, March 9th at 7 p.m. there will be a meeting at Woodcliff regarding the special education department P.A.S.E. assistive technology. There is more information and a copy of the flyer on the Breton Beat. Kindy Segovia is the speaker. There is information regarding access to many free websites that can help families with things such as math, reading, and much more.

Principals Report- Wendy VanZegeren

Stanford tests for grades 2-5 are starting during the first week of March. Parents, please make sure your kids get their rest and are well fed. Anxiety levels are high among the children during this time. Wendy wants to stress that we express to our children that this is only one test and they should do their personal best and try not to worry about it. Also, they should not feel pressured. The test is multiple choice.

The variety show went very well. The level of performances was wonderful. The school play is moving along nicely. The play will be The Swiss Family Robinson.

Two new families to Breton will begin school next week.

Last week the teachers had PD days. Mrs. Marlow, Mrs. Radecki, Mrs. Eldersveld, and Mr. Putnam participated in the activities. There were stretch and relaxation techniques taught. Also, different brains- different learners. There will be another PD time coming up March 15th.

School improvement initiatives discussed. March is Reading Month. Shirley Hillman is using the book, "Hello, Hello." Children learn to say hello in different languages. 21 people from Breton families are coming in and reading in different languages for the children.

Laurie Laarman desperately needs volunteers. She has to make everything that she does; there aren't any textbooks. She could use help making games, etc. Please email her if you are interested. Some activities could be done at home.

Teacher Report- Meghan Ashkanani

Breton students are writing books that will be donated to DeVos Children's Hospital, Ronald McDonald House, and Family Haven. Finished copies will be shown to the PTA before going out.

Breton Safety Recognition- Cheryl Radecki

Certificates presented to the children by Wendy VanZegeren.

Jenny McMahon made a motion to approve the January minutes and the motion was seconded by Rachel Haulenbeek.

Report of Officers

President's Report- Jenny McMahon

PTA Council Update-

The high school editor of their newspaper discussed alternative lifestyles. They are doing more work with websites and the Foundation granted them some cameras.

Jenny Fee gave her update. Only two students from the high school failed algebra. Students may take college credits if applicable.

PTA Website update shown to those present at the meeting and people are encouraged to go to this website as it is updated regularly.

Vice President's Report- Rachel Haulenbeek

SAC meeting yesterday. Discussed things that were donated to the Wealthy school. All special education teachers from different schools came to discuss the resources that they use. Including the dog that they use for reading. Also discussed the Kindy Segovia presentation. Dr. Shubel discussed professional development classes and showed a slide show.

Treasurer's Report- Marie Brinks

Report dispersed.

Assistant Treasurer's Report- Jennifer Coles

Jennifer was absent. Marie reported that we did receive more money from Meijer. D&W days was last week. April 11 is the next D&W day week. Family Fare is this week and the next for them is the 18th through the 24th. Our code is 94484.

Courtney Moskal stated that you can go through your past receipts and present them to the courtesy desk for reimbursement to the school, as the stores have not been good about advertisement.

Corresponding Secretary's Report- Andrea Borden

Andrea passed out a thank you from Mrs. Chardon for her mini grant approval. Thank you notes from December and January were passed around for people to read.

Committee Reports

Legislative Committee- Anne Grobel

Anne reported on the town hall mtg. of 2-8. Lots of grandparents were there showing their concern over the budget. We are in an election year and not a lot is probably going to get done. There was a proposal to change the government's fiscal year for the educational budget.

Movie Night

Will take place tomorrow night. The movie is Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs. Movie pack donated from Meijer to include a 4 pack of tickets with pop and popcorn.

Yearbook

The cost is \$10.00 a piece.

Book Fair

Book fair will be held at Schuler on Sunday, March 21. There will be acts from the variety show to perform and attract families.

Box Tops

Due today, but will be accepted tomorrow. Please bag them in groups of fifty.

Art Show

There will be an art show with Mrs. den Dulk in March.

Relay for Life

May 21st. Contact Robyn Schut or Patti Malewitz through May 27th. Need volunteers to donate time on the field. Bags for luminaries can be decorated and returned or just purchased and will be decorated for you. \$10.00 a piece.

Variety Show

Sandy put on a great show. \$850.00 net is the actual number. This is different from what the budget says that we made. Recommendation from Sandy is that the person who is running the show should not be the one to put together the committee. Also, the committee has put together a list of improvements for next year. The biggest problem was the need for volunteers. Separate meeting will take place for the variety show to discuss improvements for next year.

Odyssey of the Mind

Video will be presented at a future PTA meeting.

Announcements

February 26- Family movie night 7:00 p.m. Cloudy with a chance of Meatballs (Breton Gym)

March 6- Hurrah at 7:00 p.m. Bridgewater Place

March 21- Schuyler Book Fair 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. 20% goes to Breton.

March 25 and 29 Parent Teacher Conferences and Student Art Fair

March 26 and 27 Breton Play "Swiss Family Robinson" at Pioneer Auditorium.

