



October 1, 2009 * * * Issue 1, 2009-10

Create

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Responsive Classroom at Bailey's

Over the last year, many teachers at Bailey's have been trained in an approach called Responsive Classroom. The *Responsive Classroom* approach, developed by the Northeast Foundation for Children, is a widely used intervention designed to integrate social and academic learning, improve teachers' ability to manage their classrooms, and create a positive classroom climate. What stands out about this approach is that it is designed to enhance children's social skills while simultaneously improving their academic achievement.

Our use of Responsive Classroom began with our involvement in the Responsive Classroom Efficacy Study, a collaborative educational research study with the University of Virginia that began in February, 2008. This study, funded by the U.S. Department of Education, is designed to understand the effectiveness of a Social and Emotional Learning Intervention called the *Responsive Classroom*® approach. The study includes 25 schools in the Fairfax County Public Schools and examines teachers' use of the *Responsive Classroom* approach in third, fourth and fifth grade classrooms.

In addition to these upper grade classrooms that are in the study, teachers across the other grade levels and in other specialty areas have been receiving training. You may hear your child come home talking about Morning Meeting, one component of Responsive Classroom in which the teacher leads a daily meeting in the morning for students to practice social and academic skills while building classroom community. Other components of Responsive Classroom involve teaching students specific routines, helping them understand more explicitly how to use materials, and giving them some choice in their lessons.

Responsive Classroom has shown positive impacts on both social skills and learning and we are already seeing signs of that at Bailey's. On Wednesday, October 14th, I will hold the first Parent-Principal Coffee of the year at 8:00-9:00 a.m. and our focus will be on understanding more about Responsive Classroom. I invite you to join me.

Please send any comments on this article to Jay McClain at jay.mcclain@fcps.edu

**Bailey's Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences * * * Fairfax County Public Schools
6111 Knollwood Drive, Falls Church, VA 22041**

**Administrative Staff: Principal Jay McClain, Assistant Principals Heather Boyd and Laura Tapper,
Administrator Hallie Dillon, Administrator Intern Carol Padgett**

Phone: 703-575-6800 * * * Fax: 703-575-6897 * * * Website: www.fcps.edu/BaileysES/index.htm

Tiger Tales

Important dates

October 12: Columbus Day holiday, No School
October 14: PTA meeting, 7pm
October 15: Picture Day for all students
October 20: Family Book Fair Night, 5:30- 7pm

PTA NEWS

SCHOOL INFORMATION

DR. DALE VISITS BAILEY'S

On Monday, September 28th, Dr. Dale visited Bailey's to see our teaching and learning in action. He was touring a few schools in our part of the county and wanted to stop by to see Bailey's. He visited our arts, science, immersion, and preschool classes as he toured the school. This visit should be helpful in informing him about our programs and needs as we approach the new budget season.

ATTENDANCE

Please be sure to call the attendance line any time your child will be absent. The phone line is available 24/7 to take your message. Call **703 575-6845**, and say your child's name, reason for the absence, and teacher or grade of child.

Extended Absences:

If at any point you face the need to take extended travel, it is critical that you notify the school ahead of time. Absence from school can have a significant impact on learning and we need to discuss the absence with you ahead of time. Please contact Kathy Lipp-Farr if you are facing this situation. 703-575-6844.

If there are urgent announcements for the school community, they will be made through FCPS Keep in Touch and Bailey's School Messenger telephone call-out system.

BOOK FAIR

The book fair Family Night will be on Tuesday, October 20, 5:30 pm-7 pm, in the library. All families are encouraged to come and shop.

Thursday Folder Volunteers Needed!

If you are available to help on one or more Wednesday afternoons or Thursday mornings please contact Ginny at 703-575-6811 or Virginia.Gionfriddo@fcps.edu Thank you!
Even an hour of your time is appreciated!!

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

October 2, 2009 at 6:30pm there will be an ice cream social in the cafeteria. Everyone is welcome to come.

ATTENTION PARENTS OF STUDENTS WHO ATTEND SACC AT BAILEY'S OR ANOTHER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

The SACC staff expects your child to attend on his or her scheduled days unless you notify them. **Any time there is a change in your schedule and your child will not attend SACC, please notify the SACC office** (of the school where your child attends SACC) to inform them your child will not be coming that day. Bailey's SACC telephone number is 703-575-6937.

BAILEY'S AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM, ASE

The program will begin for most classes on October 5th. Please be aware of your child's class schedule and commitment. If you have any questions you may notify Trisch Aust at trisch.aust@verizon.net or 703 671 8836.

GIFT WRAP SALES ARE DUE OCT. 2