



Broadalbin-Perth Intermediate School



January 2012

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A note from Mr. Casey In the Principal's Office...

2012 is here and although it's a new year, the intermediate school's high expectations remain the same.

It's hard to believe but we are nearly half way through another school year. The cold months ahead lend themselves nicely to curling up with a good book and reading, reading, reading. Of course, don't forget to get outside and enjoy the snow—if we ever get any that is!

The second half of the year promises to be even more eventful than the first. I look forward to five more months of learning and laughter. Let's make 2012 our best year yet!

Sincerely,
Mr. Casey



Last month, students in Mrs. Marsden's second-grade class visited B-P Intermediate School, where they worked in pairs with Mrs. Magliocca's fourth-grade students to complete snowman-themed activities. Students rotated through seven learning stations, which included decorating snowman cookies, constructing snowmen out of marshmallows and toothpicks, crafting snowmen ornaments, listening while an adult read a snowmen book and enjoying iced hot chocolate. Special thanks to all of our parent volunteers who assisted with the learning stations!

For the latest information
on everything happening
at Broadalbin-Perth,
visit our district website:

www.bpcsd.org

Intermediate School Happenings

- ★ Jan. 16 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; No School
- ★ Jan. 23 – End of Second Marking Period
- ★ Jan. 26 – Report Cards Sent Home
- ★ Jan. 31 – Professional Development Half Day;
Students Dismissed at 11:20 a.m.



Student Stars

Congratulations to the following students, who were named Student Stars for the month of December:

Travis Burchell
 Dante Calderone
 Carlye Clifford
 Gavin Duesler
 Preston Famiglietti
 Madison Ferguson
 Rhys Floyd
 Paris Galpin
 Ryan Gardner
 John Hayes
 Zy-dain Jackson
 Adrianna Kenyon
 Gavin LaPlante
 Gabrielle Larsen
 Richard Mancini
 Jackson Rogers
 Kiaira Tomlinson
 Ryan Zippiere

Six Flags/Six-Hour Reading Program

Even though summer is months away, you can earn some summer fun right now!

Just read a total of six hours between now and February 13 to get a Six Flags Great Escape ticket. Tally up your minutes of reading on the "Reading Log Sheet." Yes, you are allowed to "double dip" and count your Reading Bingo time along with Six Flags.

Happy reading!

Class News & Notes

Mrs. Magliocca's Fourth-Grade Class

Happy New Year B-P Community! We are glad to get 2012 off to a great start!

We worked diligently during December in anticipation of an exciting ending to the month. We enjoyed our learning stations with Mrs. Marsden's second-grade class. It was a wonderful experience for my fourth-graders to take a guiding role teaming up with second-grade peers. I appreciated the extra effort by my students and the magnificent response of the awesome second-graders. Both classes truly grew from this experience!



Thanks to the parents from both classrooms who assisted in implementing the learning stations. I would also like to extend special thanks to Mrs. Marsden and her student teacher Mrs. Newhart, Miss Kelley for such great coverage of this event for our B-P website and most of all Mr. Tomlinson for his continued support and for allowing students to be transported between each building.

Look for our Winter Wonderland details in the next intermediate school newsletter. We will have great pictures and an article illustrating our exciting project-based learning event. Happy New Year!

Mrs. Fiorillo's Fourth-Grade Class

Mrs. Fiorillo's fourth-grade class will be reading books and articles about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The class wants to learn all they can about Dr. King as they prepare for a presentation they will give about him during the Community Connections on Wednesday, Jan. 18. Please join us as we celebrate his life and what he stood for.

In social studies, the students are learning about the American Revolution and the settlement of the 13 colonies as the beginning of the United States of America. In science, they're learning about energy, work and machines. They are learning the difference between a first class lever, a second class lever and a third class lever. They're realizing that we use machines and exert energy in everything we do in our daily lives.

We're only half way through the school year, but we've learned so much already about the world we live in.

The Swatt Team

The Swatt Team Little Theater Group recently presented "Early Explorers, the Musical" for a packed house. Students learned about Columbus, Verrazano, Cartier, Champlain and Hudson through multiple sources, such as text, poetry and songs. Then, they created everything necessary for a performance. Some worked on an accurate timeline, while others created a ship. Some students developed, typed and printed a playbill, while others worked on costumes, props and scenery. The performance was such a huge success that the group is "taking it on the road" so that other classrooms can learn and enjoy.



Igniting a love for reading: Kids who read are more likely to succeed

The following story is excerpted from the B-P Parent Corner. Read more stories about issues facing parents and children of all ages at www.bpcsd.org, under the Community tab.

There's no denying it: Learning to read well at a young age pays dividends for a lifetime. According to a report by the National Center for Educational Statistics, students who read for pleasure every day score almost 10 percent higher on proficiency tests than children who don't. Parents can play a vital role in instilling a love of reading in your children that lasts a lifetime. You'll not only help them succeed in the long-run, but you might rediscover a book you loved from your own childhood. The following ideas come from educators and parents who are working to raise passionate readers.

Read aloud to your child every day

Schedule a time every day with your child to share an adventure in the world of a book. It's important to be relaxed and unhurried, so aim for a time when you're fully available without distractions whenever possible. If you have more than one child, try to spend time reading with each one separately because their interests will likely be different. Busy schedules can still be flexible to allow time for reading. Consider bringing a bag of books along when you and your children run errands. You can read together (out loud or to yourselves) while waiting for an appointment, and your children can explore the books you've brought while you are busy with other things.

