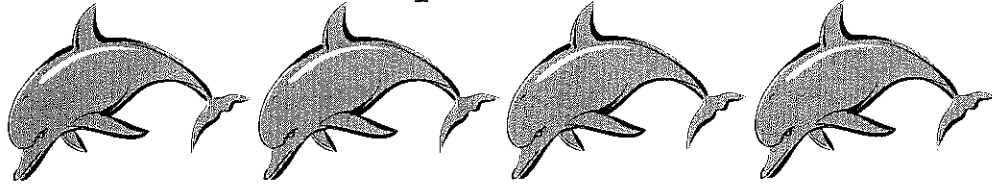


MBS NEWSLETTER

***MONMOUTH BEACH SCHOOL, 7 HASTINGS PLACE
MONMOUTH BEACH, NJ 07750***

April 2016



Cover Designed by Fifth Grader Dani Umbs

APRIL 2016

Greetings and Happy Spring to everyone in the Monmouth Beach School community! Now that the change of seasons has officially taken place, I think it is safe to bid farewell to the winter. Thankfully, it was a milder winter than the previous two, and as a result, we only had to use one of our three snow days that were built into the district calendar. As a result, I followed the past practice of making a recommendation to the Board of Education to have those days removed from the end of our current school year. Now that the change has been approved, please be aware that the last day of school will now be Tuesday, June 21. Not only will that day be a 12:30 dismissal day for all students, but our annual Eighth Grade Graduation Ceremony will also take place that same day at the usual time of 7 p.m. Please mark your calendars and take note of these important changes!

One of the other experiences that comes around during the spring each year is state testing. As we begin the second year of PARCC testing in grades 3-8, it is important to remember that the teachers have been delivering lessons all year that are based on the Common Core Standards. I mention this because the PARCC test is also based on those same standards, so essentially, the students have been preparing for these assessments since September. Having gone through the PARCC experience last year will most certainly enable the staff and students to successfully complete the process even easier this year. Thankfully, the state made the decision to reduce the amount of testing to just one week this year as opposed to the two separate testing sessions last year. As a result, less instructional time will be taken from classes and students will have shorter amounts of time spent testing. Although standardized test scores never tell you everything about a student, having this data helps the district to evaluate the quality of our instructional programs in both English Language Arts and Mathematics. As parents, you also receive detailed feedback about your child (ren) with regard to their progress in these areas. It is for these

reasons and more that I strongly encourage complete participation in the testing experience from all of our students.

As we move into the final marking period of the year, it is important for students to remain consistent with their study habits in order to meet the new challenges and finish the year on a positive note. Teachers will continue breaking new ground as they begin to introduce their students to concepts that require application of previous learning and the ability to make connections between prior and current topics. As always, I encourage teachers and parents to maintain open lines of communication in order to share information related to students' academic, social and emotional development. Hopefully, the partnerships that were created back in September will continue all the way through June!

Respectfully,
Michael E. Ettore
Principal/Superintendent

DATES TO REMEMBER

- April 15 – 3rd Marking Period Ends
- April 19 - PTO Meeting (8:45 a.m.)
- April 21 – Kindergarten Conferences
- April 22 & 23 - MBS Play (Aladdin, Jr.)
- April 25 – BOE Meeting (7 p.m.)

PARENT CORNER

HIB (Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying)

As you know, the school has been taking major steps to ensure that bullying does not occur and your child feels safe. The NJ State Law mandates the school to investigate all instances where bullying may be present. This includes emails from parents, students saying that they are getting bullied, or teachers suspecting that bullying is going on. The necessary steps need to be taken and are as follows:

1. Written report from the person reporting the bullying.
2. Thorough investigation done by the HIB coordinator or specialist.
3. HIB team meeting to look at all the results to determine if the incident(s) are considered HIB.
4. Report to the Board of Education about the incident and the findings.

We strive to have our students feel safe and comfortable in the school setting. Please visit the school website for more information.

Attention Child Find

Each year the school district of Monmouth Beach seeks to identify and evaluate children ages 3 to 14 who may be experiencing physical, sensory, communication, cognitive or social difficulties. This search includes migrant and homeless students, two year-olds reaching the age of three within 120 days, preschoolers between three and five, and school aged children who are not currently receiving school services.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Peter Bruccoleri at 732-222-6139 ext. 251.

STUDENT NEWS

Congratulations to Gretchen Grunbaum and Kristina Sorochan. They both won Honorable Mention in the Monmouth County Fair Housing Poster Contest. Each student will receive a cash prize and will be honored at an awards luncheon.

EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

The Eighth Grade Class of 2016 is still fundraising and bonding to forge strong memories before we go our separate ways. Our Pasta Dinner was a huge success and our fundraising lunches are an ongoing project to send us to Boston, Massachusetts, in June. We are working hard, playing basketball

against the faculty and actually won a decisive victory! We are looking forward to our annual Eighth Grade vs. Monmouth Beach PBA in May.

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

Monmouth Beach Student Council's February fundraiser "Pennies for Patients" for the Lymphoma and Leukemia Society came to an end on February 28 raising over \$400. Thanks to the entire school and community for being so generous! Student Council held another "Bring a Friend Welcome to Spring" Dance on Thursday, March 24, 2016, for grades 6 to 8 that kicked off our Spring Break.

Spring is here, kind of, and Earth Day is April 22, 2016, so Earth Day T-shirts have been ordered and personalized with "Monmouth Beach School" to show our support in protecting the earth. T-shirts will be distributed before Spring Break. Speaking of Earth Day, Clean Ocean Action will hold their annual Spring Beach Cleanup at local area beaches in Monmouth Beach, Sea Bright, and Long Branch on Saturday, April 27, 2016, from 9 a.m. until Noon. Students and MB residents and community groups can support their environment and earn volunteer hours.

ON THE COVER

This month's newsletter cover was created by the very talented Dani Umbs. The "paper cutouts" of dancers were inspired by the famous artist Edgar Degas and his use of repetitive motion in his paintings. All of the students designed beautiful work. Way to go Dani! Can't wait to see what you create next!