



## STONY BROOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



### MISSION STATEMENT

Our goal is to prepare our children to successfully meet the academic and social challenges of an ever-changing world. Stony Brook staff, in partnership with the parents and community, believe in and are committed to upholding this mission. We work towards maintaining a safe, respectful environment that supports and challenges all individuals.

### NEWS FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

The new year has brought a renewed spirit of enthusiasm and positive energy to continue the challenges we face in the 2009-2010 school year. Maybe it's all the fun we've had playing in the snow at recess (look for the pictures in the lobby!), or the sense of pride with student work showcased throughout the school, or the improved early literacy scores as a result of the winter administration of the DIBELS assessment. It is most likely a combination of all of these!

Our Mission Statement talks about preparing our children to successfully meet the academic as well as the social challenges of life. One of the ways we fulfill our Mission is with our Character Education Program. It is an initiative, developed by a school-based committee, that focuses on positive behavior appropriate for a primary level school. Seven character traits are introduced throughout the year and are reinforced each day. When a student's behavior needs addressing, it is directly connected to a character trait. Stony Brook is a *Responsive Classroom* school. A component of *Responsive Classroom* is getting students to think about how they should have handled a situation, what they will do if it happens again and to focus on their own behavior. If a consequence is needed, it is typically a "logical consequence" that is connected to the behavior.

This year's Character Education theme is *Seven Keys to A Better Me*. Grade level meetings are held on the first Friday of each month when Dr. DesRosiers, Mr. Andujar and I meet with students in the LGI and ask each teacher to share what is going well in the classroom. Most often, teachers will connect classroom happenings with a monthly character trait. They have described how students have demonstrated the character trait *Respect* by observing the way they talk to one another or take care of the classroom. *Responsibility* was reflected by doing their homework each night, doing chores at home, and following the rules/routines at home and at school. Students learn that as they get older it is important to do what is expected without having to be asked. January's

character trait was *Trustworthiness*. Students learned the importance of always telling the truth. After introducing the new character trait of the month, a key representing the new trait (each handmade and painted by Mr. Andujar), is presented to each classroom for their key ring. The last Friday of the month, the entire school gathers in the gymnasium for a Whole School Meeting. Each month a different grade level hosts the meeting to demonstrate what they have learned about the character trait of that month. Students are looking forward to the grade level meetings for February to find out what our new character trait will be. Thank you for helping to reinforce our character traits at home and for your support with this program.

I am also eager to begin this year's Olympic-themed Read-A-Thon, beginning February 8<sup>th</sup>. I will be visiting each classroom in the next two weeks and reading The Tortoise and The Hare as retold by Angela McAllister. We encourage all of you to participate as a family and are eager to see how much we have accomplished by February 26<sup>th</sup>!

We look forward to the second half of our school year with as much enthusiasm and anticipation as when we entered in September. The remainder of our journey together will be intentionally partnered with you to ensure the best education for our children. We appreciate and encourage your continued participation!



### The Superintendent's Weather Advisory Reminder

When winter storms are forecast, the Superintendent collects information on road conditions from public works and public safety authorities in each of the four Nauset Towns at 4:30am and (like you) watches the forecasts on TV. Should the conditions be determined to be unsafe for bus or private transportation, one of two decisions are made - close school or delay the opening of school. Decisions are made as early as possible, but no later than 6:00a.m..

When schools are closed, all school activities are cancelled for the day. When schools have a delayed opening, all schools and bus routes will begin **two hours** later than normal. Students should be at their assigned bus stops two hours after their normal arrival time. School will end at the regular time. Morning (a.m.) preschool will be cancelled but afternoon (p.m.) preschool will run its normal schedule.

On rare occasions when a storm occurs or worsens while school is in session, it may be necessary to close schools early. In these cases every attempt will be made to minimize the likelihood that children will return home to locked or empty houses. The **School Reach** automated phone system will be utilized, which will call your home early in the morning to alert you if schools will be closed or if there will be a delayed opening. This system will also be used if there is ever a need to close schools early. Please be sure to notify your school if your phone number has changed.

