

# PIONEER POST



March 2010

323-4220/ fax: 323-4225      [www.bismarckschools.org](http://www.bismarckschools.org)

Mission Statement: "We develop caring, responsible, high level learners."



**We Value . .**

**Truthfulness and Honesty**

**"We learn to live honestly and strive to be trustworthy"**



**Pioneer SAFARI**

Pioneer will be hosting a SAFARI on March 18<sup>th</sup> for students and their families. There will be fun for everyone including speakers for the parents, games and activities for the kids and door prizes including a Wii game system, gift cards and gift baskets.

Registration and passport pick-up will start at 6:15. Please come and join in the fun!



## **MARCH IS MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH!**

We are very excited and proud of the music opportunities here at our school. The success we enjoy is a direct reflection of the students who participate in our music education curriculum. It is a particular delight to have your child as a part of our musical family.

There are many benefits that result from the study of music. The aesthetic joys of music making cannot be duplicated in any other art form; it is a communication unto itself. It also has been found that the study of music strengthens the mind's learning potential. The students who are part of a music program tend to achieve at higher levels in all areas of school. Simply put: Music makes better students and music makes students better.

Ongoing research continues to offer proof that young people who participate in their school music programs achieve higher test scores than those students who are not involved in music. This kind of information clearly and positively marks the future of our young musicians.

Thank you for your patronage to the arts and to our music program. You help us make a positive difference. Please help us celebrate "Music in Our Schools" month by asking your child(ren) to tell you about their favorite instrument activity or sing one of their favorite songs learned in music class; or have them play a favorite piece from strings or band. You can also help to ensure many more "Music in Our Schools" celebrations by letting our administrators and school board know how much you appreciate the music education our children in Bismarck Public Schools receive.

Let's celebrate!

## **FOURTH GRADE MUSIC PROGRAM**

The 4th grade classes of Pioneer Elementary will present their music program, "Pirates!" on Thursday, March 4, 2010 at 7:00pm in the Pioneer Gym. This musical follows the swashbuckling adventures of a ship's stowaway as he tries to become a full-blown, scurvy pirate!

Feel free to contact Mrs. Augustadt with any questions. Thank you for supporting your child's music education! We'll see you there!

## **FIRST GRADE MUSIC PROGRAM**

The 1<sup>st</sup> grade classes of Pioneer Elementary will present their music program, "Lemonade" on Thursday, March 25, 2010 at 7:00pm in the Pioneer Gym. This musical introduces us to a cast of nursery rhyme characters that are feeling a little "sour". Only Mother Goose can help show them the bright side of things and how to turn those bad times into good.

Feel free to contact Mrs. Augustadt with any questions. Thank you for supporting your child's music education! We'll see you there!

## Dates to Remember

**March 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:00 – 8:00

**March 4<sup>th</sup>** - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Music Program – 7:00pm

**March 8<sup>th</sup>** - PTO Meeting – 6:30pm

**March 12<sup>th</sup>** – Spring Break, no school

**March 15<sup>th</sup>** – Staff Development, no school

**March 16<sup>th</sup>** – Teacher Requests due

**March 18<sup>th</sup>** – SAFARI Family Care Night – 6:15pm

**March 19<sup>th</sup>** – End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Nine Weeks

**March 25<sup>th</sup>** – 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Music Program – 7:00

**March 31<sup>st</sup>** – Lifetouch Picture Day

**April 1<sup>st</sup>** – Camp Adventure Registrations due

## Child Passenger Safety Month

Car crashes are the number one reason children are injured or killed in North Dakota. February is Child Passenger Safety Month and we are taking time to teach everyone the importance of protecting your children in the car in case you are in an accident. The 2 best ways to protect your children in the car are ensuring they wear their seatbelts and ride in the backseat.

### Seat Belts

They work best when used correctly. Lap belts should fit across the thighs, and shoulder belts should fit nice and snug across the chest. If the seat belt won't stay on your child's thighs or across his/her chest during travel, a booster seat is required. Kids also require booster seats if they weigh less than 80 pounds and are shorter than 4'9". Most require a booster until they are 8 years old.

### Sitting in the backseat

The backseat is the safest place for children to ride. Airbags in the front seat explode very quickly and are designed to protect adult bodies in a crash. Most car crashes will happen at the front of the car and if children are in the front seat, they are closer to the action and have a greater risk of being injured or killed. All children younger than 13 should ride in the back seat!

