



CHRISTA McAULIFFE ELEMENTARY

Carol Roddenberry-Principal

Tracy Chancery-Asst. Principal

REACH FOR THE STARS

155 Del Mundo St. NW, Palm Bay, FL 32907 (321)-768-0465 fax: (321) 952-5985 www.mcauliffe.brevard.k12.fl.us

April 13, 2012

Volume 8, Issue 13

Our Partners: Dominos, Subway, The Honey Baked Ham Co, Shore Lanes Palm Bay, Lowes of Palm Bay, Dollar General, Storaway Self Storage, Cracker Barrel, Planet Fitness, BJ's, and Panda Express

CALENDAR

Mon. - Fri. Apr.
16th - 27th FCAT
Testing 3rd - 6th
grades

Tues - Apr. 24th
* 4th Interim Ends
* SAC/PTO
Mtg. 2:45 pm

Tues. - May 1st In-
terims Issued

Wed. - May 2nd
* Volunteer Lunch-
eon 11:30 am.

* Kinder. Field Day

Thurs. - May 3rd
Field Day 4th - 6th

Fri. - May 4th
Field Day 1st - 3rd

Mon. - May 7th
BOGO Book Fair
Opens

Tues. - May 8th
Dist. Writing
Assessment

Wed. - Wed.
May 9th - 23rd
VPK Registration

Thurs. - May 10th
Math Tournament

Fri. - May 11th
* Quality Literature
@ESF

* Kindergarten Tour

PLEASE SUPPORT THE BUSINESSES THAT SUPPORT US!

Before and After School S.A.C.C. Program Space is still available

Some of our daily activities include: arts/crafts, video game center, dramatic play, homework time, weekly coloring contests, outdoor games, indoor free play, and so much more. For additional information please call 722-4185 Mrs. Ruffo, Coordinator.

SIXTH GRADE STUDENT REMINDER

Students going to Middle School for the 2012-2013 school year **MUST** have a Tetanus Booster before they can start school in August.

If you do not have the information to us before school is out for this year, you will need to take your immunization record with you at registration for Middle School.

Individualized Program of Study Meetings for Rising 7 Graders

Parents of 6th grade students: You and your student will need to arrange a meeting with your child's middle school counselor sometime between May 1st and October 31st. to create an **Individualized Program of Study**. This program of study will be based on your child's interests and goals. It will be reviewed and revised annually through face-to-face meetings with the guidance counselor as your child moves from grade to grade. The school counselor at your child's middle school is excited about the opportunity to get to know you and your child. The yearly meetings will strengthen the relationship between your family and the school and will give you information regarding available options and choices. You will be asked to call your child's projected middle school to set up an appointment to meet with your counselor sometime before October 31st. Please call as soon as possible to set up a time that will be convenient for you and your family. You will be given a questionnaire that you and your child should discuss and fill out together before the meeting. It is very important for you to have conversations with your child not only about their strengths, challenges and interests but also their goals for the future. Counselors at your child's middle school are looking forward to this new adventure as we all work together to *make sure your child will graduate from high school prepared to be successful in future endeavors.*

SCHOOL BREAKFAST

Breakfast is served from 7:30 - 7:55 am each day. Please have your student(s) here by 7:45, so they can eat their breakfast, before they need to head to class. If a bus arrives late, we do allow students to get breakfast before going to class.



Our next SAC/PTO meeting will be Tues., 4/24/12 @ 2:45

FCAT Testing for Grades 3 – 6

The Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) will be given to students in grades three through six from Monday, April 16th through Wednesday, April 25th. Please make sure that your child is here on time each morning, has had a good breakfast, and a restful night of sleep. For students in grades 3rd through 5th grade, please try not to schedule appointments for your child during these dates. If students have to leave in the middle of a testing session, they will not be able to resume taking that section at another time. It is very important for students to have uninterrupted time for taking the test.

For the first time, most 6th grade students will be taking FCAT Reading as a computer-based test (CBT). One of the big differences with taking a computer-based test is that not all students will be taking the reading test on the same day. Students will be scheduled into computer labs and resource rooms throughout the testing window. Unlike in previous years, you cannot count on your child being tested on a particular day with all the other students. Please avoid scheduling appointments or events during testing that would cause your student to miss their CBT times.

Electronic Devices of any kind are NOT permitted during testing. Possession of such devices is cause for invalidation. This includes cell phones.

