



Bonnie Brae Elementary School

Bonnie Brae Star

Volume IV, Issue VII I

April 28, 2009

We dare, dream see and do.

5420 Sideburn Road
Fairfax, Virginia 22032

703-321-3900 Office
703-321-3910 Clinic
703-321-3939 Attendance

*You count on us; we count
on you!*



Flip Flops

For safety reasons we
ask that children do
NOT wear flip flops to
school.



Dear Parents,

As we begin the fourth quarter, surprisingly, the teachers, specialists and the administration are already looking forward to next year. Before school closes, we begin planning for next year by making tentative class groupings of the students we believe will be returning in the fall. Our goal is to have each class heterogeneously mixed with students of different abilities, levels of achievement, learning styles, and behaviors. In addition, we look to balance our classes by ethnic background and gender. We also take into consideration how best to meet the needs and coordinate the schedules of our students receiving ESOL and special education services.

In order to achieve this goal, teachers are asked to provide information about their students in a number of categories; written language, reading, and math achievement; work habits; peer relations; medical concerns (if there are any); and if students are receiving any special education services or additional support from a specialist.

Over the summer, many changes occur in our student population: families move into and out of our boundaries; childcare arrangements change resulting in moves in or out of our school; enrollment changes result in the addition (or reduction) of teaching staff; staff make changes in schools or grade level assignments.

As students come and go, the careful balance we created in June is invariably upset; therefore, when teachers return in the fall, the first thing we do is look again at our tentative class lists and see if changes need to be made. The teachers and specialists work with administration to make adjustments using our best professional judgment about how the new class will come together. Once this has been done, the final class lists are distributed to teachers and the lists are posted at our Open House. The final stages of this process very often take place up to the wee hours before the Open House.

Although I do not take requests for placement of students with specific teachers, parent input is important and you are certainly welcome to send me a letter with any additional information (strengths, learning style, concerns, etc.) that you believe the administration may not be aware of or that you think would assist us in our placement decisions. Please send your letters to me no later than May 29th so that your information can be considered.

If you have any questions about the process, please don't hesitate to call me or speak with your child's teacher.

Fondly,

Kathy Bruce

Calendar

April 30th 3rd Grade Field Trip

MAY IS NATIONAL PHYSICAL FITNESS MONTH

- May 4– 8 Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 6th, School Nurse Day
- May 7th, 6th Grade Visit to Robinson SS
- May 8th, Kindergarten Opera
9:30-Miller, 10:30 Ms. G
1:15-Martin, 2:30-Kirwan
- May 11-17 Children's Book Week
- May 13th, Rising Kindergarten meet and greet (playground) 5-6 pm
- May 13th, PTO Elections 7:00 pm



MAY (Continued)

- May 13th, Spring Band Concert 7:30PM
- May 15th, BBES Spirit Day
- May 18th, Volunteer Tea 1:30-2:30 pm
- May 18— June 4 SOL Testing
- May 22nd, 2nd Grade Musical 2 pm
- May 25th, Memorial Day Holiday
- May 29th, Fun Fair 5-8pm

JUNE IS NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH

- June 1st, Rising Kindergarten Kickoff/PTO Activity 2:15-3:45
- June 2nd, Strings Concert 7pm
- June 5th, Wacky Tacky Day
- June 11th, 5th Grade Musical 7pm
- June 18th, Last Day of School

GOLD STARS SHINE!

Congratulations to our Gold Star students for
March's Character Trait: Perseverance!

These students were excellent examples of
The Big Three. Our winners are:

Kindergarten: Isabel, Esteban, Brooks, Mayward, Zoey, Elvin, Elise, Naydelin, Isaiah, Marius, Morgan, and Anvar

First Grade: Heros, Cindy, Ana, Jimmy, Logan, Joshua, Danny and William

Second Grade: Adelan, Fernando, Rachel, Daisy, Caleb, Lauren, Hunter, Mikhail and Marcy



Third Grade: Israa, Maisson, Cindy, Bianca, Matias, Christian, Audrey and Adam

Fourth Grade: Dylan, Kristin, Colette, Marian, Jerry, Ruddys and Makayla

Fifth Grade: Connor, Nora, Anna, Adam, Cecelia, Sean and Modi

Sixth Grade: Aron, Brittanie, Riley, Alexandra, Jack, Johnny, Conner, John, Kelly, Victoria and Darren.

The Office of Transportation Services proposes adjustments to the 2009 – 2010 bell schedules that are projected to result in annual savings of more than \$4.6 million.

These adjustments are separate and apart from the proposal to change school start times that the Fairfax County School Board considered and voted to reject in early 2009. The adjustments contained within this document focuses on achieving efficiencies within the current bell structure, which the Fairfax County School Board voted to retain.

Bonnie Brae ES

Current bell schedule 9:00-3:40

Proposed time **8:30-3:10**

Counselor's Corner

By Chris Stunkard & Rebecca Legan

Stefan Mascoll, a specialist from FCPS Safe and Drugfree Youth gave an excellent presentation to 6th grade parents on April 16 about "Cyberbullying." Many parents were very interested in finding websites to inform them of ways to become "technology safe" with their children.

Internet Resources

■ www.Netsmartz.com : Web safety for parents, www.lsafe.org : FCPS web safety for parents, www.webwisekids.org : Web safety for parents, www.youdiligence.com : Monitor various sites, www.Starfall.com : Reading Website, www.Kidzui.com : Web browser for kids, www.PBSKidsplay.org : Online learning tools, www.totlol.com: Youtube for kids

Immunizations for Rising 6th Graders

Sixth graders **cannot** begin school on September 8th without proof of having had the Tdap booster or having had a tetanus-containing vaccine within the past five years. Parents and guardians of current fifth graders should check their children's immunization records and provide the school with proof of meeting the new requirement before the end of this school year.

If your child is 11 years old, he or she should get the Tdap immunization, and documentation should be provided to the school immediately. However, if your child is still 10 years old, he or she may receive the Tdap vaccine approved for 10-year-olds or wait until the 11th birthday to receive the vaccine approved for 11-year-olds. If the 11th birthday is after the first day of school, your child must have a medical exemption from the doctor stating when he or she will receive the Tdap in order to attend school.

Students can receive immunizations required for school at no charge at any Fairfax County Health Department walk-in immunization clinic.

For more information, contact Elizabeth Donaldson, health and home instruction specialist, Student Registration and Student Services, at 571-423-4402 or elizabeth.donaldson@fcps.edu



Rehearsals for the 5th grade musical, PETER PAN, are underway. Parents and guardians of our 5th grade students and/or friends of Bonnie Brae Elementary School who would like to volunteer to help with dance routines, staging, scenery, props, costumes, makeup, etc. would be greatly appreciated.

We have a very talented group of players this year but are on a shoestring time line, as usual. The performances are June 10-11.

If you are interested in helping with PETER PAN, please email MaryGrace.Henry@fcps.edu or call 703-321-3914 for further information and to volunteer.

Thank you very much.

MG HENRY

Music Specialist