Source: ND Department of Health

## NEW: school lunch menus!

Bismarck Public Schools has hired a part-time licensed registered dietitian to, among other things, analyze our school menus. If you go to the district website at [www.bismarckschools.org](http://www.bismarckschools.org) and click Lunch Menus on the left, you will find the elementary lunch menu nutritional analysis already available! This is important for several reasons:

1. It helps us provide the nutrition students need, in accordance with USDA guidelines, so they can focus on learning. The US Dept. of Agriculture requires that each meal include milk, fruit and/or vegetables, bread or bread alternate like pasta, and meat or another protein-rich food like cheese. Calories must be adequate and total fat may not exceed 30 percent over a week with saturated fat less than 10 percent over a week. Menus must meet minimum nutrient requirements for protein, calcium, iron, vitamin A and vitamin C.
2. We will be able to change menu items and try new items more easily with the ability to analyze the choices and see how they work with those USDA guidelines.
3. School nurses will use the carbohydrate information as they work with diabetic students to balance their meal intake with their insulin use.

If you look on the back of the March menu that comes home with your child, you will find an article about this new feature in the Food Services Department. Each month, dietitian Renae Odegaard will write articles on various topics that will appear on the back of the school menus!

## Teacher Requests for 2009-10

If you wish to request a teacher for your child for next year, request forms will be available in the office. Parents may pick up a request form any time after **March 1, 2010**, or you may send a note with your child indicating he/she has your permission to pick up a request form. We will not give one to the student unless we receive a note from the parent.

Carefully consider your reasons for requesting a teacher before completing the request form. Having friends in the same room is not a valid request, nor is it always a good learning situation. If you wish to request a teacher, return the request form by mail or enclose the form in an envelope and return it with your child to the school office by **March 16, 2010**. We will not accept requests over the phone. The request must be in writing and signed. Make your request by the March 16th deadline!

We attempt to create balanced classrooms based on gender, level of performance, and special needs. We will assign students by date received unless we begin to see an imbalance that would impact the quality learning environment we strive to create.

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Folders

The office will be purging 6<sup>th</sup> grade student cumulative folders as we get ready to send them on to the Middle School. All information taken from the folder will be returned to the student/parent. If you do not want these documents, please let the office know. The students will be bringing them home sometime in May.

## Title 1 Parent's Career Night

Are you looking for a better job? Do you want to continue your education? If so, then Career Night is for you. Parents are invited to Jeanette Myhre Elementary, 919 S 112<sup>th</sup> St. on Monday March 22 at 6:30 pm. Speakers from various community agencies such as Bismarck State College, Adult Learning Center, South Central High School, Rehabilitation Consulting and Services and Burleigh County Social Services will be available to provide information that may be helpful to you. Refreshments will be provided. Bring your kids. Free childcare will be provided during the presentation. The event is sponsored by the Bismarck Public Schools Title I Parent Involvement Coordinators. Please feel free to contact [Michelle Vollan](#), Pioneer Elementary Parent Involvement Coordinator, at 323-4014 with any questions. This event is for parents of students who receive Title 1 services only.

## MUSIC CERTIFICATES

The following students were recipients of Music Award Certificates for January-February. Certificates are awarded to those students who demonstrate a strong work ethic for personal best and positive leadership. Categories for certificates include: Magical Mover, Magnificent Mallets, Marvelous Manners, Radical Recorder Player, and Super Singer.

*Lexie Bosch- Magnificent Mallets-Kindergarten*  
*Zachery Ehrmantraut- Magnificent Mallets-Kindergarten*  
*Jacob Felt- Magical Mover- Kindergarten*  
*Nash Johnson- Super Singer- First Grade*  
*Kirsten Bird Horse - Super Singer- First Grade*  
*Sierra Knoll- Super Singer- First Grade*  
*Joran Bergan-Super Singer- First Grade*  
*Riley Jose- Super Singer- First Grade*

The Bismarck Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, religion, age or disability in admission or access to or treatment or employment in its programs and activities. To obtain this material in an alternate format, or if you need access, or auxiliary services such as interpreters, large print, brailled or recorded material, please contact Cindy at 701-323-4220, or the TTY Relay Service at 711 or 1-800-366-6888 two weeks prior to the event.

## Important Census Info!

"It's In Our Hands" is the motto for the 2010 U.S. Census. It encourages civic responsibility and calls on all students and parents to view the census as a portrait of themselves, their households and their communities.

### Why is it important?

Over the next 10 years, North Dakota could forfeit \$10,000 in funding for every person not counted (\$1,000 per year)! Those funds could be used to enhance schools and public health care, make roads and highways safer, improve emergency services, serve needy populations, and do energy research.