Please see the testing dates below. If your child should become ill, we do have scheduled make-up sessions, but students would be missing their regular classroom activities in order to take the test. Testing will take up a large part of the morning and some afternoons.

Thank you for your support! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child's teacher or Mrs. Chancery, Assistant Principal.

Monday, April 16th	3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , and 6 th grades
Tuesday, April 17 th	3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , and 6 th grades
Wednesday, April 18 th	3 rd , 4 th , and 5 th grades
Thursday, April 19 th	3 rd , 4 th , and 5 th grades
Friday, April 20 th	6 th grade
Monday, April 23 rd	6 th grade
Tuesday, April 24 th	6 th grade and 5 th grade Science
Wednesday, April 25 th	6 th grade and 5 th grade Science
Thursday, April 26 th	Make-up day
Friday, April 27 th	Make-up day

FCAT Attendance Incentive

The Christa McAuliffe PTO will be sponsoring an FCAT attendance incentive! If your child is here for all of the scheduled testing dates for FCAT for his or her grade

Title I Check-out Materials Need to Be Returned

We are quickly approaching the end of the school year. If you have take-home materials checked out from Title I, please return them by the due date written at the bottom of the check-out form. If the materials you checked out are overdue, please return them as soon as possible.

PARENT REQUEST FOR STUDENT PLACEMENT

Some parents have begun making requests for specific teachers for the 2012-2013 school year. We have received input from faculty, staff, parents and the School Improvement Committee regarding this issue and have decided on a request policy. This policy has been reached based on a number of considerations. As a school we must take all considerations very seriously and we must look out for the interests of all students. These considerations have been outlined to help parents realize all that this issue involves.

1. Keeping track of the vast amount of letters and phone calls regarding requests takes an extreme amount of time from the personnel dealing with them. This takes away from the students who are here this year and the issues that need to be dealt with now.
2. It is impossible to honor all requests, as we cannot have overcrowded classrooms.
3. Most requests are based on hearsay. Many parents write, "I heard _____ is a good teacher". We have many excellent teachers that parents may not know. Parents must also consider that what makes a good teacher is a matter of opinion and there are a variety of teaching and learning styles. Parent's opinions often differ. The best choice for one child may not be the best for another. We know your child and our teachers in the school setting. We do our best to match these styles.
4. Staffing decisions are still being made. As our school community continues to change, so does our teaching staff. This means that we may be adding new teachers and others may be changing grade levels. These decisions are not made until May and oftentimes change before school starts in August. Due to this growth, we will also need to form new classes that we may not know about until the summer.
5. Many parents ask to come observe to "select their teacher". Parents are obviously welcome to visit and volunteer, however, it is important to avoid disruptions to the instructional process. The school is responsible for student placement.
6. Balanced classrooms are not possible if requests are always honored. Considerations of all educational factors, academic and social are the primary determinations in placement decisions.
7. Children learn to make new friends. We consider our classrooms "communities of learning". These students become a part of a team each year. It is very healthy to make new friends.
8. We ask teachers to spend a considerable amount of time making balanced class lists. The child study team also gives input and makes necessary adjustments. Teachers spend an enormous amount of time and consider needs of all students when making class lists.

Therefore, based on the above considerations and input from faculty, staff, parents and the School Improvement Committee a policy has been developed. We do realize parent input is important when making placement decisions and we are asking that instead of requesting a specific teacher by name, you share your information about your child, certain teacher characteristics and classroom environment factors you deem as important. We will be happy to consider this input when making class lists. **We are providing an opportunity for you to submit in writing this input. Please have your letter to the office by May 25th.**

A written request or lack of such a request will have no effect on the care given to each child's placement. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.



