



Bonnie Brae Star

Volume III, Issue V

January 29, 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!

Dear Parents,

The close of each quarter is often a time when parents reflect on not only their child's academic progress, but the development of their work habits, social maturity and ability to assume personal responsibility. Your support, encouragement and involvement with school are key to your child's continued growth and success.

As parents, we have busier lifestyles today than ever before. There never seems to be enough time. Even so, at Bonnie Brae, we benefit from tremendous support from our parents. In this month's newsletter I have included some great tips for busy parents found in an issue of "Helping Children Learn". Home and school working together is a winning combination for our student's success. We appreciate your support!

Sincerely,

Kathy Bruce

Principal

REINFORCING LEARNING- I

Busy Parents Can Stay Involved

How do busy parents fit school involvement into their schedules? Experts say that these parent get creative. Here are some ideas to consider:

- ◆ **Rework your schedule.** Try to spend as much time as possible with your child after school and on weekends.
- ◆ **Use daily routines to teach.** When cooking, for example show your child different ways to measure.
- ◆ **Make mornings count.** Discuss school on the drive there. Or chat with the teacher before work.
- ◆ **Eat together.** Breakfast is key, because children learn better when they're nourished. And it's a nice time to preview the day's activities.
- ◆ **Volunteer when you can.** Sell tickets for a show. Make decorations at home. Do whatever works best with your schedule.
- ◆ **Stay in touch with the teacher.** Write quick note. Send an e-mail. If you can't be at a parent-teacher conference, ask to meet at another time.

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News to Note

FEBRUARY IS LOVE A BOOK MONTH

- February 2 - 6, Lolligram Sales
- February 13, Retro Day
- February 16, Presidents Day Holiday
- February 26, Rising 7th Grade Information Night—Robinson SS



Coming Attractions

MARCH IS NUTRITION MONTH

- March 2nd, Favorite Book Character Day
- March 2nd, Read Across America Day
- March 5, **Snow date** for Rising 7th Grade Information Night—Robinson SS
- March 16th –20th BBES Supports Local SPCA Animal Shelter Drive

GOLD STARS SHINE!

Congratulations to our Gold Star students for December! These students were excellent examples of **The Big Three**. Our winners are:

Kindergarten: Sara, Sand, Jake, Jenna, Maize, Kayla, Heel, Isaac

First Grade: Melissa, Steven, Alaska, Ben, Molly, Hermosa

Second Grade: Jimmy, Spencer, Thao, Julian, Nick, Maggie, Kyle, Nick

Third Grade: Noah, Ambika, Lakeisha, Muhammad, Emily, Thomas, Catherine, Jack



Fourth Grade: Jack, Kaylee, Ian, Caroline, Heyab, Victor

Fifth Grade: Jade, Navjot, Austin, Victoria, Monica, Adam, Isabel, Nick, Alexandra

Sixth Grade: Justin, Sara, Sam, Kyle, Nicole, Brian, Dennis, Karen, Matt, Adam

January's Gold Star trait is responsibility. We look forward to announcing our winners!

GT CENTER REFERRAL

Parents/guardians of students not in the second grade screening pool may initiate the GT center screening process by completing and submitting a **Gifted and Talented GT Center Referral form to the local school principal no later than February 6, 2009.** No late referrals will be accepted. Second graders **not** in the pool and all third through seventh graders are screened only by referral. Forms are available on the GT web site and in the Parent Information Packet available at the local school.

R.E.A.C.H. WEEK

BBES is excited to sponsor our first annual R.E.A.C.H. Week activity. Students are challenged to read 300 minutes at home and in school. This program offers a positive approach to fundraising as it supports the educational goals of our school. It is easy, fun and has been very successful in other schools. Our efforts will primarily fund the purchase of Smart Boards for a number of classrooms.

Important Dates To Keep in Mind

Feb. 12th— R.E.A.C.H. Week sponsor letter packet will be sent home.

Feb. 27th—"Home Reading Cards" will be sent home with Children

Feb. 28th—March 6th— R.E.A.C.H. Week reading.

March 6th—R.E.A.C.H. Week Home Reading Cards should be returned to your child's teacher.

Counselor's Corner

Counselors' Corner

During the month of January, the school counselors have been teaching guidance lessons on responsibility. Two students in each class will be recognized for achieving this star. We explained to the students that responsibility meant being dependable by coming to school on time, completing tasks, taking care of belongings and using good judgment.

In Kindergarten through 2nd grade, Mrs. Legan read the Dr. Seuss' book, Horton Hatches the Egg. What fun the students had when they imagined they were responsible for a chicken egg and had to watch over their own egg! (Plastic egg filled with goodies) The 3rd, 4th, and 6th graders played the responsible game by using the tic-tac-toe game or soccer board. The students needed to listen to a "responsible" question and answer correctly in order to play the game. The 5th graders learned how developmentally our responsibilities increase over time according to our ages. Each student had a piece of a puzzle and needed to find the partner with the other piece. And now a question for you...Guess: In what movie, you would hear the statement, "With Power comes a great responsibility?" You got it! Spiderman! Be sure to remind your child about responsibilities at home (chores, getting up on time, homework) and at school (good behavior, following rules and turning in school work).

