

# BRETON DOWNS Elementary School



~ Mrs. Caroline Breault-Cannon ~ Principal ~ ccannon@egrps.org ~

October 19, 2010

Dear Breton Downs Families,

The start of the school year has gone by incredibly fast and it is hard to believe the leaves are already falling off the trees and we are starting to bundle up for the cold weather ahead. This week we are finishing the MEAP assessment and students have already started talking about Halloween costumes anticipating their classroom parties next week. Teachers have begun preparation for parent teacher conferences which will take place in early November and are excited to share all the learning that has occurred.

As you are aware, our new Trouble-Free Playground Initiative is under way and we are seeing many positive changes during recess as a result. Breton Downs students have more choices on the playground this year than they have had in the past. Staff is delighted to see students having fun playing soccer, football, and kickball, as well as new games such as the hula hoops, Grab It, West African Jumping, and Keep Away. The playground is full of active children participating in games at all levels. Modifications to the games have been made since the beginning of the school year and we will continue to make adjustments as necessary. For example, in some cases we have increased the amount of players to five per team to ensure that more students are able to participate and have added more playground equipment to increase the number of game options. Staff members have also been available to assist students in forming their smaller teams as they adjust to the new format. Additionally, there have been discussions between students and staff focused on the new playground initiative. Staff continues to receive feedback and make adjustments as deemed appropriate.

While the decision to implement the Trouble-Free Playground Initiative may have seemed hurried, please know that this new initiative was researched by staff over the past two years and implemented as a result of on-going playground concerns which were having an impact in the classroom. I do apologize and acknowledge that it could have been introduced in stages which may have alleviated many concerns. Since the implementation of our program, we have seen a decrease in the number of behavior incidents on our playground and an increase in the number of students participating.

I am hoping that our Breton Downs families will see the positive aspects of the program and we can shift our energy and focus to the learning environment in both the classroom and the playground. Teachers are excited to be teaching your children using our new science kits from the Battle Creek Math and Science Center, the Social Studies Alive! curriculum, and our new literacy assessment system from Fountas & Pinnell. As always, the Breton Downs staff is committed to providing a quality education and a safe and healthy learning environment for all of our students. We appreciate your continued support in this learning journey and I look forward to the rest of the school year.

Sincerely,

Caroline Breault-Cannon  
Principal