



# Bonnie Brae Star

January 21, 2009

## From the Prez

Happy New Year! I ended and began the year immersed in spirit-wear challenges. I believe we have now resolved all outstanding issues, but I have every confidence you will let me know if I am wrong. I think we've worked most of the kinks out of the system, so please feel free to order with confidence while I cross my fingers and hold my breath. My thanks to Ashley O'Brien for shouldering the brunt of the work that I caused by exploring new vendors, and especially to the BBES office staff who REALLY take care of all us so very well.

In between handling mis-deliveries and ill-fitting garments, I truly enjoyed the Holiday Shop and especially the 6<sup>th</sup> grade show. The enthusiasm and talent of our students managed to overcome any Grinch lurking in my mood. For those wishing to get in the spirit next year, I heartily prescribe a night of helping our children shop for their parents and siblings followed by an evening of watching our future stars perform.

On policy matters there is a lot to discuss but little to report. The school system budget continues to offer a depressing outlook, but as I wrote in my last message, we can all offer a strong vote of thanks to our Principal for her most excellent stewardship. I've met with a number of representatives from our sister schools in recent weeks where they are at strong odds over the challenges they are facing. It makes me again grateful for the atmosphere of our school and the trust we place in one another.

Apart from waiting to hear about the budget: The school board and central administration are looking at bussing and school start schedules, and it's very possible we will be impacted if changes are made. A review of high school grading policy is also under way, little of which I fear will be resolved this year, but either way it shouldn't impact BBES. We'll continue to monitor the school board and central administration policies that influence our school and children, and I welcome any of your input and comments at [flagelan@gmail.com](mailto:flagelan@gmail.com).

Closer to home, we have an exciting and busy spring semester. It will be Valentine's before you know it, then we'll quickly enter our first read-a-thon. We've cut back dramatically on all our fundraising this year in hopes that this effort, which has our students read and write to raise funds, rather than trying to sell anything, will more than make up for the many things we've offered at cost or stopped altogether. I sincerely hope you will all join the effort. From my standpoint, if at the end of the program we made less, but had all of our students reading and writing more, I'd feel pretty good about our efforts. But making a bit more wouldn't hurt my spirits either.

Much more to come – science fair, spring festival, concerts, plays, and on and on. Please join us – as a member, as a volunteer, as a donor when you are able. Your time, talent, and treasures are key to our school's success, and the success of all of our children.

Andrew Flagel, PTO President

### **2008-2009 PTO Officers**

Andrew Flagel, President  
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Kelly Hood, President-elect  
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Laura Blahusch, Secretary  
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## News to Note

January 26-27—**STUDENT HOLIDAY**

February 12—**R.E.A.C.H. KICK-OFF ASSEMBLY**

February 16—**PRESIDENT'S DAY**

February 28—March 5—**R.E.A.C.H. CAMPAIGN**

April 3—**STUDENT HOLIDAY**

April 6-10—**SPRING BREAK**

## Coming Attractions

January 23—Spirit Day—**TWIN DAY**

January 29—**DINING OUT**—Hard Times

January 30—Science Fair participation forms due

February 24—Science Fair

March (date TBD) - BBES Staff vs. Laurel Ridge Staff in a basketball game

March (date TBD) - **DINING OUT**—Brions Grille

March 10—Original Works art packets going home

April 27 - **DINING OUT**—Silver Diner

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## Science Fair—February 24

February 24 will mark Bonnie Brae's annual Science Fair and Invention Convention. The evening provides students with the opportunity to show off their scientific skills. Students can submit scientific experiments, investigations as well as inventions (who can forget children getting to ride on the "hover craft" made with a shop vac at last year's Science Fair)?



This year's Science Fair will be different from previous years. To accommodate homework schedules and families with young children, we have shortened the program and will no longer close the doors for independent review of the projects. Instead, the doors will open to everyone at 6:30 and students will be asked to stand by their displays and answer questions for a 45-minute period.

The Kid's Inquiry Conference (KIC) will be open to select fifth and sixth grade students who will represent our school in the upcoming regional conference. This will take place in the cafeteria and library. As always, we will have scientific displays in the lobby.

Packets were sent home in last week's Tuesday packets. The deadline for submissions is January 30. If you have any questions, please contact Lynn Walters at [LWalters3@csc.com](mailto:LWalters3@csc.com).

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## R.E.A.C.H. Week is Coming!!!

R.E.A.C.H. (Reading Education Awareness in the Child's Home) Week is coming! Watch for information in the Tuesday packets. Great fundraiser focusing on reading and writing! Nothing to buy and no door-to-door selling!



Great prizes just for participating! Students will be challenged to read a total of **300 minutes at home and in school during the R.E.A.C.H. week**. Once the reading is completed, we'll inform sponsors of your child's progress, and the sponsors will then donate pledged amounts to the PTO.