### What can you do?

Be counted! Look for your Census form in the mail sometime in March. **It only takes 10 minutes to complete the 10 questions** about your name, age, gender, race, ethnicity, relationship and whether you own or rent your home. Beginning in May, Census takers will visit homes that did not return forms by mail to obtain the necessary information. NOTE: If you have children living away at college, they will be counted there. Snowbirds should fill out the form delivered to their ND address, not their temporary address!

### What is important for our BPS families to know?

People living here on April 1, whether a citizen or not, are using our services, schools and roads, so they need to be counted here. Personal data provided to the Census Bureau is completely confidential. The data may not be shared with other agencies, including law enforcement, immigration or the IRS. Census employees can be subject to fines, jail time or both if they disclose ANY information that can identify a household. So no matter what the family status is on April 1 (homeless, doubled up, living in a motel, etc.), they should still complete the Census form, because that's how ND will get more funding for assistance programs!

Census Day is April 1<sup>st</sup>. BE SURE TO BE COUNTED!

*Paul Johnson, Superintendent*

### **BOX TOP REMINDER**

**PLEASE:**

**CHECK EXPIRATION DATES**

**10 BOX TOPS PER SHEET** (spaces are shown)

**DO NOT PUT CAMPBELLS SOUP LABELS ON BOX TOP SHEETS**

**THANK YOU!**

## Camp Adventure Reminder

Applications for Camp Adventure are due on April 1st. Camp Adventure runs from June 7 through July 20 (NO SCHOOL on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and July 5<sup>th</sup>). Late applications will be put on a waiting list and will only be accepted if another pre-registered student drops out. So please get your application in before the deadline. The Camp Adventure registration form is also available on the Bismarck Public Schools' website at

<http://www.bismarckschools.org>.

## PTO Corner

By: Lisa Kyes

- PTO is planning an April Family Fun night at the school. There will be pizza and games, etc. Volunteers are needed! Please contact [klkyes@bis.midco.net](mailto:klkyes@bis.midco.net) if you are interested in volunteering.
- Riser-Raiser! We are doing a “no sale” fundraiser (our last of the year) to raise needed funds for new risers that are used for children’s performances. The old risers are very old and are in dire need of replacement. We’re asking for donations to be made to the Risers fund—PTO will match funds raised. Our goal is for the student body to raise \$3000, and we’ll match the rest! The idea behind a “no sale” fundraiser is that it is donations only. Everyone can donate what they can, and nobody has to sell anything!
- If you shop at Central Market, please save your receipts. “We Care” is a program from Central Market which gives our school 1% of the value of our receipts saved. Please ask your cashier to stamp your receipt with a “WE CARE” sticker. Turn in receipts at the office.
- Thanks again for all your involvement in the Barnes & Noble fundraiser. We raised over \$1200, and bought 95 new books for the library! You can go to Pioneer School’s website for a list of the titles purchased for the library.
- If you are unable to attend monthly PTO meetings (held monthly at 6:30 PM every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday) you can always check Pioneer School’s website for a copy of last month’s meeting minutes.
- Volunteers will be needed during the day to assist with Lifetouch Photo Day on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Please contact [jed@brachjohnsonagency.com](mailto:jed@brachjohnsonagency.com) for more details, and if you are able to volunteer.

## Dads Can Make a Difference

Many dads feel out of place at school, but that shouldn’t be the case. Father involvement is linked to better learning, discipline, and enjoyment of school!

Getting involved doesn’t have to be complicated. It’s as simple as having lunch with your child, attending an event, or volunteering when you can. Support the school and your child and be proud that you’re making a difference.

Source: “Men Working: A How-to-Guide on Promoting Father Involvement,” National PTA, [www.pta.org/Father\\_Involvement\\_How\\_To\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.pta.org/Father_Involvement_How_To_Guide.pdf).

## 5<sup>TH</sup> AND 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE BAND STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN FESTIVAL

Congratulations to the following band students for their performances at the Bismarck Public Schools Elementary/Middle School Solo and Ensemble Festival, held on Saturday, February 27! You represented Pioneer well!

**Abigail Aukland**- French Horn Solo  
**Aby Schmid**- Clarinet Solo  
**Christian Klein**- Saxophone Solo  
**Megan Fields**- Flute Duet  
**Abby Fontenot**- Flute Duet



## Teacher of Year award

The Chamber of Commerce sponsors the Outstanding Teacher Award to recognize educators in Bismarck/Mandan for their accomplishments in the teaching field. The Chamber is looking for teachers who are dedicated to their students and the profession, demonstrate a spirit of classroom innovativeness, have the respect of their students, peers and the staff, and spend at least 51% of their working time directed to student instruction.