Chris Stunkard and Rebecca Legan

Small Groups for Kindergarten– 2nd Grade

Kindergarten

"Feeling Good" Group (Self-Esteem)

Group #2 Tuesdays/ Feb 3rd—March 10th

"Smooth Sailing Scotties" Group (Anger Mgt.)

Group #2 Thursdays/Feb. 26th—April 2nd

"Friendship" Group

Group #1 Fridays/Feb. 27th—March 27th

Group #2 Tuesdays/March 17th—April 28th

1st Grade

"Feeling Good" Group (Self-Esteem)

Tuesdays/Feb. 3rd-March 10th

"Friendship" Group

2nd Grade

"Changing Families" (Divorce/Separation)

Thursdays/Feb. 26th –April 2nd

"Feeling Good" (Self-Esteem)

Group #2 Tuesdays/Feb 3rd -March 10th

"Friendship"

Group #1 Fridays/Feb. 27th—March 27th

Group #2 Tuesdays/Mar. 17th –April 28th

Group #3 Thursdays/April 16th—May 21st

MULCH SALE

Robinson High School Class of 2009

All Night Graduation Party Fund Raiser

High quality hardwood, cedar, pine & color. Free delivery*! On Saturday, March 28, 2009.

Order before March 20th

For more information call: Jennifer Lloyd (703) 222-6790

TALKING & LISTENING-2

Are You Like a Computer?

When it comes to homework help, many kids would prefer a computer to their parents. That's because computers:

- Aren't judgmental. They tell children when they're wrong. But they never call kids names, such as "lazy" or "stupid."
- Have ultimate patience. When children make mistakes, computers give them plenty of second chances.
- Don't make comparisons. Computer don't say that one child is better or worse than another.

HOMEWORK-3

Ask About Homework Daily

For many children, simply getting ready to do homework is a tough job. Here's a checklist of questions to ask your child regularly:

- What are your assignments today?
- Do you understand what to do?
- When is the homework due?
- Do you need any special supplies, such as poster board or library books?
- If a project is long-term, what steps will it take to finish it?

MOTIVATING YOUR CHILD-4

Reward Your Child for Reaching Goals

Your child did it! He learned all of his multiplication tables. Or he was named Student of the Week. No matter what the accomplishment, it's important to celebrate. This raises the chances of future success. Here are some fun ideas:

- **Take a picture.** Photograph your child as he achieves a goal. Frame and display the picture. When you replace it, put it in a special photo album.
- **Keep a journal.** Give your child a special "Goals Journal." As he reaches objectives, have him record thoughts and feelings.
- **Plan a special treat.** Go out for ice cream or serve a special dinner. Choose an activity that is meaningful to your child. Invite the whole family along.

PARENT TO PARENT-5

Use Lunch Bag Reminders

Whether your child is learning math facts or spelling words, a little extra review can help. Parent *Judith Sulzmann* suggests turning your child's lunch bag into a flash card. Write the toughest facts on the outside of the sack. Or put a flash card and upbeat note inside.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS-6

Long-Range Projects Can Be Fun When Your Child Does Them in Steps

Q. My child feels overwhelmed by a long-range project. How can I help him enjoy this learning experience?

A. Long-range projects can be fun and rewarding, yet some kids find them intimidating at first. The key is to have your child take three steps well in advance:

1. **Think of a topic** that interests him. List various possibilities, such as people, animals, plants, outer space of electricity.
2. **Focus on one aspect** of that subject. Turn it into a question like one of these:
 - Animals-What is the best way to train a pet to do a trick?
 - Plants-What do plants need to grow?
 - Electricity-How does electricity work?
3. **Get specific.** Help your child think about the exact information he'd like cover. For example:
 - Animals- Do many short training periods work better than longer, less' frequent sessions?
 - Plants-How does water pollution affect plants?
 - Electricity-Can a worn-out battery work?

Once your child has chosen his favorite question, he's ready to find the answer-and enjoy sharing it with others in his class.

PARENT QUIZ-7

Do You Encourage Good Work Habits?

Success in school requires good work habits. Here's a quiz to see if you're helping your child develop them. Give yourself five points for something you always do, zero points for something you never do-or any score in between.

- ___ 1. I give my child organization supplies, such as an assignment book.
- ___ 2. I help my child keep track of due dates on a calendar.
- ___ 3. I have my child double-check work before she hands it in.
- ___ 4. I encourage my child to break large projects into small parts.
- ___ 5. I require my child to stick to a regular homework time.

How did you score? Twenty or above is good. Fifteen to 19 is average. Below 15? Try the ideas in this quiz to make studying easier for your child.