

# Brooks' Bulletin



September 2006

Thanks to everyone who attended our curriculum nights. As the students begin a new school year, it is important for teachers to begin the communication process with you. This was a wonderful opportunity for them to share a lot of information about each classroom.

## Nurse's News

Do your kids eat breakfast? Many reports say 40% of kids don't. Here are some good reasons why kids should eat breakfast. The state of Minnesota Breakfast Study showed that students who ate breakfast had a general increase in math grades and reading scores, increased student attention, reduced nurse visits, and improved student behaviors.

Breakfast also helps children meet their daily nutritional needs, keep their weight under control, have lower cholesterol levels, attend school more frequently, and make fewer trips to the school nurse complaining of tummy aches.

So why aren't all kids eating breakfast each day? Most likely it is because your family is rushed in the morning. You don't have to make homemade waffles or scrambled eggs. There are quick and easy breakfasts that you can give your kids. According to the ADA, some good choices are-

- Ready to eat cereal with milk
- Toasted bagel with cheese
- Yogurt
- Toasted waffle topped with fruit & yogurt
- Fruit smoothie
- Peanut butter on whole wheat toast

So, try to start your child's day on the right track with a healthy breakfast.

## MAPS Testing

As many of you know, for the past few years, we have administered the Terra Nova tests as our local district assessment. Well, this year the district is beginning a new partnership with the Northwest Evaluation Association which developed Measures of

Academic Progress (MAP), a computerized adaptive assessment that will provide us with information to improve teaching and learning. Teachers will be able to use the growth and achievement data from MAP tests to develop targeted instructional strategies and to plan school improvement. These tests are an assessment for learning and will be given in the area of reading, language usage, and mathematics. They are state-aligned, too.

These tests are called adaptive testing in that they adjust to a student's performance level. Results more accurately reflect the skills and concepts the individual students need to learn for academic growth.

Students take the tests directly on the computer. MAP tests are adaptive, meaning they dynamically adjust to each student's performance level. As a student answers a test question on a computer, the program immediately analyzes the student's response, and based on

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## Dates to Remember

September 12– Band sign up, 4:30-7:30 PM

September 20– PTO meeting at 7:00 PM

September 21– Picture Day

September 22– Early Release, Dismissal at 12:50 PM

September 28– Bd. Of Ed. Meeting, 7:00 PM, LZHS, Small Theater

Oct. 3– Market Day, 3-4:00 pick-up

Oct. 3– MAPS Testing begins, Grades 2-5

Oct. 11– Vision and Hearing Screening