In addition, you will find information on school closings on the major TV and radio stations as well as on our web site: [www.nausetschools.org](http://www.nausetschools.org). The Nauset Schools urge you to make your own individual decision about sending your child to school during inclement weather.

## FEBRUARY CAPTAIN LEXICON WORDS

*The words for the month can also be found posted locally at the Brewster General Store, the Brewster Post Office, Ferretti's Market, the Brewster Ladies' Library and Laurino's.*

February 1st: **customary, dwelling, contain**

February 8th: **muffle, huddle, temporary**

February 22nd: **harmless, leap, chirp**



## STONY BROOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GOES GREEN GREEN TIP OF THE MONTH

Turn off or sleep your computers at night to save up to \$90/year in energy costs!

### KINDERGARTEN



Kim Torres from "Elements, etc." presented an excellent science lesson on animals in winter. In language arts we continue to work on beginning and ending sounds while our math lessons focus on numbers through 31. In February the children will study measurement and continue to work on learning new sight words and listening for all sounds in words. The children will also learn about the Chinese New Year and will love making colorful dragon masks for our Chinese New Year Parade. Please check the weather before sending students off to school in the morning so they are prepared for outdoor recess. Thank you for your support.



### GRADE ONE

First graders begin the month by making and graphing their predictions about Groundhog Day! We are spending time discussing ways to handle tricky situations in our *Growing Up Safely* lessons. George Washington and Abraham Lincoln are our Social Studies famous persons this month. We are "reading up a storm" and learning 100 sight words as we write wonderful paragraphs with topic sentences, details, and good endings. Students are also becoming quite adept in geometry. Just ask your child the names of the solid and plane shapes... you will be amazed at the terminology! Mark your calendars for **February 25th**

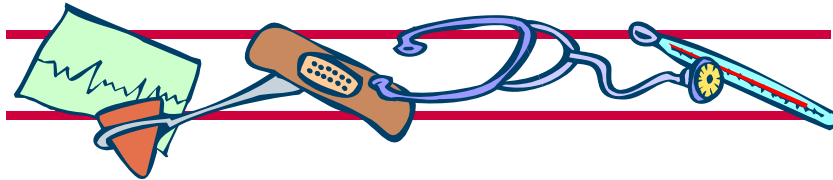
when we will be having an evening of family activities at our **Curriculum Night** from 5:30-7:15pm.



## **GRADE TWO**

February is a busy, exciting month in second grade. We are completing our unit on camouflage in reading, and will begin a fact-filled unit on dinosaurs and fossils. We will be reading a combination of expository text and fictional stories. One story actually examines the major theories regarding dinosaur extinction. In math we have been working on regrouping when adding and subtracting. We continue to develop our problem solving skills, and **encourage our second graders to practice their addition and subtraction facts to sums of twenty.** We will also use our excellent math skills to play math games and complete a variety of fun activities as we celebrate the 100th day of school. As we develop writing strategies through our *Empowering Writers* program, we continue to stress the importance of neat handwriting on class work and homework. We appreciate your help in overseeing your child's nightly homework. As always, please make sure your second grader comes to school dressed appropriately for outdoor recess during cold weather.

### **From the Health Office**, Colleen Lawless, R.N.



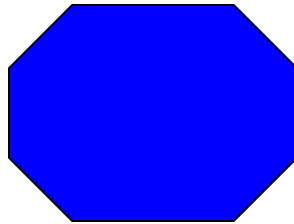
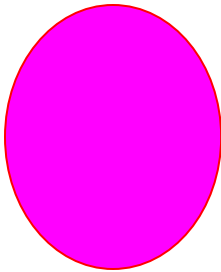
On January 15<sup>th</sup> the Nauset Regional School Nurses attended a Professional Development Day presented by the Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts. Among the topics discussed were concussion and sports injury. According to the Center for Disease Control, a concussion is a mild brain injury caused by a bump or blow to the head. You can't see a concussion, but it can show up right after the injury or may not appear or be noticed until days or weeks after. The signs and symptoms of a concussion are:

- Appears dazed or stunned
- Loses consciousness (even briefly)
- Moves clumsily
- Answers questions slowly
- Can't recall events prior to hit or fall
- Headache
- Nausea or vomiting
- Double or blurry vision
- Sensitivity to light or noise
- Confusion, concentration or memory problems

Researchers found that snowboarding (25.5%) and sledding (10.8%) were associated with the highest percentages of injuries requiring ER visits. To reduce the risk of sustaining a concussion or more serious brain injury, please make sure your child is wearing a properly

fitting helmet when riding a bike, skateboard, scooter, or in-line skating, playing contact sports, skiing, sledding, snowboarding or riding a horse.

