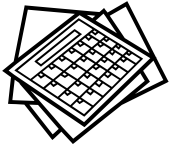


Brandon's Buzz

Brandon Elementary School—Martin Public Schools

January 2012



Important Dates

January 19—PTO Meeting—6pm—Elementary Library

January 20—End of 1st Semester—1/2 Day

Dismissal is at 11:30 (lunch will not be served)

February 4—PTO Father/Daughter Dance *(more info soon)*

February 13-16—Scholastic Book Fair

February 15 and 16—Parent/Teacher Conferences

February 17 and 20 —NO SCHOOL—Mid-Winter Break

February 22— 3rd—6th grade go to K-Wings Game

March 6—NO SCHOOL (11th Grade must report for the MME Test)

March 16—Winter Carnival

March 30 and April 2-6—NO SCHOOL—Spring Break

April 24—Academic Showcase 5:30-7:00

Principal's Corner

Dear Brandon Families:

I would like to share some information with you about the new scoring system the Michigan Board of Education has put in place for the MEAP test. You may have read in a local newspaper or heard on a news report that the 'cut scores' have changed. What this means is that in order for children to be proficient on the MEAP test—they must score higher than they have in the past. In previous years, students could answer as few as 40% of the questions correctly to be considered proficient. Under the new scoring system, students have to correctly answer a much high percentage of questions in order to be considered proficient.

MEAP cut scores separate test takers into various categories—Advanced, Proficient, Partially Proficient, and Not Proficient. Michigan's previous cut scores for the MEAP were set at a very basic level. Raising the cut scores will give Michigan parents and students a much better sense of whether they are adequately prepared for the next step in their education. The new cut scores represent a significantly higher standard for student achievement and are intended to more accurately reflect a students progress toward college and career readiness.

Like school districts across the state, our MEAP scores are expected to decline when publicly released. While we anticipate an initial drop in the number of students reported as 'proficient', we are confident this change will be temporary due to ongoing school improvement efforts and student support. If your child is reported as 'not proficient', it does not mean that he or she isn't gaining academic skills or knowledge expected for his or her grade level. It means that on the day of the test, he or she was not *yet* proficient on the material being tested. The MEAP test is only one of several measures used in our district throughout the school year to insure that students are making academic progress.

For this first year, our goal is to be above the state average of percent proficient in all testing areas. We will then continue to strive to improve our scores each year with an end goal of having at least 80% of our students considered proficient on the MEAP tests. In order to do this, we will examine our curriculum and focus our professional development efforts on enhancing our abilities to rise to the challenge presented with these recent changes.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. If you have any questions, please call or stop in!

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

November

Mrs. Andrews - Sky Belka
Mrs. Jonker - Malakai VanVolkinburg
Mrs. Anderson - Makala Goddard
Mrs. Steffes - Karter Ribble
Mrs. Lenhart - Jera Strasser
Mrs. Chamberlain - David Swisher
Mrs. Hurdelbrink - Chloe Billington
Mrs. Glessner - Tori Theel
Mrs. Brenner - Teagan Curry
Mr. Oliver - Justin Williams
Mr. Blauvelt - Kaeleea DeWit
Mrs. Nelson - Elaina Elliston
Mrs. Vader - Jakob Layton
Mr. English - Mallory Andrews
Mr. Robrahn - Zackery Alzate
Ms. Wonderly - Owen Jonker
Mr. Noaeill - Rayne Torres
Mrs. Boyle - Jacob Pierce
Ms. Seiss - Bentley Velhuis-Roche

December

Mrs. Andrews - Nicholas Jager
Mrs. Jonker - Camila Hernandez
Mrs. Anderson - Elliot Long
Mrs. Steffes - Adam Brehm
Mrs. Lenhart - Angel Ruiz
Mrs. Chamberlain - Kaden Ribble
Mrs. Hurdelbrink - Zachary Bailey
Mrs. Glessner - Megan Alley
Mrs. Brenner - Jordan Hale
Mr. Oliver - Jordyn Seiser
Mr. Blauvelt - Jonathan Tuinstra
Mrs. Nelson - Sydney Eckman
Mrs. Vader - Damian Wyatt
Mr. English - Marie Bradfield
Mr. Robrahn - Katelynn Hardin
Ms. Wonderly - Braley Neale
Mr. Noaeill - Olivia Harrison
Mrs. Boyle - Ana VandenToorn
Ms. Seiss - Keeghan Wahlers



Winter Weather Is Here

Please remember that we will continue to have outside recess even though the weather is colder. All of our children are expected to go outside and enjoy the fresh air. Please be sure your child comes to school with all the necessary clothing to keep warm outside (boots, snowpants, hats, gloves or mittens, and warm coats).

Thank you so much!