To nominate a teacher, email [spaulson@bismarckmandan.com](mailto:spaulson@bismarckmandan.com) or call 223-5660 for a form. Nominations must be received at The Chamber by Friday, March 19.

## Great Web Site for Moms of Young Children!

Check out [www.babycenter.com](http://www.babycenter.com). It contains developmental information about babies, toddlers, preschoolers and big kids. You can read relevant articles about health checkups and booster seats, download coupons, blog with other moms, look at baby names, etc. Here is a sample of a recent article called *How to raise a child who loves math*.

Put away the flashcards/worksheets and check your negative feelings about math at the door. Introduce math to your child with as much enthusiasm and as little pressure as possible. The more you enjoy numbers and show your child how math is part of everyday life, the more motivated he will be to learn. Here are 7 activities to instill a love of math in your child!

1. **Be positive:** don’t let your own struggles with math influence your child.
2. **Use math daily:** measure a room, pay bills, measure ingredients; show your child how you use math. Point out how pharmacists, builders, astronauts use math, too.
3. **Broaden math boundaries:** Math is also about knowing shapes (triangles, squares), noticing patterns (1-2-3, 1-2 what comes next), and making comparisons (is this rock bigger or smaller than the other one).
4. **Ask questions:** think out loud in front of your child when calculating things at the store or at home.
5. **Play math games:** cards and other games are fun to play together and strengthen skills.
6. **Let your child use a calculator:** kids love gadgets; it will keep her occupied and be an introduction to this math tool.
7. **Try math learning software:** ask the teacher for recommendations for software that reinforces what he is learning at school.

## List of Books Purchased From the Bookfair Fundraiser at Barnes & Noble in December

I Love You Book	Penguins and Antarctica	Ghost Class
Ancient Greece	Knights of the Castles	Never Do Anything, Ever
My Brother Abe	Pirates	Into the Volcano
Legend of Lyla the Loves	Rain Forests	Oggie Cooder, Party Animal
Abe Lincoln Remembers	Ancient Greece and the Olympics	Dragon's Fat Cat
It's Earth Day	American Revolution	Dragon Gets By
Amazing Sharks	Pilgrims	Ghost in the Machine
Great Bear Lake	Tsunamis and Other Natural	Rose
The Mount Rushmore Calamity	Disasters	Pursuit of Poetry
Great Egyptian Grave Robbery	Polar Bears and the Arctic	More Bones
Flat Stanley's Worldwide	Sea Monsters	Hooper Humperdink... Not Him
Adventures	All Alone in the Universe	If Pigs Could Fly
Quiet in the Garden	Ten Apples Up On Top	My Brother Martin
Fourth Apprentice	Fish Out of Water	Worth
Guide to Chicago's Murals	King's Stilts	Great Gilly Hopkins
Tumtum and Nutmeg	On Beyond Zebra!	Beatrix Potter Treasury
Hero's Guide to Deadly Dragons	Marvin K Mooney Will you Please	Let's Reuse!
Indiana Jones and the Temple of	Go Now!	Oceans and Seas
Doom	Please Try to Remember the First of	Visitor for Bear
8th Garfield Treasury	Oct.	Off to School, Baby Duck
Magician's Elephant	Hunches in Bunches	Kids' Guide to Paper Airplanes
Painless Poetry	Ghost Class	Kids' Guide to Pranks, Tricks
Science Chapters	Never Do Anything, Ever	In the Rain with Baby Duck
Before John Was a Jazz Giant	Into the Volcano	How Much Can A Bare Bear Bear?
Once Upon a Crime	Skin Like Milk, Hair of Silk	Indiana Jones and the Golden Fleece
Problem Child	Zap! How to Draw Fantastic	(2 volumes)
Fairy Tale Detectives	Science-Fiction	Indiana Jones and the Crystal Skull (4
Unusual Suspects	Left Behind: Kids' Box Set	volumes)
50 Ways to Save the Earth	Granite	Tacky and the Winter Games
Everafter War	Ocean Seasons	Insiders Oceans
Magic and Other Misdemeanors	Cartooning for Kids	Sent
Tales from the Hood	Great Big Treasury of Beatrix Potter	Miles to Go
Peaches on the Beaches	Frantastic Voyage	Kids' Guide to Classic Games
Fran with Four Brains		Frandidate