Seek medical attention right away if you think your child has a concussion. Don't let your child return to play until a health care professional says it's OK. Children who return to play too soon - while the brain is still healing - risk a greater chance of having a second concussion. For more information and support services contact BIA-MA at (508)475-0032 or [www.biama.org](http://www.biama.org).



## TECHNOLOGY

Mrs. Borsari

Kindergarten and Grade 1 will be utilizing an *Investigations* program called "Shapes - Quilt Squares and Block Towns". The children will design 2-D and 3-D geometric shapes. The software unit allows for the following skill areas:

- Observing, describing, visualizing, and comparing 2-D and 3-D shapes and their characteristics
- Constructing and representing 2-D and 3-D shapes
- Developing vocabulary to describe 2-D and 3-D shapes
- Building a pattern by repeating a unit square
- Creating and using 2-D representations of 3-D shapes and objects
- Constructing 3-D shapes from 2-D shapes and representations
- Visualizing, describing, and comparing paths between two locations

Grade 2 students are writing/keyboarding enriching paragraphs as news reporters for "The True Story of the Three Little Pigs." They should include: Name, Grade, Teacher, Grade 2 Paragraph Writing, Main Idea Sentence, Four Facts with Supporting Details, and a Clincher or Ending Sentence.

### *From the Cafeteria*

*Donna Drown, Cafeteria Manager*



NEW!!! A La Carte Cafeteria Additions for 50¢ each:  
Sugar Free Popsicles will be available on a daily basis.

In addition Low Fat Ice Cream Bars in Cookies & Cream, Chocolate or Strawberry flavors will be for sale on Fridays.

Please remember your accounts have to be current to buy a la carte items.

Please call Donna if you have any questions, 508-896-4545, ext. 1102.

## LIBRARY from Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Ford

The library is preparing for our third annual Read-A-Thon sponsored by BESPIE. This year's theme is the Olympics with the colors displayed on paper chains around the library. Look for our special display of Olympics books, including two new books donated by the Brewster Book Store.

Kindergarten is learning about the "People in Our School" by listening to stories such as The Principal's New Clothes and Lunch Bunnies. At each library visit, they illustrate a new page for their own book about Stony Brook people. Grade One is traveling around the world in folktales. So far we have visited India, Africa, China, Japan and we even went to England through an animated story on the mimio electronic whiteboard. Grade Two is beginning a research unit. Each student will be assigned one of the states to look up in the World Book Encyclopedia and complete a graphic organizer of information about the state. At the end of the unit, students present their information to the class with the enhancement of an interactive online U.S. map projected through the mimio.



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## ***FEBRUARY SCHOOL VACATION ACTIVITIES At the Brewster Ladies' Library:***

***Saturday, February 13 - 10:30 am*** - Old Mother West Wind Story Hour - Activity presented by the Thornton Burgess Society includes reading of Chapter XIII - Johnny Woodchuck from the book Old Mother West Wind by Thornton Burgess. Puxatawney Phil, the famous groundhog or woodchuck searches for his shadow on February 1st, Groundhog Day. Learn about woodchucks and their habitat, hands on artifacts. Suitable for children 3 and up with parent/chaperone.

*Brewster Elementary Schools' students are invited to be Olympic Readers at the Brewster Ladies' Library over the school vacation week, February 15-20.*

*Pick up a log at the library starting February 9<sup>th</sup> and return it over the vacation week of a free book. Limit one book per child.*

***Tuesday, February 16, Olympic Craft - 10:30 am***. Make an Olympic flag, a ceremonial torch and olive leaf crown. Ages 5 and up.

