

Charter Chatter

December 17, 2008

Happy Holidays!

Issue #16

You'll Always be a Bronco

Briar Meadow is so fortunate to have such wonderful teachers who teach our children everyday. However we know that people can not stay forever. So we are wishing Mrs. Stacey Collier well as she moves to another city. We are so sad to see her go but we know that other children are going to be extra lucky to have her as their 3rd grade teacher. Thank you Mrs. Collier for giving of yourself and for ensuring that our children learn at the highest levels possible. The faculty, staff, and students will truly miss you and we know in our hearts that you will miss us too. Mrs. Collier, we want you to remember that you will always be a Briar Meadow Bronco! The new first grade teacher is Ms. Laura Diaz. She is a graduate of the University of Houston, was student teacher of the year, and has taught at Briar Grove Elementary School. The students have gotten to know her and she is working diligently to build meaningful relationships with each of them. Ms. Diaz's official start date is January 5, 2009.

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Happy Holidays!

The Briar Meadow Faculty & Staff would like to wish you and your family a Happy Holiday season for 2008. May this season be filled with lots of joy, love, and peace as we reflect upon the happy times that we have had this year. May the New Year bring prosperity and health and may all of your holiday dreams and wishes come true!

Ice Cream Social w/ Superintendent

Dr. Abelardo Saavedra and his team served the Briar Meadow faculty and staff on Tuesday for a year of academic excellence. The ice cream was great and the fellowship was even greater. Briar Meadow would like to thank the superintendent for taking the time out of his busy schedule to recognize the hard work of the Briar Meadow teachers.

Holiday Sing – Along with Mitzi

On Thursday, December 18th Mitzi will have a SING ALONG for our Pre-K through 5th Grade students. The celebration will begin promptly at 9:30 and will last for one hour. Hope to see you there!



Important Dates to Remember

12/19 Last day of school for 2008

12/19 Early Dismissal (12:35 Pk-4 & 12:45 5-8)

WINTER HOLIDAY (December 22nd – January 5th)

***ALL STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL ON JANUARY 6, 2009!**

5th Graders at Camp

Briar Meadow Fifth Grade Students are at camp this week! They're excited and the camp leaders have a fun-filled week prepared for the students. Mrs. Carlson and Mrs. Dugey have accompanied the students on this trip. The students left on Monday, December 08, 2008 and will be returning on Thursday, December 11th around 2 in the afternoon.

Morning Drop Off

Morning drop off begins at 7:15. Parents please remember to drop your child(ren) off at the back of the school near the blue pavilion. The front parking is for our Pre-K parents only. All parents are welcomed to park in the parking lot to the left of the school if you would like to walk your child in. Also, don't forget morning reading begins at 7:30.

December Calendar of Events

- 11th Third Grade Field Trip to MFA
- 12th PTO Teacher/Staff Appreciation Luncheon
- 12th Winter Dance 6th 7th & 8th Grade
Permission Slips required
- 12th Early Dismissal (12:35 Pk-4 & 12:45 5-8)
- 16th Dr. Saavedra's Ice Cream Party for our
Middle School Teachers & Staff
- 18th Shared Decision Making Committee
Meeting (4:00 – 5:00)
- 19th Last day of school for 2008
- 19th Early Dismissal (12:35 Pk-4 & 12:45 5-8)

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Gift Card Pick-Up

Pick up your gift card order in the school lobby on December 17th – 18th from 3:00 – 4:00. You can also purchase gift cards that are on hand during these times or by contacting Penne Graham at penne.graham@us.ibm.com. We have several to choose from such as Gap, Starbucks, iTunes, Bath & Body Works and others! Thanks for your continued support.

Recycling Cans in Cafeteria

Briar Meadow students are excited about recycling this year. In efforts to continue our recycling projects, recycling bins have been placed in the cafeteria. The cans are red & black and should be used for recycling only. PLEASE DO NOT PUT TRASH IN THE RECYCLING BINS! The recycling bins are for juices pouches, yogurt cups, and/or energy bar wrappers. Thanks for your support in this project.

Middle School Finals

The finals for all middle school classes are coming up this week and next. The tests have been spread out across several days so students will not have to take more than one test per day. Please sit down with your son/daughter tonight and find out when each test is scheduled. Suggestions that may help students perform better include:

- Studying from information provided by teacher and class notes in each content notebook.
 - Getting a good night's sleep and eating breakfast before taking the test.
 - Limiting television, internet access and phone time throughout finals week.
 - Encouraging students to ask teachers any questions they may have NOW about the finals.
- Thanks in advance for helping our students to be more successful when taking their finals!

