



Breton Beat

February 26, 2010

Upcoming Dates

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 2/26 | Breton Family Movie Night, 7:00 PM/ <i>Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs</i> |
| 3/15 | NO SCHOOL Y5s-12, Professional Development |
| 3/18 | PTA Meeting, Breton Media Center, 9:00 AM |
| 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

Dear Parents,

I know I keep saying this, but where has the year gone? I can't believe we are almost in March. February was a fun month with Valentine Parties, The Breton Variety Show, mid-winter break and outstanding Professional Development days for our professional staff. March brings in Stanford testing, Parent/Teacher conferences and another Professional Development day on March 15th. On that day, our professional staff will engage in working on school improvement goals.

As we enter into Stanford testing please support your child by giving them plenty of rest and healthy food so their brains are at peak capacity! Most importantly, though, we just want the students to do their personal best, always remembering that this is one measure of their ability and performance. (Testing schedule attached at end of newsletter).

If you have not already done so, please turn your Parent/Teacher conference form in to your classroom teacher(s). We need these to schedule everyone at a time that fits best for all.

Enjoy the wintery weather; I have hopes of an early spring...how about you :).

Fondly,

Wendy

PARENTS OF INCOMING YOUNG FIVES/KINDERGARTEN

Pre-registration forms are now available on our website: www.egrps.org



From the Social Work Corner...

Breton is excited to introduce a new character education program this year! Using the acronym BULLDOGS, we will be focusing on a different character trait/ social skill during every month of the school year. Our theme for March is:

Optimism

Attitude is choice! Choosing to find the positive side of things is such an important life skill. Individual classrooms will be addressing this theme through various lessons, activities, and class meetings. Additionally, there will be a special message on The Bulldog Blitz about being optimistic. Many thanks again to the Breton PTA for helping to fund the purchase of several books to add to our building's collection—these will be used and enjoyed this year, and for many years to come! Look for this special new section the next time you are in our wonderful media center.

Here are some suggestions for ways you can reinforce this month's theme at home:

- Check out the "Fishful Thinking" website at <http://www.fishfulthinking.com>. There are lots of discussion questions, activities, and articles for parents. My favorite is a little 2 minute video clip called "The Goldfish Guide to Raising Optimistic Kids."
- When your kids are complaining about something (not liking dinner, having too much homework, a fight with a friend, etc.) listen to what they are saying, but encourage them to think positively. There is a good life lesson to be learned from everything!
- Make a conscious effort to start your family's day on a positive note. Have a fun song, secret handshake, or family motto that you say every morning.
- Set the stage for your kids to be optimistic—by saying something like, "I can't wait to hear about all of the wonderful things you get to do at school today," you are planting that positive seed in their mind.
- Have your kids (or your whole family) start a "Glass Half Full" journal. Studies have shown that by writing or drawing about the good things in life, you actually re-train your brain to think more positively!
- Read a book! "The Blue Day Book For Kids: A Lesson in Cheering Yourself Up," "Smile A Lot," and "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day" are just a few good options available through the Breton library, Kent District Library, or local book stores.

I am at Breton all day on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. I encourage parents to stop in, call, or e-mail me at any time!

Kate Randall
School Social Worker at Breton
235-7552 ext. 1404
krandall@egrps.org

PAPER GATOR UPDATE

One ton of paper recycled saves roughly 17 trees and 3 cubic yards of landfill space. To date, Breton has:

Collected ~ 62,539 Pounds of paper
Saved ~532 Trees
Saved ~94 yards of landfill space

Thank you for your continued support of this program, which not only benefits the environment, but our Breton students as well through the Accelerated Reading program. Keep collecting that paper!

SPELLING BEE

Local winners, Breton students Brady Oosse and Maddie McCahill, participated in the Scripps Regional Spelling Bee with eight other schools from the Grand Rapids area right here at Breton Downs. Retired second grade teacher, Linda Dudley, came back and volunteered her time to act as the pronouncer of the bee. My appreciation also goes out to Ms. Wilk, Mr. Mike and Mr. Dan.
Mrs. Peot



BUD VASES NEEDED

The second grade classes are in need of bud vases for their annual 2nd Grade Restaurant, approximately 8" tall, 2" in diameter. Donations may be dropped off at the second grade classrooms. Thank you!

Breton PTA

A Big Thank You to all who volunteered to help with The Fantastic Breton Half Time Variety Show! Sandy Ward and her crew did a great job organizing all of the talented Breton kids. The fantastic show consisted of 42 acts involving over 148 students. Thanks to all who volunteered to make this night special. Bravo!

Need more information on the budget and district finance news?

The following links have information regarding the budget and legislative happenings.

<http://www.egrpsfinance.ning.com/http://www.egrpseducationadvocates.blogspot.com>

Upcoming Events

Family Movie Night - February 26 at 7:00 pm in Breton Gym **Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs**
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

BUY BOOKS AND EARN MONEY FOR BRETON

Mark you calendar and plan on attending the Breton Downs Book Fair on **Sunday, March 21** at Schuler Books & Music. Twenty percent of all purchases made will go to benefit school programs and the Breton media center. Plan to attend to pick up spring break books for students and/or purchase gift cards for friends, family members and teachers.



A fun day is planned with activities to be held throughout the day including student performances on the Schuler stage. A prize drawing will also take place for family spring break activities including tickets to museums, sporting events and more! Prizes will also be given to the teacher and class with the most attendees.

We hope to see you there!