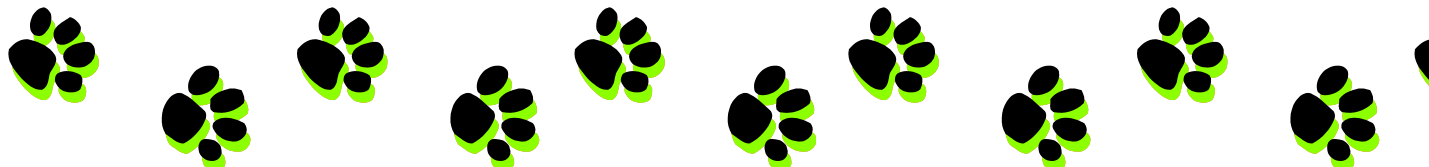
## Promote Telling the Truth

Children face plenty of situations that tempt them to lie. For example, they have homework, but it feels overwhelming. ("I don't have any homework.") Or they misbehave, and the consequences are daunting. (I didn't do it.") The key is to encourage honesty—not trap kids in lies.

Start by being honest yourself. If you know what your child did, say so. "I spoke with your teacher about what happened in math today. I'd like to hear the story from you. Take some time to think about, and then we'll talk." (If you're still worried he'll lie, you can present what you were told.)

Although occasional lying is normal for children, help your child feel as comfortable as possible with telling the truth. Your calm reaction—no matter what your child says—will show that honesty is a great policy.

Source: Thomas W. Phelan, Ph.D., 1-2-3 Magic: Effective Discipline for Children 2-12, ISBN: 1-889140-16-3 (Parent Magic Inc., [www.parentingmagic.com](http://www.parentingmagic.com)).



## From Title 1 Reading—Reading Month

It has been exciting to see the motivation the students have shared to read and put their minutes on their medals. Here is an excellent example of what 20 minutes of reading everyday will do for all of our students here at Pioneer Elementary.

Student A reads 20 minutes five nights of every week;  
Student B reads only 4 minutes a night...or not at all!

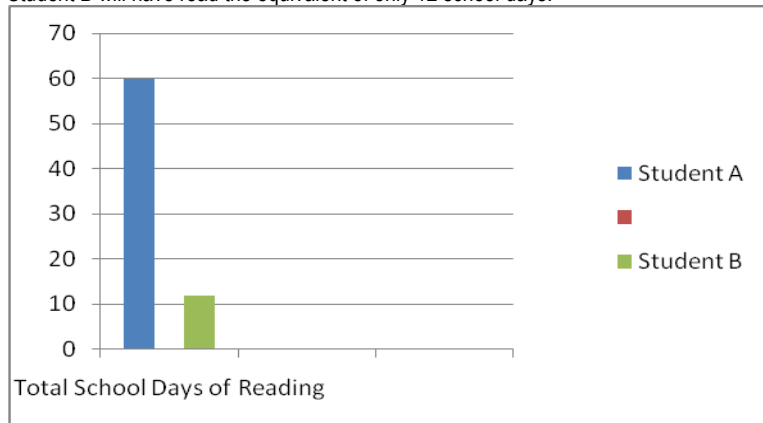
Step 1: Multiply minutes a night x 5 times each week.  
Student A reads 20 min. x 5 times a week = 100 mins./week  
Student B reads 4 minutes x 5 times a week = 20 minutes

Step 2: Multiply minutes a week x 4 weeks each month.  
Student A reads 400 minutes a month.  
Student B reads 80 minutes a month.

Step 3: Multiply minutes a month x 9 months/school year  
Student A reads 3600 min. in a school year.  
Student B reads 720 min. in a school year.

Student A practices reading the equivalent of ten whole school days a year.  
Student B gets the equivalent of only two school days of reading practice.

By the end of 6th grade if Student A and Student B maintain these same reading habits,  
Student A will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days  
Student B will have read the equivalent of only 12 school days.



One would expect the gap of information retained will have widened considerably and so, undoubtedly, will school performance. How do you think Student B will feel about him/herself as a student?

Some questions to ponder:

*Which student would you expect to read better?*

*Which student would you expect to know more?*

*Which student would you expect to write better?*

\*Therefore...30 minutes daily = 900 hours

30 minutes weekly = 130 hours

Less than 30 minutes weekly = 60 hours

*Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary?*

*Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?*

Guess you now understand why reading daily is so very important. Why not have family night reading? It is great to just shut off the television for 20-30 minutes and read... and share.

(Source: U.S. Dept. of Education, America Reads Challenge. (1999) "Start Early, Finish Strong: How to Help Every Child Become a Reader." Washington, D.C.