***Wednesday, February 17 - 10:30 am - Mardi Gras Party***, Ages 3 and up. Cajun story, sing-a-long, make a Mardi Gras mask, Mardi Gras king cake for refreshments

***Friday February 19 - 10:30 am - Reading With Lucy***. - Ages 3 and up. Lucy is a 5 year old Cavalier King Charles Spaniel therapy dog. Come listen to a story with Lucy. Lucy, loves skateboarding, being read to and visiting with boys and girls.

***Saturday, February 20 - Family Literacy Event*** sponsored by the Cape Cod and Islands Roundtable of Children's Librarians - 1 pm, Cape Cod Community College. All ages. Family entertainment by "The Elbows". Limited free tickets available in the Children's Room.



## ART NEWS from Mrs. Young

In Kindergarten, the students love to sculpt with clay and they just completed some incredible winter dioramas. They divided their model magic into one large, one medium and one small sized sphere to build into a snowman. Each student created a unique snowy day environment for their sculpture and then embellished it with wires, pipe cleaners and felt.

The Swiss-born artist Paul Klee was the inspiration for the multi-media landscapes which were painted by the first grade students. The focus was to capture his playful line quality by using scraps of mat board dipped in black acrylic paint to compose an expressive landscape. Next, the students added watercolor as a contrast to the solid hard-edged black lines. Like a Klee painting, color was used playfully and unpredictably.

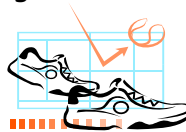
Grade Two students are just completing some spectacular watercolor seascapes that were inspired by Winslow Homer. This project will be handed to second grade parents at your March parent/teacher conference. I will be sending home information regarding an art related fundraiser in which you may purchase products from OWY with your child's art work on it! This has been very popular every year, so please look for updates about this fundraiser or feel free to contact me in the Art Room on Tuesday, Thursday or Friday.

## MUSIC ally... Mrs. Faris



We have been singing and playing our way through January in the music room. "Mallet Madness" is in full swing with all the classes. We have also just recently started using the smartboard in the LGI room for music related websites and "Groovy Shapes". In case you would like the music sites I gave you a few month's back, here they are again: [www.sfskids.org](http://www.sfskids.org) and [www.dsokids.com](http://www.dsokids.com). These are great sites for kids grades K-6. Try them at home, they are lots of fun. Keep singing!

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Mrs. Genoio and Mrs. Stone

The month of February always brings color, excitement, problem solving, math skills, and an endless amount of creativity into the gymnasium! The children will learn to "think outside of the box" when they use ribbon sticks to develop individual as well as partner and group routines. When the children explore new ways to manipulate their ribbon sticks, the gym turns into an awesome spectacle of color and movement patterns!

We will concentrate on our eye-hand coordination as we learn to toss and catch scarves as well as to begin to learn how to juggle at least two, and maybe even three at one time! We will also continue to practice our hand dribbling skills and share our new tricks during "showcase superstars". The math curriculum will be reinforced this month as we play math push-up tag, memory plate fitness sprints, and paddle loon balloon tapping. During these activities, the Kindergarteners will practice identifying numbers 1 through 30. The first and second graders will practice identifying their geometric plane and solid figures.

Please continue to send your children to school with their sneakers and comfortable clothing on their Physical Education days. We are always very active and safety is a priority! Thank you for your support and remember: **KEEP MOVING!**

## **Reading Room Highlights**

**from Ms. Rusielewicz**

The Reading Room highlights are too many to list  
From Directed Reading Groups, Tutorials, and Junior Great Books... well, you get the gist.  
Many valued teachers all camped (not cramped) in one school  
Have fun teaching children, managing groups, helping everyone follow the Golden Rule.  
Interventions, meetings, leveled reading and such  
You can tell by our smiles that we love **READING** so much!  
The children do well, fabulous growth in fact,  
That we're celebrating all the learning, that's a pact!  
Dr. Seuss I am not  
But I really have got  
The greatest team working with me!  
Walk by any room and you will see  
All of our teachers have found their nitch  
And so has Ms. Rusielewicz!



### **Cape Cod Children's Place**

See our newsletter online ([www.capecodchildrensplace.org](http://www.capecodchildrensplace.org)) or call 508-240-3310.