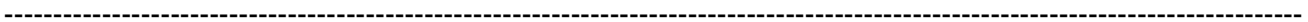
EGR HIGH SCHOOL VARIETY SHOW



Students of East Grand Rapids High School will perform in its annual Variety Show, an evening of fabulous entertainment for the whole family, on Friday, Feb. 26 and Saturday, Feb. 27 at 7:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center. More than a dozen acts featuring pop vocals, bands, instrumental music, and dance will be performed by the high school's talented students. The Variety Show is one of East's most popular performing arts events of the year, consistently drawing sell-out audiences. Tickets are \$6 and can be purchased at the box office Feb. 22 – 26 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and one hour prior to each show. Seating is general admission.

"Altar Boyz," the award-winning musical comedy featuring a fictitious Christian boy band from Ohio, is coming to the Performing Arts Center at East Grand Rapids High School on **Saturday, March 13 at 7:30 p.m.** This event will also host the presentation of the Pantlind Award to Dr. Mark Webb, who directed the high school's choir from 1995 until his retirement in 2009 and has been the official "voice" of the Pioneer Football team for the past eight years. All proceeds will go to the Music and Stage Boosters and be used to provide scholarships and purchase instruments, band and orchestra uniforms, and theater improvements. Tickets can be purchased online at www.egrhsdrama.org.

THE YEARBOOK ORDER FORM DEADLINE HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO WED., MARCH 3RD-ORDER YOUR'S NOW!



BRETON DOWNS YEARBOOK 2009-2010

Cost: \$10.00 each. Please fill out name and teacher for each child that will receive a yearbook. Make checks payable to Breton PTA.

Student Name _____ Teacher _____

Student Name _____ Teacher _____

Student Name _____ Teacher _____

Student Name _____ Teacher _____

Total Quantity _____ @ \$10.00 = TOTAL \$ _____



HUR RAH!

HURRAH! 2010– BRIDGING EXCELLENCE AND EDUCATION EGR Schools Foundation Hosts “Friend”raiser

Shake off the winter blahs on March 6, 2010 by attending a fantastic evening of fun with your friends and neighbors. HURRAH! Bridging Excellence and Education is the East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation community winter party. The event will be held at Bridgewater Place, 333 Bridge Street NW, Downtown Grand Rapids.

HURRAH!, an annual fundraiser and “friendraiser” for the EGR Schools Foundation, is a casual evening of fun, food and camaraderie, featuring a raffle, cash bar and, this year, live music from Mid-Life Crisis. HURRAH! began in 2008 to raise awareness and funds for the East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation. Since 2008, the HURRAH! party has generated more than \$72,000 for the schools foundation.

This year’s event will feature food from several area restaurants including: *Rose’s on Reeds Lake, The Green Well, Grand Rapids Brewing Co., Ramona’s Table, Tommy Fitzgerald Group and Café Stella, Marie Catrib’s, Olive’s, Applause Catering, Electric Cheetah, Bar Divani, Chocolate, TCBY, Mary Ann’s and Arby’s.* In addition to food, music, and lively conversation, there will be a raffle with fabulous prizes.

The purpose of the East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation is to enrich the educational experience of its students by funding excellence in teaching and learning that requires financial support beyond the district. The East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation funded \$63,000 in grants, awards and scholarships during the 2008-2009 school year.

For reservations or additional information, please contact the East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation: www.egrsf.org , astuursm@egrps.org or by contacting Amy Stuursma at (235-3535, ext. 4004). Tickets are \$40.00 per person; after February 26 tickets are \$50.00 per person. Patron reservations are \$75.00.

East Grand Rapids Special Education Department
and
East Grand Rapids Parent Advisory to Special Education
Present

Kindy Segovia
Assistive Technology
Coordinator at
Kent Intermediate
School District

Tuesday, March 9, 2010
7:00 PM
Woodcliff Board Room

Kindy Segovia will present many low and high tech tools to support students in the educational environment. Many of these hardware and software solutions can be used universally with all students not exclusively with students with disabilities.

Kindy Segovia

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

STACY TRIERWEILER, PASE PARENT REPRESENTATIVE	575-0050	TRIERSG4@YAHOO.COM
CAROL LIPPERT, PASE PARENT REPRESENTATIVE	301-7219	LIPPERT_CAROL@YAHOO.COM
JODI BLANCHARD, PASE PARENT REPRESENTATIVE	235-5755	JBLANCH455@AOL.COM
JANN VANAIKSDALE, DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION	235-3535	JVANAIK5@EGRS.ORG

Stanford Testing Schedule 2009-2010

	Mon., March 1	Tues., March 2	Wed., March 3	Thurs., March 4	Fri., March 5
2 nd	9-10:00 OLSAT Practice	9-10:00 OLSAT Pts. 1 & 2	9-10:00 OLSAT Pt. 3	9-10:00 Stanford Practice Stanford Vocab.	9:15 – Gould 8:30 – Eldersveld 10:30 – Dood Stanford Reading 40 minutes
3 rd		9:00-10:15 OLSAT Practice	9:00-10:15 OLSAT Test	9:00-11:27 Reading	9:00-11:27 Math
4 th		AM Vocabulary (20 min)	10:30-11:30 Math (50 min)	8:30-9:30 Reading (40 min)	
5 th	8:30-10:15 Practice (30 min)		8:30-10:15 Read Vocab. (20 min) Read Comp (50 min)	8:30-10:15 Math Prob. Solv. (50 min)	Make Up

	Mon, March 8	Tues., March 9	Wed., March 10	Thurs., March 11	Fri., March 12
2 nd	9-10 Math Problem Solv. (60 min)	9-10 Math Proc (40 min)			
3 rd					
4 th		10:30-11:30 Math (30 min)	12:20-1:00 Practice Olsat	8:30-9:30 Olsat (40 min)	
5 th	8:30-10:15 Math Procedures (30 min)		8:30-10:15 OLSAT Pract. Test OLSAT (40 min)		Make Up