Read it right

Take time to read the story well. If you're not into it or you think a story is boring, your child can tell. Don't be afraid to use different voices for characters or inject emotion into the story to bring out the drama. If you read without enthusiasm, your child will lose interest. If reading becomes a chore or even a source of stress, it will have the opposite effect you're looking for. Pay attention to your pace, and pause regularly to give your child time to take in the story and apply his imagination to the people and places. It's a good idea to ask questions as you go, and to check in with your child to make sure he's following the plot. Talking about the story as you go can help keep young readers engaged and can encourage them to formulate ideas about the story.

RESOURCES

Books

- ★ *Raising Bookworms* by Emma Walton Hamilton
- ★ *Story Time Crafts for Kids Volume 1* by Holly Adler
- ★ *How to Get Your Child to Love Reading: For Ravenous and Reluctant Readers Alike* by Esmé Raji Codell
- ★ *Reading Magic: Why Reading Aloud to Our Children Will Change Their Lives Forever* by Mem Fox
- ★ *The Read-Aloud Handbook* by Jim Trelease
- ★ *Hey! Listen to This: Stories to Read Aloud* by Jim Trelease
- ★ *Understanding Reading: A Psycholinguistic Analysis of Reading and 39 Clues* available at www.scholastic.com

Websites

- ★ Reading for Beginners - <http://www.education.com/topic/learning-to-read/>
- ★ Reading is Fundamental - <http://www.rif.org/parents/>
- ★ Help My Child Read - <http://www.ed.gov/parents/read/resources/edpicks.jhtml>
- ★ Reading Tips for Parents - www2.ed.gov/parents/read/resources/readingtips/part_pg2.html#2

Create a home library with many different types of written materials.

It's important to surround your child with interesting reading material she can pick up when the mood strikes. And starting a home library shows your child how important reading is to you. It's not difficult to find used books at yard sales, flea markets, and book stores—including copies of the classics. When you're building a home library, make sure you pick out a place you both like to store the books, and teach your child to respect and care for them.

Walk the talk

If your child sees you and the rest of your family reading regularly—for enjoyment, for information or to perform a task (such as following a recipe or programming the DVD player from instructions)



read to succeed

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—you are a positive role model for your children and are showing them how reading has real-life usefulness.

Take advantage of the weather

Spark your child's interests by choosing books that fit the day. If it's warm outside, it's the perfect time for you and your child to read under a tree or next to a pond. If it's cold and snowy, try *Stella, Queen of Snow* by Marie-Louise Gay. And for cloudy and rainy days, try *The Rainy Day* by Anna Milbourne or *City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau.

Tap into your child's interests

When you read aloud to your child, choose a book you both like. If it seems boring, ask your child if he would prefer to hear a different story. The same applies for choosing books your child plans to read alone. When your child is developing her own preferences for reading materials (finding favorite authors, genres and styles), you should allow and encourage her to tell you what books she wants to read. Recently, many parents credit the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series by Jeff Kinney for turning their children into eager readers. The Internet is packed with stories about children who were frustrated readers until they started reading these books.

Your librarian can help suggest other topical books that might interest your child, or ask for ideas from other parents and children, or a clerk in the children's section of your local bookstore.

Although many of the books children read are fiction, non-fiction books can also be a terrific way for them to learn what is meaningful to them.

Websites such as Kidsreads.com provide excellent resources for learning more about literary classics – from *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* to *Harry Potter*. Topical books on pirates, snowboarding, jungle animals and more can be just the thing to hold the interest of younger children who are interested in specific topics but who haven't yet developed independent reading skills.

Get interactive

If your child likes to spend time on the computer,

Tools for Schools

Please help us earn FREE educational equipment! If you have not signed up yet or if you enrolled your Price Chopper AdvantEdge Card prior to August of 2010, please sign up now! Go to www.pricechopper.com to register your AdvantEdge Card for our school. Our school code is 15683.

If you do not have Internet access, please send a note to the office with your name and your 10-digit Price Chopper card number and we will register for you. Once you are registered and until March 10, 2012, every time you use your Price Chopper AdvantEdge Card we will get credit towards free educational equipment.

Thank you for supporting our school.

you can help make it an educational experience. Innovative series such as “39 Clues” (a series of adventure books combining reading, gaming and card collecting), published by Scholastic, are becoming valuable resources for parents who are trying to instill a love of reading in their children.

Try movies, plays and books on tape

If you are leaving on a road trip or vacation, you may want to see what tapes are available from your local library. Many books for children have been turned into movies (think *Ramona and Beezus* or *Charlotte's Web*, for example) or recorded as books on tape—available at school and local libraries. Likewise, check out performances by high school or community theater groups. Family event listings in the local newspaper often include information about these types of performances. With reluctant readers, stories in these forms may be just what they need to spark an interest in picking up the book (or tackling the next in a series). This can also be a fun way for children who have already read the book to experience the story from a different perspective.

For more resources and fun ways to encourage reading, please visit www.bpcsd.org and click on the Community tab to access the B-P Parent Corner.