

## Meadowlark April Newsletter

### Important Dates

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> – PIR Day – no school for students – teachers receive training

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> – 6pm PTA Spring Carnival

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> – 3:30 Coffee with the Principal

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> – 7pm PTA General meeting – nomination of board

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> – Spirit Day

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> – Beach day at lunch

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> – Walk for Diabetes

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> – Early out – noon dismissal for teacher training

21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> Vacation – no school

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> – Blood Drive at school 1:45-6pm

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> – intermediate midterms

### Respect and Manners

**Respect and Manners are an important part of the Meadowlark culture. We appreciate your support of respect and manners at home as well as at school so please take some time review this month's list with your children.**

Use/accept sincere apologies      Treat others ...you want to be treated

Expect the best from yourself      Practice good sportsmanship

### Class placement

As the end of the year approaches, we are already making plans for the 2011-2012 school year. Part of this preparation is class placement of students.

The teachers and I will spend many hours discussing these placements. We will analyze and attempt to balance next year's classes based on achievement levels, assessment data, peer separation & support, gender ratio, leaders & followers,

personality types and many other factors. You can see that the students are NOT assigned by random, alphabetic or haphazard order.

Some parents may have a particular request or comments regarding next year's placement for their child. While I may not be able to honor all requests, I am happy to have your input. If you have information that you would like to provide me concerning placement for next year, please obtain a parental input form from the office or you may download one from the school's website ([www.billings.k12.mt.us/Meadowlark](http://www.billings.k12.mt.us/Meadowlark)). I am also happy to meet with you regarding any information that you may have. Please return parental input forms or schedule a meeting **prior to May 28th**.

#### **Attn: Parents of 6th grade students**

State Law requires that all students must have had their second MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) immunizations and DT (diphtheria and tetanus) immunizations **when they begin 7th grade**. Please make an appointment with your physician **today** or go to Riverstone Health Clinic for these immunizations as soon as possible. Unfortunately, if documentation is not received, your child **will not be allowed to attend classes the first day of school on August 24, 2011**. Turn documentation of these immunizations into your elementary or middle school secretary.

### **Kindergarten Registration**

We have begun to register kindergarten students for the 2011-12 school year at this time. Early registration helps us prepare for class size, staffing and materials for next year.

#### **Option I:**

- If you have a computer, you may go to [http://www.billingschools.org/?page=parents\\_p](http://www.billingschools.org/?page=parents_p)
- Click on the link that says "How do I enroll my child in school?"
- Download a form, complete it and return it to the office at school.

#### **Option II:**

- Stop by Meadowlark School and pick up an enrollment form, to be completed, signed and returned to the school. The school office is during closed during the summer so please return in prior to June 4th.

Bring a birth certificate indicating your child will be five years old by September 10th and the updated immunization record. Please pass the word!

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER - April 2011

**BULLYING:** Bully Behavior occurs when there is deliberate intent to harm, dominate, inflict pain, exclude or otherwise cause distress to the person being targeted. The person who bullies purposefully misuses his/her power (size, age, popularity, confidence, verbal ability) usually repeatedly. The balance of power between the bully and target is NOT EQUAL.

### **Communication: The Key to Prevent Bullying**

Your child may be hesitant to talk about his or her experience with bullying issues out of fear of being bullied for 'tattling,' or because of their participation in the bullying behaviors. The chances of preventing bullying are best when open lines of communication exist between parents, their children, and the school staff. Below are a few basic tips you can do with your child that can help address bullying issues.

- **Talk about bullying.** Talk about what bullying means, the different kinds of bullying, and why kids bully. Explain to your child that he or she can help stop bullying by telling you or another adult when they see or experience bullying of any kind. For information to help you talk about this, look for on-line resources or call your school.
- **Keep the lines of communication open.** Since the majority of school-related bullying takes place at school, the best thing you can do is keep the lines of communication open with your child. Ask about their school life and happenings with their friends. Being informed on your child's life at school is crucial to their academic, emotional, and social development.
- **Talk to your child's school.** Do you know their policy on bullying? Do you know what bullying prevention efforts are in place? If not, talk with your school's staff to become educated on school-wide prevention programs and policies.

Parents and students have the best opportunity for a meaningful communication to prevent bullying. Communication like other learned skills takes practice to be open and honest with each other. Problems will not go away by simply ignoring them. So, take some time to visit with your child, his/her teacher, and trusted adults who can help create a safe, supportive home and school environment. As always, please feel free to contact Mr. Croff or Mr. Besel at Meadowlark school (406) 281-6213 with any concerns or questions.

As always, please let us know if you have any comments, questions or feedback to help make Meadowlark a better place.

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