Upcoming Events in the Brevard Community

- **April 19th - Tuesday (6 - 7pm) Monthly Support Group Meeting Speaker:** Maryjane B. Wysocki - Employment Coordinator from Agency for Persons with Disabilities (ADP) Topic: General overview of the types of services that ADP offers and how they can help our special needs children/young adults. In addition to discussing tips and strategies on ways of maximizing your medwaiver benefits during employment. For more information go to: www.apd.myflorida.com or call Office: (407) 245-0440** Going forward support group meetings will be host on the 2nd Tuesday of each month next meeting May 8th from 6-7pm at First Baptist Church of Malabar -1665 Malabar Rd -
- **April 27th - Friday (6:30 - 8:30pm) Autism Awareness Movie Screening** - in conjunction with Brevard PALS Movie: "Walking in the Dark - Finding The Light in Autism" In the documentary, "Walking In The Dark: Finding The Light In Autism" hope is restored. The primary purpose of this documentary is to serve as an educational tool to help parents seek those unanswered questions, find ways to network and to get involved. And, through meeting the families, find hope. For more information: <http://www.tripleknotproductions.org/pages/doc-witd-full.html> Location: First Baptist Church of Malabar - 1665 Malabar Rd Malabar, FL Event Cost: Free to the public All are welcome - Parents, Teachers, and all other community members. Feel free to bring a friend Limited childcare available on a first come first serve basis ** Also come learn more about our local **Brevard PALS (Providing Autism Links & Supports) Organization** A non profit organization supporting individuals with autism spectrum disorders in Central Florida registered with the UCF Center for Autism & Related Disabilities For more information: http://www.pals-ucfcard.org/BREVARD_PALS.html
- **Angels Bridging Gaps - Family Saturday Events (Hosted on 3rd Saturday of each Month): - Free Horseback Riding Session** - Saturday April 21st from 9-11am Hosted conjunction with "Rescued Horses Saved Kids Ministry" - 3055 Weber Rd Malabar, FL. Please email jbyearby@angelsbridginggaps.org to RSVP Comfortable clothing - preferably long pants and sneakers are recommended. There is no charge for participation but "Donations" are always welcomed to help with caring for the horses* (Note: Next Horseback Riding Session will be on May 19th from 9-11am) -
- **Family Bowling - Saturday April 21st from 2-4pm** - Hosted at Shore Lanes Bowling Alley - 4851 Dairy Road, Melbourne. \$3 per person for two games of bowling including shoe rental. Please email jbyearby@angelsbridginggaps.org to RSVP * (Note: Next Family Bowling Session will be on May 19th)
- **For Parents of Elementary Aged Children - Wednesdays April 4, 11 6:30pm - 8:30pm** STEM Building, #25-116, BCC Cocoa Campus. To register use the online registration form at Brevardcc.edu/labschool or call Pam White at 433-7668 -
- **The Scott Center for Autism Treatment - Workshop April 25th 6:30 - 8pm** Topic - Financial Planning brought to you by Suntrust Bank (free refreshments, no RSVP)
- **Space Coast Early Intervention Center (SCEIC) - FREE On-Site Upcoming Trainings (6:30-8:30pm)** - Presented by Jason Klazon, UCF Center for Autism and Related Disabilities- Must register through UCF-CARD @ 1-800-928-8476 or on-line at www.ucf-card.org- Space is limited- The Community room at SCEIC- 3790 Dairy Rd., Melbourne, FL 32937 #1 - Thursday March 22, 2012 - Parent Developed Student Portfolios# 2 - Thursday May 3, 2012 - Behavior Basics I: Dealing with Problem Behavior# 3 - Wednesday May 9, 2012 - Behavior Basics II: Increasing Behaviors SCEIC
- **The M.O.R.G.A.N. Project Proudly Presents: Morgan's Place - Open House Tour** of our new Sensorium & Technology Zone. Please join us for a tour of our therapeutic play center ~just for children with special health care needs! For more information: info@themorganproject.org DATE: **Tuesday's in March** TIME: **5pm until 7pm** LOCATION: 411 Ocean Ave , Melbourne Beach
- **"Making the Community Connection" - FOR: Parents of Exceptional Education Students - Friday, April 20, 2012 10:00 am to 12:00 pm** RSVP to: Ginny Gleason 633-1000 Ext. 389 by April 16 FREE Admission Educational Services Facility (School Board Building) 2700 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Viera - Board Room-The Community Experience & Your Children - Presented by: Carol Craig, Founder & CEO of Craig Technologies
- **Autism Awareness Festival - Hosted by Space Coast Early Intervention Center (SCEIC) - Sunday April 22nd 10am - 2pm** FREE Admission Florida Institute of Technology Panther Plaza 150 W. University Blvd. * Melbourne, FL 32901 For more information contact www.sceic.com or call (321) 729-6858 (40+ Local Agencies & Resources Available for Families Dealing with Special Needs & Autism Spectrum Disorders Plus Food and Fun for Everyone!)
- **Nathaniel's Hope - BIG 10 Make 'm Smile Event - June 2nd 2012** Nathaniel's Hope is dedicated to sharing hope with kids with special needs (VIP kids) and their families" You can register online starting the second week in March! We had over 10,000 people at last year's event and expect to have even more this year so register as early as you can to guarantee you get a spot! Registration opens on March 15th - FREE Admission www.NathanielsHope.org - 14th Annual Family Cafe will be held June 15-17, 2012 Online registration for The 14th Annual Family Cafe will begin at 9:00 AM (EST) on the morning of Tuesday, February 14th. At that time, you will be able to visit www.FamilyCafe.net to register for The 14th Annual Family Cafe. As part of the registration process, you will also be able to request Financial Assistance to cover the cost of your hotel stay at the Hilton Orlando. Financial Assistance will be distributed through a lottery process prior to the event. The 14th Annual Family Cafe will be held June 15-17, 2012 at the Hilton Orlando, 6001 Destination Parkway in Orlando. A block of rooms has been reserved at a special conference rate of \$109 per night. You may contact the hotel reservation line at 407/313-4300.

