

Brooklawn Middle School Winter 2021 Newsletter

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Ms. Carly Stout, Principal

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Message from the Principal...

Snowballs and snowpeople and sleigh riding... oh my!! We certainly got hit with a lot of snow at the start of this month. I hope that everyone made it safely through that storm and that our students got a chance to get outside and be kids! For those of you who enjoy the winter and the snow, you must be loving this. I am definitely more of a spring/summer person myself.

We had our very first virtual service day in January and it was a hit. Members of our student council worked hard to set up that event and had fun polls to participate in, so that students could interact with each other. We spent some quality time together chatting as well. Thank you to all of our students and teachers who participated. It is always good to give back to the community. I encourage you to check our website and the student council website, so that your children can attend some of these online events. We had some good laughs and these events help us to stay connected.

Can you believe it? We are in the process of beginning scheduling and setting up for the next school year already. Time sure does fly! As we move into the second semester of school, we cannot thank you enough for doing your part at home and ensuring that your student is logged in to their google meets with their cameras on. The best way to keep everyone engaged and check on student progress is to make sure the camera is on. Please remember that we are here to assist you. Do not hesitate to reach out to your student's counselor or teachers.

Stay well,
Carly Stout
Principal

Winter Reading Challenge



We are now in the heart of our Winter Reading Challenge. Take a ride past Brooklawn Middle School and check out our media center windows. Every time a student enters into this challenge, we put their name on a cup and put it up on the window.

Each book they read enters them into the challenge. We currently have almost 600 entries into this challenge already. Every book counts! Special thanks to our PTSA for their support and donating prizes. Don't forget, you gotta be in it to win it!



Do you want to borrow a book from our media center?

Click the link below to request a book title. If you are an all remote student or this is not your week to attend, we will have this book ready for you to pick up at the main office. Remember to return the books when you are done. We have a collection box located outside of the main office. Walk up and drop your book off! Get busy reading!

[Media Center Book Request](#)



@BrooklawnMS

Supporting Your Personal Wellness!



Parenting has its challenges even during the best of times. During a pandemic? With hybrid instruction? And limited opportunities to venture out of your home? Now, that's really increasing the parental stress load.

A recent article by Micera Keels in *Educational Leadership* (October 2020) highlights six categories of self-care:

Physical Self-Care: Taking care of your body by getting enough sleep, eating healthy foods, exercising, and seeing a health care provider regularly.

Emotional Self-Care: Surrounding yourself with positive supports, journaling, talking about your feelings to manage your emotions in a healthy way.

Social Self-Care: Engaging with the world around you through friendships, celebrating milestones, and belonging to groups and communities.

Cognitive Self-Care: Improving your mind through reading, writing, and learning new things.

Financial Self-Care: Responsibly saving and spending money, establishing plans for the financial future.

Spiritual Self-Care: Taking part in activities that bring perspective to your life, such as prayer, meditation, interacting with nature, or attending a house of worship.

Most of us work so hard to take care of others that we wear ourselves out. We burn our candle at both ends. Honor your own personal needs to attending to these critical categories of self-care. You cannot be your best self, best parent, best employee if personal wellness is not a priority.

Need special assistance? Our school guidance counselors are able to share resources with you. Additionally, <https://www.performcarenj.org/index.aspx> is the link to PerformCare, NJ Children's System of Care and contains supports for parents and caregivers.



The Builders Club at BMS is happy to announce our February themed event: Thankful Hearts!!!

During these difficult times, sending a thoughtful message/note of thanks to someone will certainly brighten their day.

How can your student participate? Students can:

- Write a note of thanks, appreciation, inspirational words of encouragement on a paper shaped heart. Messages can be sent to any school staff member.
- You can hand deliver your own heart or bring them to BMS and the Builders Club can distribute them for you. Just drop it off at the main office.

Students can check their student activities google classroom for more information!



Celebrating the 100th Day of School and Student Resiliency...

A Message from BMS Social Worker Leah Salkin:

The 100th day of our 2020-2021 school year is this week on February 11th! Although this year has posed unprecedented challenges, students' resiliency and efforts have not gone unnoticed. Please take a moment to congratulate your child(ren) in navigating the first 100 days of school with the utmost strength and bravery. We recognize that while, yes, learning has indeed looked "different" over the past 100 days, students are succeeding every day whether they may know so or not.

The quote, "*students are not falling behind, they are surviving a pandemic*" hits home. Yes, learning looks different. Yes, middle school is hard enough. Yes, with social distancing guidelines, students may be struggling to feel connected socially....

However, reframing how we may define student success is essential right now. Focusing on students' assets and their resiliency throughout remote learning proves that while, yes, you may feel your child(ren) is/are "falling behind," it is important to be mindful that, as a community, we are in the midst of surviving a pandemic. Students are learning adaptation skills; new ways of learning and connecting with peers, ways to overcome obstacles and most of all... being an awesome group of resilient youth!

As a school community, we value your partnership at home and know that the past 100

days have certainly not been easy, Here's to celebrating the first 100 days - but most of all, honoring not only our students' resiliency, but our resiliency as a community. We got this!!!

DATES TO REMEMBER

Upcoming Important Dates

February 5th - February 12th Student's and parent enter schedule selections for next year in the parent portal.

February 11th: Last day to place 8th grade yearbook parent ads and baby pictures.

February 12th and 15th : No School President's Day

March 2nd: Virtual PTSA Meeting 7:30 pm

Stay tuned for our next service night, which we hope to have scheduled in March.



Brooklawn Middle School has clubs and activities that students can get involved in. Click the link below to see all of our current clubs and when they meet virtually.

[Clubs and Activities](#)

[Student Activities Link](#)