



Bonnie Brae Star

Volume III, Issue II

Kathy Bruce, Principal

Jen Nicolls, Assistant Principal

November 5, 2008

Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

This year over the Thanksgiving holiday, I plan to reflect on the many things I have to be thankful for, as I am sure many of you will be doing. Among those things is the opportunity to come to Bonnie Brae each day and spend time with these amazing children, their awesome teachers and the many wonderful parents and family members in our community. Thank you for the tremendous support you give to us as a staff and to your children. It is through our joint efforts that we are successful in providing a rich and rewarding school experience for all of our students.

Warm wishes for a safe and enjoyable holiday season!

Sincerely ,

Kathy Bruce



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Please Complete the Federal Impact Aid Forms!

Fairfax County has a lot of homes, businesses and government agencies on federal property that are exempt from certain local and state taxes. As a result, FCPS loses a portion of its operating revenues that would normally be generated from these taxes. The Impact Aid program is a federal program designed to assist local school districts that lose property tax revenue due to the presence of tax-exempt federal property.

Your support is needed in obtaining our fair share of Federal Impact Aid funds. The data gathered will be used to support our request for these funds. The information you provide on the form will be treated confidentially.

Additional information on the Impact Aid program is available on the U.S. Department of Education's web site at

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oese/impactaid/index.html>

The forms must be returned as soon as possible. We are anticipating all completed forms to be returned to Bonnie Brae by Friday, November 14th.

100% Participation is required. Thank you for your understanding.

News to Note

- ◆ November 11, 4th Grade Veterans Day Program
- ◆ November 12, PTO Meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ November 13, Fall Picture retakes
- ◆ November 19, 5th & 6th grade parents: Human Growth & Development Parent Information Night, 7 p.m.
- ◆ November 20, Thanksgiving Lunch
- ◆ November 26, 2 hr. early release
- ◆ November 27-28, Thanksgiving Holidays



Coming Attractions

- December 16, PTO Meeting, 7 p.m.
- December 17, Holiday Concert, 7 p.m.
- December 24, 2008 to January 2, 2009, Winter Break
- January 5, 2009, Classes resume
- January 13, Strings Concert
 - January 19, Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
- January 20, Inauguration Day Holiday
- January 23, 2nd grading period ends
- January 26-27, Student Holidays

Health Screening Follow-up

If you received a form letter regarding your child's vision or hearing following our annual health screening, now is the time to return the form to advise us of your follow-up action, and your physician's findings and recommendations. These completed reports are entered on your child's cumulative health record as corrections of the deficiencies and therefore, show your concern for problems which may affect school performance. If you have misplaced the form, a phone call to the clinic (703-321-3910) will suffice. If you need assistance in obtaining care, please contact Catherine VanArsdel, your school public health nurse, at 703-973-8927. Thank you.



Gold Stars Shine!

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

Kindergarten: Ignacio, Hannah, Jared, Emily, Steve, Lily, Cody J. and Cody S.

First Grade: Olivia, John, Zachary J., Sophia, Mohsin, Lucy, Owen and Zachary T.

Second Grade: Clara, Danny, Ian, Brenda, Ethan, Maggie, Mikhail, and Luc

Third Grade: Jimmy, Christine, Jonas,

Nanette, T.K., Rachael, Angela and Gavin

Fourth Grade: Natalie, Diante, Eileen, Adrian, Heather, Tim, NamHyun and Eduardo

Fifth Grade: Nathan, Abby, Carter, Cecelia, Andy, Bushra, Nora and Justin

Sixth Grade: Dana, Sam, Ajari, Ann, Brian, Ana, Alexander, Daniela, Justin, Joey and Brittany

October's Gold Star trait was **self-control**. We look forward to announcing our winners!



From the Art Room



Thanks to everyone for the wonderful donations that have been coming to the art room! Since a fair amount of requested items have already been received, please contact the art teacher before sending in any more donations.

As we are getting further into the school year, a lot of excellent art work has been created by the students here at Bonnie Brae. There is a great need for parent volunteers to assist in "framing" and displaying the artwork around the school. Please contact the art teacher, Jackie Jones at Jacqueline.jones1@fcps.edu, or 703-321-3900, if you are able to help.

Fairfax County Wants Input on Closing the FY2010 Budget Gap

Fairfax County government is projecting a budget deficit of more than \$500 million for FY 2010 (beginning July 1, 2009), which must be addressed through a combination of spending reductions and other strategies. The challenge is to develop a budget with an appropriate level of services that is both sustainable and acceptable to the community.

The Response

Fairfax County government and Fairfax County Public Schools invite you to attend one of the **20 community dialogue sessions** scheduled to gather comments from the public, which will be used as a key factor to help guide the development of criteria for making budget decisions.

