



Bonnie Brae Elementary School

# Bonnie Brae Star

Volume IV, Issue VII

March 24, 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!*



**BONNIE BRAE'S OFFICE  
WILL BE CLOSED FOR  
SPRING VACATION**

**APRIL 6—APRIL 10**

*Dear Parents,*

*I am sure all of you have given much thought to the recent changes in our nation and our community, as have I. I have also spent a considerable amount of time thinking about my own nieces and nephews and my many responsibilities as an important adult in their lives. I recalled a passage I came across some time ago and wanted to share it with you. As parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and teachers, we are the single most important influence in our children's lives. By working together we can provide our children with the support and skills they will need to become the wonderful young adults we know they have the potential to become.*

*Some day when my children are old enough to understand the logic that motivates a parent. I will tell them:*

*I loved you enough to ask where you were going, with whom, and what time you would be home.*

*I loved you enough to insist that you save your money and buy a bike for yourself even though we could afford to buy one for you.*

*I loved you enough to be silent and let you discover that your new best friend was a bully.*

*I loved you enough to make you take a Milky Way back to the drugstore (with a bite out of it) and tell the clerk; "I stole this yesterday and want to pay for it."*

*I loved you enough to stand over you for two hours while you cleaned your room, a job that would have taken me 15 minutes.*

*I loved you enough to let you see anger, disappointment and tears in my eyes. Children must learn that their parents aren't perfect.*

*I loved you enough to let you assume the responsibility for your actions even when the penalties were so harsh they almost broke my heart.*

*But most of all, I loved you enough to say NO when I knew you would hate me for it. Those were the most difficult battles of all. I'm glad I won them, because in the end you won, too.*

*(Author Unknown)*

*Sincerely,*

*Ms. Kathy Bruce*

## News to Note

MARCH 31st, Spring Pictures

APRIL IS BACKPACK SAFETY  
AWARENESS MONTH

- School wide "Mint" Drive to help boost student's mind during SOL's
- April 2nd, Celebrity Day (come dressed as your favorite celebrity)
- April 3rd, Student Holiday
- April 6 –10 Spring Vacation Holiday
- April 12—18 National Library Week
- April 22nd, BBES "Earth Day" School-wide Beautification Day



## Coming Attractions

APRIL Continued:

- April 27th, Kindergarten Orientation 2pm-3pm

MAY IS NATIONAL PHYSICAL AND FITNESS MONTH

- May 4– 8 Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 6th, School Nurse Day
- May 7th, 6th Grade Visit to Robinson SS
- May 11-17 Children's Book Week
- May 15th, BBES Spirit Day
- May 25th, Memorial Day Holiday

## GOLD STARS SHINE!

Congratulations to our Gold Star students for February's Character Trait: Kindness! These students were excellent examples of The Big Three. Our winners are:

**Kindergarten:** Amara, Kale, Joey, Ariana, Marcos, Isabella, Anyeh, Carina

**First Grade:** Sara, Hana, Abby, Sophia, Madeline, Sergio, Damien, Parandis

**Second Grade:** Nicholas, William, Emely, Juan, Eric, Lauren, Mason, Daniel, Marcy

**Third Grade:** Stephanie, Garrett, Grace, Elena, Hannah, Jennifer A., Jennifer C., Gabe

**Fourth Grade:** Natahsa, Duarte, Jonghun, Dil, Brandon, Clarita, Austin, Melanie, Jared

**Fifth Grade:** Andy, Maceo, Luis, Annie, Alyssa, Juan

**Sixth Grade:** Christy, Joey, Milka, Karla, Katie, Mariam, Philip, Dennis, Cedric, Sam



March's Gold Star trait is Perseverance. We look forward to celebrating our winners!

Bonnie Brae Elementary earned the Virginia Board of Education's Excellence Award, the second-tier honor in the Governor's VIP program. To be considered for this award we also had to meet all state and federal accountability benchmarks for at least two consecutive years and make significant progress toward goals for increased student achievement and expanded educational opportunities set by Governor Kaine and the board. Congratulations Bonnie Brae Students, Staff and Parents for receiving the 2009 Board of Education Excellence Award! We are extremely PROUD of YOU!

CONGRATULATIONS BBES Staff for their victory!!!

Thank you all for coming out to our first annual Basketball game. We packed the house with spirit, skill and fun. The BBES staff practiced long and hard to make us proud, shooting hoops and chanting cheers.

We have already been invited back next year for a rematch! Hope you can join us.

## Counselor's Corner

By Chris Stunkard & Rebecca Legan

### *Child Supervision Guidelines*

We know how important it is for your child to feel safe. Before leaving your child unsupervised at home, you need to make sure that your child is able to handle emergency situations, understand acceptable behavior, and have appropriate phone numbers. There must not be any emotional, medical or behavioral problems that affect decision-making skills before you can consider leaving your child home alone.

Fairfax County Department of Family Services provides us with Child Supervision Guidelines:

**7 years and under:** Should not be left alone for any period of time. This may include leaving your children unattended in cars, backyards, and playgrounds. The determining consideration should be the dangers in the environment and the ability of the caretaker to intervene.

**8-10 years:** Should not be left alone for more than 1-1/2 hours and only during the daylight and early evening hours.

**11-12 years:** May be left alone up to 3 hours, but not late at night or in circumstances requiring inappropriate responsibility.

**13-15 years:** May be left unsupervised, but not overnight.

Any questions? You may call the Department of Family Services at (703) 324-7400

## 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 Regis-

Congratulations to our 6th GRADE HONORS CHORUS. They did an excellent job performing on March 19th in Robinson Secondary School's Russell Theatre for a packed house. They rehearsed for five weeks with the middle school chorus teacher, Ms. Bookbinder, and gave a performance with outstanding quality. A good time was had by all and Bonnie Brae Elementary says "THANK YOU!"

Robinson Middle School and High School also performed. We are so fortunate to have a superb CHORAL DEPARTMENT at Robinson for our 6th Graders to take part in next year.

Mrs. Murray and Ms. Henry highly recommend signing up for CHORUS for 7th Grade.