Meeting Adjourned 10:50

Respectfully Submitted,
Dawn Robson, Recording Secretary

Program Advertising for the Breton Downs Elementary Play

The Swiss Family Robinson

(Due March 19th!)

The Swiss Family Robinson will be performed on March 26 and 27, 2010 at Pioneer Auditorium. Advertising will assist in underwriting the production. Your support in one of the following ways is greatly appreciated!

1.) ***Paid Program Ad Space*** – This is ideal for businesses and a great way to show support for your student or the school in a visual way. These ads should be provided in digital format via email or CD. Prices vary depending on ad size. Please check one below.

Full Page (4 - 1/2 w x 7- 1/2" h)

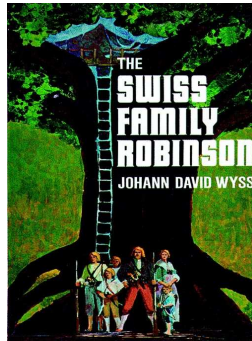
_____ \$40

Half Page (4- 1/2 w x 3 – 5/8" h)

_____ \$25

Quarter Page (2 – 1/8 w x 3 – 5/8" h)

_____ \$15



2.) ***Personal Support Sentences*** – This section of the program includes comments to cast & crew members from family & friends. They offer support & encouragement & are fun to read! The cost is \$5.00 for a maximum of 80 characters including punctuation & spaces.

1. _____

2. _____

Additional support sentences may be included on the back of this form.

3.) ***Donation*** – You will be noted as a sponsor in the program.

Sponsor Categories: **Maple** \$1-\$50 donation
Oak \$51-\$100 donation
Redwood \$101 and above

Donation amount: \$ _____

Name (or Business Contact) _____ Address _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone : _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Make checks payable to Breton Downs PTA & mail to Jenny McMahon, 2608 Elmwood Drive SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506. E-mail artwork to Jenny at mcmahon.jennifer4@gmail.com and contact her with any questions at 464-6116. Forms can also be dropped off at the Breton office.

Autism Support of Kent County

Walk For Autism Awareness



Sunday, April 25, 2010

12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.

Kuyper College – 3333 E. Beltline, Grand Rapids, MI 49525

The event will be held Rain or Shine!

Welcome to our *Walk for Autism Awareness*. We intend this event to be a forum for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) families and our community to unite in an effort to direct attention to how ASD affects our lives and what we can do to help. We will also have a Resource Fair featuring local service providers/exhibitors. Our Resource Fair will provide an excellent opportunity for families to gather information about the variety of services and products offered in our area.

There will be activities for all ages, live music and raffles.

Autism Support of Kent County is committed to raising public awareness about Autism Spectrum Disorder and helping to educate and empower our families. Sign-up/Pledge information, Sponsorship and Donation forms will be available in February. Please check our website at www.autismsupportofkentcounty.org or call ASK at (616) 752-8577.



Schedule of activities:

Registration is at 12:00 noon. The Resource Fair will be held during our entire event—12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. The Walk will commence at 1:00 p.m. Thank you for your support.



April is National
Autism Awareness
Month!

KUYPER  COLLEGE
Bringing God's Grace into Today's Culture

 ASK

Autism Support of Kent County & West Michigan Whitecaps
present



Second Annual
Autism Awareness Night



Saturday, April 17, 2010 at 6:35 pm (gates open: 5:30 pm; pre-game activities: 5:45 pm)
West Michigan Whitecaps vs. Great Lakes Loons
Fifth Third Ballpark: 4500 West River Drive, Comstock Park

Event Includes:

- Pre-game, ASK families allowed on the field for autographs & to play catch in the outfield.
- The first 100 kids to stop by the ASK display table located in front of the Whitecaps Customer Service window will receive a coupon good for a free hotdog meal!
- During the game, a specially designated short-term quiet area for ASK families.
 - Whitecaps Autism Awareness players' jerseys auction.



OWN YOUR OWN WHITECAPS AUTISM AWARENESS BASEBALL JERSEY!

Bid on the Whitecaps Autism Awareness jerseys that players are wearing during the game. After the game, the jerseys will be autographed and sold to the highest bidder. All proceeds from the sale of the jerseys will go to **Autism Support of Kent County**.

Tickets start at only \$5.00 each.
\$1.00 from every individual ticket sold will be donated to **Autism Support of Kent County**.

To purchase tickets, go to
www.whitecapsbaseball.com
and click on tickets.

Or call (616)784-4131 or 800-CAPS-WIN

**Don't miss a great day of baseball as your
West Michigan Whitecaps support Autism Awareness!**



EGR

BRETON ELEMENTARY

BOOK FAIR

SUNDAY, MARCH 21

10:00AM - 7:00PM

SCHULER BOOKS

2660 28TH ST. SE • 616.942.2561

WWW.SCHULERBOOKS.COM



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