The Format

Each community dialogue will consist of presentations by county and school budget staff members followed by facilitated small-group discussions. The final set of community dialogues will be held on **Thursday, November 13:**

- **9:30 a.m. to noon**, at: [Oakton Library](#), [Woodrow Wilson Library](#) (Falls Church), [John Marshall Library](#) (Alexandria), [Burke Centre Library](#)
- **7 to 9:30 p.m.** at: [Mason Governmental Center](#) (Annandale)

A complete list of dates, times, and locations can be found at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/budget/publicmeetings.htm>. Registration is required. For more information, including addresses, or to register, go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget or call 703-324-2391, TTY 711.

If you are unable to attend one of the community dialogue sessions, Fairfax County still wants to hear from you. If you have suggestions or comments, you can call the budget hot line at **703-324-9400** or complete the budget feedback form online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget.

Reminders! Reminders!

Thank you for remembering to:

- Ask your child to show you what is in their backpack each day.
- Help your child to remember to bring in papers as they are due into school.
- Help your child to come to school every day unless they are sick.
- Call the ABENTEE LINE at 703-321-3939 each day your child will be tardy or absent from school. Send in a note when your child returns to school after being absent.
- Do not send invitations into school; unless **all** children in the class are invited to the party.
- Deliver forgotten items to the office (not the classroom).
- Contact the teacher ahead of time if you are planning on visiting your child's classroom.
- Sign in at the office and get a Visitor's Badge every time you are in the school. The safety and security of your children is very important to us. Please do not go anywhere in the school without signing in with the office staff first.
- Come to the office and sign your child out when they are leaving early. An office staff member will contact your child's classroom. Please do not go directly to the classroom to get your child.
- Send a note in with your child if they are doing something different after school (getting picked up instead of riding the bus, going to a friend's house, being picked up by a relative). If you forget the note, please call the school and inform the office staff of the change.
- Do not park along the sidewalk in front of the school. This is a safety zone and needs to be kept clear in the event of an emergency.



BONNIE BRAE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Fairfax, Virginia 22032

Phone: 703-321-3900
<http://www.fcps.edu/BonnieBraeES>

We dare, dream see and do.



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

Thanksgiving Festivities

Don't forget to mark your calendar for the following Thanksgiving festivities:



- November 20, Thanksgiving Luncheon
- November 26, 2 hour early dismissal
- November 27-28, Thanksgiving holidays

Counselor's Corner

During the month of October, the school counselors, Mrs. Legan and Mrs. Stunkard have been busy teaching guidance lessons on self-control. Two students will be recognized in each class for achieving this gold star. Sometimes students may experience times of conflict and need to learn how to handle these situations. These conflicts are based on bullying/harassing behavior or on gender differences which can negatively impact students' learning environment. In an effort to prevent these behaviors from occurring in school, we will be focusing on ways to prevent bullying in Bonnie Brae. During guidance, Mrs. Legan read "The Bandaid Chicken" in kindergarten, made compliment warm fuzzies in 1st grade, taught self-control strategies and the importance of listening in 2nd grade. Mrs. Stunkard presented the "HA, HA SO" strategies in 3rd grade, read and discussed the book, "My Secret Bully" in 4th grade, practiced new bully strategies through role play in 5th grade, and showed a cyberbullying DVD in 6th grade. We hope the students can continue to use these new strategies they have learned in guidance in their daily life.

We encourage you to ask your child about the "self-control" lesson in October. Practice ways to handle bullying situations at home.

Rebecca Legan, (703)321-3932
Chris Stunkard, (703)321-3936

Parent Preview for Fifth and Sixth Grade FLE

Fifth and sixth grade students will soon be taking part in lessons on Human Growth and Development (HGC) as part of the Family Life Education (FLE) Program. These lessons address the many changes that students will experience as they go through puberty and provide them with important information that will help them make positive choices as they grow and change in the next few years. Topics planned for HGD instruction include the physical and emotional changes of puberty; hygiene; the basics of reproduction; a brief introduction to sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV; and a discussion of abstinence from sexual intercourse.

You are invited to attend a meeting to preview the HGD lessons and materials and to talk with school staff about the program. The meeting will be held on November 19, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at Bonnie Brae. All program materials and videotapes will be available for your review at that time.

As you may know, parents who do not wish to have their children participate in Human Growth and Development instruction may choose to opt their children out of any or all of the lessons. Parents of students in grades 5-6 may do this by returning the Opt Out Request form previously sent home. Please return this form by December 1st.

If you have already indicated your desire to opt your child out of the HGD lessons by using the form provided earlier in the school year, you do not need to return this form. Should you opt your child out and then later decide you want your child included in HGD instruction, you must notify your child's teacher in writing before instruction begins.

An alternative instructional program is provided for children who do not take part in HGD instruction, and every effort is made to foster understanding and respect for family choices and to avoid peer pressure for or against participation in the program.