



Bonnie Brae Star

Volume III, Issue I

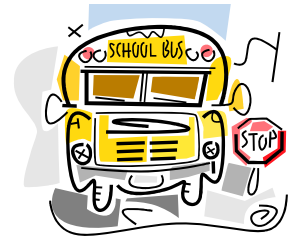
Kathy Bruce, Principal

Jen Nicolls, Assistant Principal

September 23, 2008

Principal's welcome

Welcome to the 2008-09 school year! It was wonderful to have the opportunity to talk with so many of you at the Back-to-School Nights. Your support, enthusiasm and commitment to working alongside the staff and administration in support of your children makes Bonnie Brae a very special place for us all!



It is hard to believe that October is just around the corner. The students have settled into their new classes and daily routines. One of the routines that is key in helping students to develop organization skills and accept increasing amounts of responsibility as they grow older is that of completing nightly homework assignments. A regular time and place for homework helps students establish a routine and communicates your expectations that homework completion is a priority. Students in grades 3-6 use homework assignment notebooks to help develop these organization and responsibility skills by recording their assignments daily.

A family calendar on the refrigerator is a good way to stay organized and on top of due dates for long-term projects, special assignments, upcoming tests, field trips, and school-wide events. You may even want to use a different color for each family member as things are written on the calendar. Encourage your child to have the phone number of one or two friends in class to call in case there is confusion about directions for an assignment, a due date, or if your child is absent. Utilize the amazing amount of information that you can find on '24/7 Learning.' Helping your child to get in the routine of putting their homework and school supplies in their backpack the night before and placing that backpack in the same location for easy pick up as they leave the house is an excellent way of ensuring that completed homework is brought to school each day.

Remember to praise your children for doing their homework, completing projects on time and being responsible for getting their work to school. Your words of encouragement and support motivate and assure your children that they are ready for, and capable of, taking on these responsibilities. As always, thank you for your ongoing support!

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Sincerely ,

Kathy Bruce

News to Note

- ◆ Sept. 25, Field Day: Grades 1-3
- ◆ Sept. 26, Field Day: Grades 4-6
- ◆ Sept. 30, 6th Grade Field Trip to Camp Hemlock
- ◆ October 1, Assembly: Physics is Fun
- ◆ October 1, Fall fundraiser ends
- ◆ October 9, Fall Picture Day
- ◆ October 11, Open House at Burke Volunteer Fire House, 10a.m. to 4 p.m., www.bvfrd.org
- ◆ October 13, Columbus Day Holiday
- ◆ October 15, PTA Meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ October 16, Assembly: Author Visit
- ◆ October 16, Health Screening: Grades K & 3



Coming Attractions

- ◆ October 23, 4th Grade Field Trip to Jamestown
- ◆ October 20-24, Fall book fair
- ◆ October 24, Fall Festival
- ◆ October 31, First grading period ends
- ◆ November 3-4, Student Holidays, Parent-teacher conferences
- ◆ November 4, Election Day
- ◆ November 11, 4th Grade Veterans Day Program
- ◆ November 20, Thanksgiving Lunch
- ◆ November 26, 2 hr. early release
- ◆ November 27-28, Thanksgiving Holidays
- December 24, 2008 to January 2, 2009, Winter Break



From the Art Room

My name is Jackie Jones and I am the new art teacher here at Bonnie

Brae. It is a great privilege to have your children in my art classes this year, and I am looking forward to having an exciting and productive year with them!

Each grade level will have studio art experiences in drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture, printmaking, and fibers. In addition to art production, students will gain historical and cultural knowledge of art works and processes; learn techniques of art criticism; and further develop an appreciation for fine arts.

Also, please think of the art room before you recycle or throw anything away! I would greatly appreciate it if you would recycle through the art program. I am especially in need of clean baby food jars with lids. The following is a list of materials that I would like to

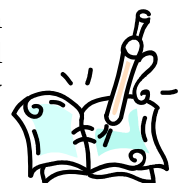
make use of in my classroom:

- ~Baby food jars with lids
- ~Yogurt containers with lids
- ~Containers, preferably white or transparent
- ~Large T-shirts and men's button-down shirts
- ~Plastic cups of various sizes
- ~Bins, bowls, buckets
- ~Wire
- ~Papers of different weights, textures and colors (wrapping paper, wall paper, colored comics, origami, sandpaper, etc.)
- ~Small wood scraps
- ~Plastic utensils (especially spoons!)
- ~Clothespins (plastic or wood)
- ~Cardboard (various sizes)

Thank you for your time and support and I look forward to a great year with your students! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at Jacqueline.Jones1@fcps.edu

Family Life Education 2008-09

Family Life Education (FLE) will be provided to students unless parents opt their children out of participation in the program. Grade-level outlines of program descriptions are included in the packet sent home on open-house. Opt-out forms should be returned to your child's teacher as soon as possible. Program guides, curriculum and media are located in the school library. Please schedule with the school librarian if you would like to review any materials.