We're REALLY counting on everyone's support for this great project! The money raised from R.E.A.C.H. will primarily fund the purchase of Smart Boards. Contact Kathleen Mahan for more information at

[Kmahan4@verizon.net](mailto:Kmahan4@verizon.net).

## Box Tops Bonanza

It's 2009 and time to turn over a new leaf. If you have been collecting Box Tops for Education, thank you for your help and please keep them coming. If you have not yet collected Box Tops for Education for BBES, it is a simple, easy way for our school to earn CASH! BBES gets a dime for every Box Top collected. So far for the 2008-2009 school year we have collected 9658 Tops-that means over \$900 for BBES! Last year our Box Top funds went to enhance the technology at BBES.

We cannot submit any Box Tops that are expired or do not have a readable expiration date. As you can imagine, over 9000 Box Tops are great but, if they are uncut, the Box Top Team has to cut them. Our hands are tired and we would love your help in this matter! You could help the Box Top Team by CAREFULLY cutting out Box Tops along the prescribed dotted lines and check to make sure that they are not expired. Also, placing them into a zip-loc baggie with the teachers name and total number of Box Tops printed on the outside is EXTREMELY helpful to us. This is a great way give your kids some responsibility at home and they gain a great

sense of pride in helping their school. The parties their class can earn by accumulating Box Tops are a great motivator. Sadly, we cannot accept Betty Crocker Points or Campbell's Soup Labels to send into the Box Tops for Education program.



Please take advantage of the [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com) for BONUS BOX TOP promotions and valuable printable coupons of your favorite Box Top Brands including: General Mills, Betty Crocker, Pillsbury & Kimberly-Clark.

**FOR KIDS ONLY:** Check your cabinets at home and make sure your parents aren't accidentally throwing away Box Tops in the trash or recycle bin!!! Ask your parents to remove a box top as soon as they can from the packaging, cut them properly and bring them into your classroom! REMEMBER, the top 3 classes who collect the most Box Tops get a pizza party at the end of the school year!!

Thanks for all your help ~ The Box Top Team

## BBES PTO—Dining Out

On January 29, let someone else do the cooking!

The PTO has arranged a Dining Out Night at Hard Times Café, 4069 Chain Bridge Road in Fairfax. Hard Times not only has incredibly to mention the onion have a great kids

A portion of proceeds bringing in the PTO home in last Tuesday's donated to the Bonnie The night promises to come out and have a



tasty chili (not rings) but they menu as well. from patrons flyer (sent packets) will be lively. So GOOD TIME

at HARD TIMES (**DON'T FORGET TO BRING THE FLYER**).

## Sign Language Class to Begin

The BBES PTO has arranged for a new language class. The **sign language class** will start on March 6. The class will last for 10 weeks and will be offered to students in grades 1-3. We need a certain number of students enrolled in order for the class to move forward. So, if you think your child would be interested in this class, please contact Kelly Hood at [kellysings@verizon.net](mailto:kellysings@verizon.net).

**BONNIE BRAE  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

***PARENT TEACHER  
ORGANIZATION***

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Phone: 703-321-3900



We're on the web!  
[http://members.cox.net/  
bbespto/index.htm](http://members.cox.net/bbespto/index.htm)

## GMU/SAAC Leadership Workshop

On December 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> two George Mason University students volunteered their time to put on a leadership workshop for the students of Bonnie Brae SACC. The two George Mason students, Nirali and Jen, met with Darlene Santiago (SACC staff) a few weeks prior to the workshop in order to fine-tune all the events

would be here.

Thirty-SACC students leadership workshop it would involve



involving around the theme of leadership. Nirali and Jen had the children build the Scottie Pup out of traits that encompass a leader, they played the human knot game without talking, they played telephone, and had to build a piece of technology or an appliance using only their bodies. With the technology and appliance game, one group had transformed themselves into a human blender while the other group transformed themselves in a car.

After the 4+ hours that were volunteered by the two GMU students, the 36 students invited Nirali and Jen to participate in a small celebration where the children showed their sincerest gratitude for the time and energy put into making a successful event. The overall consensus of the leadership workshop: fun and memorable!

## PTO Membership

The Bonnie Brae PTO wants you! If you haven't already done so, please consider joining the PTO. We are a group of parents, teachers and administrators whose focus is to offer programs and activities that support students, the school and BBES families. The cost of membership is \$5 for an individual or \$10 for a family membership.

Membership information is included in Tuesday packets. A membership form is also attached to this newsletter.

## Olde Creek Elementary PTA

On January 29, the Olde Creek Elementary PTA will host 'Camp Expo 2009' from 6:00pm—9:00pm. This program will provide families in the Woodson pyramid and Robinson Secondary/High School communities with information and exposure to quality, safe and enriching summer camp and program opportunities for their children. For more information, please contact Kristen Summers, OCES PTA President-Elect at [kristensummers@verizon.net](mailto:kristensummers@verizon.net).