

January 2012

Barnstable Intermediate School

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Barnstable Intermediate School

Principal's Newsletter

ENRICHMENT CLUSTERS: A VALUED TRADITION AT BIS

If it's Wednesday, it must be Enrichment Cluster Day at Barnstable Intermediate School!

With funding generously awarded to BIS by the Barnstable Education Foundation: Patricia Grenier Core Values Grant, and time donated by our community volunteers and parents, over 774 students are participating in their cluster selection from among 71 choices!

Small group activities give our students the chance to meet community partners, teachers and staff who are sharing their hobbies, specialties, and/or passions with them. Cluster days have the WOW factor from "A" to (almost) "Z." Among the exciting activities are: African drumming, American Sign Language, Anime, Art-Works, Basic Drawing, CPR/First Aid, Chess, Crocheting, Clay Workshops, Beading, Creative Cupcakes, "What Floats Your Boat" with the Cape Cod Maritime Museum, Crafts using duct tape or dollar bills, Jazz History, Jazz Percussion, Yoga Fitness, Hip Hop...You name it, BIS probably has it!

Cluster Days will continue through February 15, 2012, when our students showcase their amazing talents and projects...

Thanks to everyone who is offering their time and talents.

Mark Your Calendar:

January 24—School Council Meeting at 3:15 PM in the main office

January 31—Half day for students. Dismissal at 11 AM.

February 3—Second trimester mid-term reports go home

February 6—Monday late bus begins

Looking Ahead:

February 20-24—No school. Winter Recess

Save the Dates:

April 12—PTO Spaghetti Dinner/Concert

May 17—French Night

May 24—Spring Concert

GEOGRAPHY BEE 2012

Congratulations to Michael B, our school Geography Bee champion!

On January 9, 2012, Barnstable Intermediate School participated in the 24th Annual National Geographic Bee. Our school-wide Preliminary Round featured 18 team-based champions answering questions on United States Geography, the Continents, Physical Geography, World Geography, and Cultural Geography. Questions varied from relatively easy ("Which state is located in New England—Rhode Island or Virginia?") to quite challenging ("Which country is *not* in the same time zone as the United Kingdom—Egypt, Mauritania, or Liberia?"). Our 18 Preliminary Round contestants were: Maxwell J., John B., Jack M., Samantha S., Michael B., Ameer A., Caleb S., Molly A., Samuel T., Kyle G., Travis S., Jack G., Gustavo S., Nicole D., Stephen R., Jacob P., Nicholas D., and Richard H.

Despite the difficulty of some of the questions in the Preliminary Round, nine students progressed to the Final Competition stage: Maxwell J., Michael B., Ameer A., Samuel T., Travis S., Stephen R., Jacob P., Nicholas D., and Richard H. In this stage, students answered a variety of types of questions until the number of contestants was reduced to two.

Michael B. and Maxwell J. advanced to the Championship Round and continued to amaze the audience with their correct answers to all three Championship Round questions. A tiebreaker question was required to determine our school champion. Michael B., a 6th grader on Team 6G, now has a chance to compete statewide on March 30th, and to qualify for the national final round of the 2012 National Geographic Bee held on Thursday, May 24th, in Washington, DC.

HALF DAY FOR STUDENTS ON JANUARY 31, 2012

Teacher In-Service—Parent Pick up at 10:55 AM and bus dismissal will be at 11:00 AM.

SPRING 2012 MCAS TIME FRAMES

March 20—ELA Composition, Sessions A and B (7th grade only)

March 21—April 2 ELA Reading Comprehension (two sessions for each grade)

May 7—May 22 Mathematics (two sessions for each grade)

NEW CLUBS FORMED THIS WINTER

Festival Band Club members will be chosen based on instrumentation needs and auditions. This select band will travel to King Philip Regional High School in Wrentham and participate in the MICCA (Massachusetts Instrumental and Choral Conductors Association) Festival in late March. The band will be adjudicated and will receive a clinic with the judges. There will be no cost to the students for participating in the festival. More information can be found at this website: <http://www.miccamusic.org/concert.htm> Meets on Mondays. Ms. Danielle Schroeter, Advisor

Conversational French Club will begin February 6, 2012. Parlez-vous francais? Join us after school for some French conversation in a fun and relaxed atmosphere. We'll use French movies, books, and music as a jumping off point to practice our French without worrying about getting it right. It's the effort that will make our inner French voice come alive! Will meet on Mondays. Ms. Elizabeth Hayes, Advisor

Broadcasting Club will meet weekly and explore the world of broadcasting. Students will form a "BIS News Team" and will develop and film stories to share with their peers and ultimately Channel 22. Students will be assisted by BHS broadcasting/media students as they learn how to develop, film, edit, and produce their own news stories. Begins after February school vacation and will meet on Wednesdays. Ms. Kim White, Advisor

Yoga Club is held every Thursday after school from 2:40 - 4:00 P.M. Permission slips were available in November to interested sixth and seventh graders and it started Dec. 1, 2011 and is running until March 1, 2012. This club is a beginning yoga class which focuses on the practice of relaxation, breathe, balance and stretches- a balance of mind, body and spirit. Yoga mats are provided. Loose, comfortable clothing is required. Ms. Janice Hannah, Advisor
Contact the school office or the advisor for more information.

LATE BUSES ADDED ON MONDAYS

Effective on Monday, February 6, 2012 late buses will run on Mondays at 4:15 PM, as well as Wednesdays at 4:15 PM.

M.A.R.C. TEAMS UP WITH BIS PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE POSITIVE SCHOOL CLIMATE

In December, Peace Day Assemblies were held for both 6th grade and 7th grade students. BIS was fortunate to have two presentations from the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center (M.A.R.C.) which is located at Bridgewater State College, under the direction of Dr. Elizabeth Englander, an expert in the field. The presentation to all of our 6th graders was on the topic of bullying, bystander awareness and the importance of empathy and inclusion. Our 7th grade girls received a presentation entitled "Girls and Cyber bullying." This presentation focused on the research which Dr. Elizabeth Englander conducted through M.A.R.C. in 2010 studying the types of cyber bullying which were occurring. The study found that 80% of girls surveyed report that they have been teased or harassed on-line or through text messages. Since this behavior seems to be prevalent, it was also found that this victimization is seen as "normal" and not unusual. The students learned the negative effects these behaviors, such as rumor spreading on line, can have on others, as well as the importance of not going online when angry at a friend. The 7th grade boys participated in a question and answer session with Barnstable High School Resource Officer, Reid Hall. Officer Hall focused on bullying in the schools, community expectations, and discussed his role as a School Resource Officer.

Another M.A.R.C. program, held at Bridgewater State College, will train our Peer Leaders on February 3rd. The students are trained by M.A.R.C. facilitators and then bring back to their school student-conceived and student-led activities and programs to encourage a bullying-free climate. Additionally, representatives from our School Climate Committee (Ms. Meg Drude, Personal Development Director (K-7), Ms. Bethany Miller, Social Worker, and Ms. Karen Stonely, Principal) will attend a M.A.R.C. preview of their new curriculum on Cyberskills on March 7 at Bridgewater State College. For further information on M.A.R.C. and helpful resources, go to www.marccenter.org.