## **The WELLNESS Corner**

The following segment comes from the Nauset District Policy regarding Wellness:

### **III. Nutrition Guidelines for All Foods on Campus**

Students' lifelong eating habits are greatly influenced by the types of foods and beverages available to them. Schools must establish standards to address all foods and beverages sold or served to students, including those available outside of school meal programs. Schools must ensure that reimbursable school meals meet the program requirements and nutrition standards.



# B.E.S.P.I.E.

**Friday Movie Nights** have kicked off, with all of the grades voting for *Horton Hears a Who!* Kindergarteners enjoyed their night out on January 22nd. Our two bingo winners each took home a Stony Brook t-shirt. And we are looking forward to the 1st grade night on January 29th and the 2nd grade night on February 5th!

The Olympic-themed **Read-A-Thon** starts Monday, February 8th and runs until Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup> when there will be Family Bingo Night for all grades and families at Stony Brook. Come out for some family fun! The first ever **Pancake Breakfast** will be on Saturday, March 6th at Stony Brook for all grades and families when Read-A-Thon raffle winners will be announced.

The **Spring Book Fair** at Stony Brook will be March 15-19. Bring your family and friends shopping during conferences!

Put your grocery store shopping \$to work for your schools by registering your cards:

**SHAW'S COMMUNITY REWARDS!** Register your Shaw's Rewards Card TODAY at <http://www.albertsons.com/cp/shaws/> using ID#49001024018 to benefit BESPIE and Brewster Elementary Schools students! An amount of 1% of qualified purchases made on **Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday** by registered supporters will be donated to us! Tell your family and friends to register their cards too!

**STOP & SHOP A+ BONUS BUCKS:** Register your Stop & Shop card online to help raise money for our schools. Stony Brook's ID is #06449 and Eddy's ID is #06788, you can register for up to 3 schools on one card. Our schools will earn a percentage of every dollar spent in the stores. Once you register (and remember to use your card), you do not have to do anything else...Go to <http://www.stopandshop.com/aplus> to get started. This program runs until March 25, 2010 and a new one will start again next October. Tell your family and friends to register their cards too!

## *Nauset Youth Alliance: Brewster After School Child Care Programs*

Please come to our annual Super Bowl Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at the VFW on Freeman's Way in Brewster from 7:30am - noon. Children \$4; Adults \$6. Tickets @ the door. Door Prizes! This community fundraiser welcomes everyone to enjoy breakfast with friends & neighbors. Pancakes, bacon, sausage, cantaloupe, oranges, hot chocolate w/ whip cream and Dunkin donuts coffee.

Child care is available at both schools' Brewster After School Program locations. Come and join us for an afternoon of fun, literacy, homework help, sports, games and enrichment. For more information, call Christine Sieger, Director, @ 508-896-7900 or [sieger.bacc@gmail.com](mailto:sieger.bacc@gmail.com).

Sign up for our Back to BACC Summer Programs operating from June 28<sup>th</sup> - August 20<sup>th</sup>, daily Monday - Friday from 7:30am- 5:45 pm at affordable rates and offering swimming, arts, crafts, sports, games and field trips! Call us at 508-896-7900 for a brochure.

# February Calendar

- 3 School Committee Meeting - this additional meeting is scheduled to discuss the building consolidation and the FY11 Budget
- 5 Gr.2 Movie Night
- 15-19 Winter Vacation
- 24 100<sup>th</sup> Day!  
School Committee Meeting, 7pm
- 25 Kindergarten Dragon Parade, 8:35am  
Gr. 1 Curriculum Night, 5:30-7:15pm  
School Council, 2:45pm, library
- 26 Principal's Chat - 9-10am, Cafeteria featuring discussion about Writing, including grade level expectations relating to State Standards, State Benchmarks and Rubrics.

## March

- 3 Kindergarten Curriculum Night, 5:30-7:15pm
- 10 Grade 2 Curriculum Night, 5:30-7:15pm
- 16 EARLY DISMISSAL, 11:30am, NO LUNCH  
Parent Conferences
- 17 Evening Conferences
- 18 EARLY DISMISSAL, 11:30am, NO LUNCH  
Parent Conferences