



# J.W. Smith All Star Bulletin April 2-6



Hello! You may have heard on the radio or in thread in the news paper that April is Child Abuse Prevention month. On behalf of Bemidji Area School social workers we would like to recognize that life is sometimes very stressful and where there is stress, it can be more difficult to cope with and manage daily needs. We would like to reach out to parents and offer direction to resources, supports and services. If you or someone you know is struggling to find the right support for you and your family, here are a few agencies we are fortunate to have in our community:

- Evergreen Youth and Family Services, offering parent coaching and crisis respite care for children age 9 and up. School linked mental health services are available right in your child's school.
- Ruby's Pantry, food support for only \$20 the third Wednesday of each month.
- Back Pack Buddies, extra snacks that can go home with your child on the weekends.
- Community Food Shelf for monthly food support.
- Parent Support Outreach Program with Beltrami County.

If you would like more information on any of these, please contact the school and ask to speak with the building social worker. We are all a part of the same team and healthy families make healthy learners.

## MINNESOTA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENTS TESTING

The Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments, also known as the MCA's, will be administered to all Minnesota children in **grades 3, 4 and 5**. The reading portion will be given starting the week of **April 2** and math will be given starting the week of **April 16**.

It is VERY important that students are in school well rested and have a good breakfast. Students have been working really hard on their test taking skills so being in attendance every day will help your child be prepared for the tests. From these tests, your child will receive a score that reflects his/her level of progress.

Students that come late will NOT be allowed into the computer lab once a testing session has begun. The student will then need to make up that section of the test.

Please see the other side for helpful test taking tips!

## Looking Ahead . . . . .

|             |                                   |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| April 2-27  | MCA Testing                       |
| April 13    | 5th grade visits BSU              |
| May 16      | 4th & 5th Grade Track & Field     |
| May 21 & 22 | 4th Grade to Deep Portage         |
| May 25      | 5th grade graduation at 9:00 a.m. |

## IDEA FOR THE WEEK . . .

Show your children that you love them...it gives them a sense of security, belonging and support. Give each child your undivided attention when he or she is trying to communicate with you. Find some special time to spend together with your family as well as individually with each child.

*Over, Please*

# ***DO A "GRAND" JOB!!***

Good luck on this year's Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA-III) reading and math tests! You have worked very hard this school year and have learned a lot, so we think you will do a great job. If all of our All Stars try their best and work as hard as last year, our school will get super scores again. We found some tips for students taking the MCA. Perhaps you will find some of them helpful.

## **Test-Taking Tips for Students**

- Put yourself to bed early enough so you get enough sleep--eight hours is a good goal.
- Get up early enough so you have time to eat a healthy breakfast and dress comfortably.
- Take your time and read carefully. You may read the stories over again as many times as you need to. Don't rush to get done. Just do your best work. We will make sure you have the time you need to do your best.
- Read carefully. Look for key words in the questions. Watch for words such as "all", "always", "never", "only", "not", etc. Be sure you understand what is being asked.
- Never leave an answer empty. Eliminate (get rid of) choices you know are wrong. Your first choice is often correct. Think carefully about each choice.
- If you can't solve a problem, you can go to the next one and return to the skipped problem later (but be sure you do!). **Never leave a question empty!**
- When you are answering a question **be sure to answer all the parts of the question!**
- **It is important to show your work.** *Sometimes one question might have **several steps** to do in order to get the right answer.* It helps to put a check mark on the parts of the question, so you don't forget to do something. After you are finished with your answer, reread the question to make sure you have done everything.
- Check your answer to see if it **makes sense**. **Work it out on paper.** Double, even triple check your work.
- Stay focused on the test, even if other students finish early. Don't rush and take your time!

We are a team, so it is important that you help others test well by being quiet. This is a good way for your class to get a great class score. Do your best job!

**We are feeling confident that you will do a great job this year.** Relax, and just do your best. Tell yourself, "I can do it!" We are proud of our J.W. Smith All Stars.

**GO ALL STARS!!!**

***BEST WISHES!***

**Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Green, Mrs. Nielsen, Mrs. Neis  
The Title I Staff  
J.W. Smith Teachers & Paras**