New Keep in Touch System in Place

Over the past school year, many parents were frustrated by the inability of the Keep in Touch (KIT) notification system to deliver school system emergency e-mail messages (such as school closings due to inclement weather) promptly.

The previous vendor for KIT was unable to handle the volume of messages that Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) sends. FCPS is pleased to announce that the new vendor is Blackboard Connect, Inc., an award-winning company with years of experience with K-12 education systems, many as large as or larger than FCPS.

This new system will use contact information already in FCPS databases. A subscription service will be added later. FCPS will be making at least two division-wide tests of the new system by the second week of September. **It is important that your child's school has all your current telephone numbers and e-mail addresses so that you will not miss out on any important messages.** In order to update your contact information, please go to your child's school and ask for

an emergency care information form. You may also update your contact information through FCPS 24-7 Learning.

The new system will also **eventually** include a subscription module that will allow users to personalize the type of information they would like to receive. All previous KIT users will be asked to update their personal information once the new system is active and will need to resubscribe for some types of messages.

The new system will enable FCPS to provide parents with vital information through e-mail and eventually through cell phones, home phones, TTY/TDD receiving devices, and other text-receiving devices. This system can be used to notify parents and staff members of school closures and contingency plans due to inclement weather and other late-breaking developments. It can also keep you informed about important events at your child's school.

For more information and updates about implementation of the new system, go to www.fcps.edu/kit

Reminders! Reminders!

The beginning of the year gives us the opportunity to remind students and parents alike of general procedures that are followed at school. 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.
- 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.
- Deliver forgotten items to the office (not the classroom).
- 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.
- Contact the teacher ahead of time if you are planning on visiting your child's classroom.
- 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

5420 Sideburn Road
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!*

Consider Volunteering!

Volunteers assist us in so many ways! The help and support are truly appreciated. We are able to do so much more for the children as a result of our parent participation in our children's education. Let us know how you want to become involved.



Counselor's Corner

The school year seems to be off to a great start! Your children bring the school to life with their beautiful smiles and friendly hellos. As counselors, we want to make your child's school experience as pleasant as possible. This year, we will once again be training Student Hosts to welcome new students to Bonnie Brae, teaching guidance lessons in every classroom once a month, enjoying lunch with your child during "Lunch Bunches" and holding groups sessions to meet children's needs. We are also continuing with the "Gold Star Character Trait" program and our first gold star trait for the month of September is "The BIG Three".

Mrs. Legan is excited to be back from maternity leave and looking forward to another great year at BBES. Mrs. Legan is part-time and will be at BBES all day Tuesdays and Thursdays and on Fridays until 12:30 pm. She will be working with Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades. Mrs. Stunkard is new to BBES this year and is eager to get to know all the students. She is at BBES every day and will be working with grades 3-6. Our main goal is to encourage your child's social, emotional and personal growth. We work with students, teachers, and parents to help maximize each child's potential.

We will also work very closely with parents to provide assistance for families that are struggling emotionally or financially. If your family is in need of school supplies for your child, we can help. In the past, Bonnie Brae has been able to provide assistance to several families around the holidays. We hope to continue this assistance this year; please contact us to let us know your needs.

Please feel free to contact us if we can be help to you in any way. We wish you and your children a wonderful school year!

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

Deployed Families Parent Coffee

It can be a very difficult time for families, and especially kids, when parents or other family members are either deployed or sent overseas to work for months at a time. But talking with other families and kids experiencing the same issues can be extremely comforting and supportive! Join other Bonnie Brae families who are experiencing the same issues and concerns and learn some ways to make this time easier for everyone by coming to a **Parent Coffee on September 30th at 6:30 p.m.** in the Bonnie Brae Library. We believe this could be the beginning of a wonderful network of our BBES family. If you have any questions, please contact our counselors: Becca Legan (703-321-3932 or Rebecca.Legan@fcps.edu) or Chris Stunkard (703-321-3936 or Christine.Stunkard@fcps.edu).



GT Parent Info Nights

An overview of the continuum of gifted and talented services, screening, testing and identification procedures, and timelines will be presented on the following nights:

- ◆ Oct. 2 @ 7:30 p.m. at McLean HS
- ◆ Oct. 15 @ 7:30 p.m. at Oakton HS
- ◆ Oct. 22 @ 7:30 p.m. at Annandale HS

You may attend the date and location that works best for you. No registration is required. Visit the website about this event at ww.fcps.edu/DIS/gt