



## Bucknell's Best

*Joanne Jackson, Principal*

*Raquel Alcaraz-Figueroa, Assistant Principal* December 19, 2008

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*Dear Parents and Guardians,*

*It is hard to believe that I am writing my final copy of Bucknell's Best. I would like to thank each and every one of you for your support of Bucknell Elementary School. On a personal note, please know that words cannot express how much appreciate all of your support during my five and half years at Bucknell. I will miss you and your children and you will always have a special place in my heart.*

*I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family the happiest of holidays. Last year, I sent home the following message from the Fairfax Association of Elementary School Principals about the spirit of "giving" gifts that don't cost much and that can't be found at the local mall. I have tried to model the words in this message during my time at Bucknell. Please know that you and your children have given me these same gifts and I will always treasure them. I hope that 2009 will hold many wonderful memories for your family.*

### *The Gifts That You Alone Can Give*

*The gifts that can change a life are the gifts that you alone can give. They demand the seeing eye, the listening ear, the comprehending heart, the courage to communicate. These gifts are unique and all within your power.*

***Give Attention:*** *Let the children finish all their sentences before you interrupt. Listen to every side of a controversy before you change the subject.*

***Give Confidence:*** *No one is lost as long as one other person believes in him. The lives of great men point up to the importance of one lone voice. If you have confidence, never cease to express it. Another's confidence breeds encouragement.*

***Give enthusiasm:*** *Care enough to express your caring with enthusiasm. Real enthusiasm is a form of inspiration.*

***Give Kindness:*** *Utter the cheerful good morning. Display a warming smile. Be on the watch for somebody in distress and lend a helping hand.*

***Give Understanding:*** *To be able to give understanding, you must have acquired it...and there is no easy way. It is a plant of slow growth. In the dark, unexplored landscape of the human heart, understanding can light a thousand candles.*

*Isn't that what giving is all about?*