LOST AND FOUND

WE HAVE MANY

JACKETS, HATS, BACKPACKS

AND LUNCH BOXES.

PLEASE COME LOOK OR HAVE YOUR

CHILD LOOK FOR ANY

ITEMS THEY MAY BE MISSING

BEFORE YOU SPEAK

THINK

T — is it true???

H — is it helpful ???

I — is it inspiring???

N — is it necessary ???

K — is it kind???



BOGO Book Fair May 7th – 11th , 2012

Dear Parents:

The **Scholastic Buy One Book Get One (BOGO) Free Book Fair** is **May 7-11, from 8:10 am to 1:50pm (closed 12:00-1:00 for lunch)** and you don't want to miss it!

Cash Only. Please include 6% sales tax when you send money with your child.

Your child will be shopping during his/her **MEDIA CLASS** the week of the BOGO Fair.

ACCELERATED READER REWARDS

Every child who met his/her Accelerated Reader Yearly Goal (with 75 percent average correct) this year will receive a coupon for a **FREE BOOK** (valued up to \$5.00) at the Fair. Students who reached higher goals will also be rewarded with extra coupons. Reading goals are recommended by the Accelerated Reader User's Manual used by the school. Coupons will be given out before the fair begins. The last day for AR Tests is **April 27** to count this year. After that deadline, points go towards **next year's goal**.

A yearly goal of a child reading **20 minutes per day** is listed below.

K= 22 points

1st = 27 points

2nd = 32 points

3rd = 38 points

4th = 43 points

5th = 57 points

6th = 73 points

Additional Rewards Clubs
(with 75 percent average correct or better)

25 Points Club =1 Coupon

50 Points Club =2 Coupons

100 Points Club =3 Coupons

250 Points Club =4 Coupons



ESE PARENT SURVEY

The Florida Department of Education (DOE) is conducting a parent survey to give the Florida DOE and the United States Department of Education information on how well Florida's schools are supporting parent involvement in their child's special education and related services. This survey is for parents who have a child or children with an Individual Educational Plan (IEP).

The parent survey for the 2011/2012 school year will open February 1, 2012 and will close June 30, 2012. During this time, parents of students with disabilities will be able to complete an online survey regarding the special education and related services that are being provided to their child or children. Parents of children with disabilities, who are in preschool through grade 12, are being asked to complete this survey. The survey will be offered in both English and Spanish.

To complete the survey, please use a computer to go online to **www.ESEsurvey.com**. At that site you will be asked to select your child's school district (**Brevard**), your child's school name (**Christa McAuliffe Elem**), your child's current grade, and your child's birth date. Parents are asked to complete a separate survey for each of their children who have an IEP. If your child's IEP meeting is held between February 1, 2012 and June 30, 2012, you can request to complete the survey at the school after the IEP meeting. Please note that the DOE site is confidential and secure. None of the information that you provide will be linked to you or your child. If you complete the survey more than one time for a child, the site will allow you to complete the survey. However, only the input given in your first survey will be considered.

For parents who cannot complete the survey using a computer and need a paper survey, please contact Heather Theobald at 321-633-1000 extension 562.