

FORESTVILLE NEWS NEST

September 29, 2009

Issue #1

Matt Harris, Principal



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Principal's Cardinal Corner

Back to School Night remarks: Although I make alterations to my remarks each BTSN to fit the grade levels addressed, the following is the substance of the presentation both nights.
We had a wonderful turn out!

Matt C. Harris

(First Day video produced by Sarah Stark): Good evening. It is wonderful to have you here tonight. As you just saw, our first day was a lot of fun and we saw order arise out of chaos as we welcomed 740 students to Forestville. I've watched the video several times now and am struck by several elements. Among those are:

- The ease of transition from the buses into our activities and school year. Deputy Superintendent Richard Moniuszko and Cluster Director Anita Wallace visited us in the first two days of school and remarked about how smoothly activities were going. It seemed to them that we had been in school for a while given our routines and arrangements.
- The helping hand offered by so many staff members in different situations. I love the scene in the lobby with children going in various directions. Staff members bent down to offer a listening ear, and guided with a gentle hand.

We also welcomed new staff members and saw others transition to another grade level. Our new staff members are as follows:

Mrs. Courtney Juncker in Kindergarten
Mrs. Anita Boggs in 2nd grade
Mrs. Hilary Sanborn in 2nd grade
Miss Desiree Simon, Special Educator working with Kindergarten
Mr. Mike Emery, Instructional Assistant
Miss Heather Gibson, Public Health Training Assistant
Miss Krissy Smith, Library Assistant

They bring fresh ideas and new experiences to our school.

We embrace the new and know that change is important to continuously improving. To that end:

1. This year for the first time, we sent your child's class list and bus route to you electronically.
2. We welcome Mrs. Crotty to 4th grade and Mrs. Loving to 5th. Thanks to them for making that vital.
3. We have several new grade level team leaders: Mrs. Kime and Mrs. Stanley in fourth; Mr. LeLoup and Miss Keuchel with our Advanced Academic team.
4. Speaking of Advanced Academics, we enter our third year of the school based GT Center or Level IV services and the approach that the sixth grade team is taking is a new. Each of the teachers is getting certified in GT and we have dispersed the students into various homerooms. They then come back together as a group for their academics.

Understanding the importance of consistency, and stability as a balance to change: We also take comfort in having so many returning staff members and in allowing relatively new ideas to settle into routine status. We are happy to note that:

1. ECART, the online FCPS resource that offers pacing guides and activities, and online testing of Aspire enters its second year.
2. We are beginning our second year of the Mathematical Reasoning Assessment for 1st and 2nd graders
3. We begin our second year of intervention and enrichment time (I&E) where your children have a half hour each day of extra time to receive support or enriched learning activities.
4. We also are starting our second year of The Scholarship Club and have added three professionals: Mrs. Sarah Stark, Miss Lindsay Barnas and Mrs. Kristen Sloan to Miss Susan Kim and Mr. Jeff LeLoup in offering extra time to support students in their learning from 8:15- 8:00 several mornings before school start.
5. We take pride in the fact that we continue to score well on the SOL tests. Among those results: 99% of our 3rd graders passed the history test, 96 % passed the math, 96 % passed the reading; 92 % of our 4th graders passed the reading, 90 % passed the math; 98 % of our fifth graders passed the writing, 94 % passed the math, 97 % passed the reading; 98 % of sixth graders passed the reading, 87 % passed either the 6th, 7th or 8th grade Math test. **Still we will not be comfortable until everyone passes.** To that end, we enter our second year of hour long team meetings during the school day planning for children's success in learning. Those meetings are in addition to the many hours of individual and informal team planning that occur.
6. Although our three years of the Teacher Leadership Grant are behind us, like our sister school Cooper Middle, we realize that our children's futures are affected by how well we engage their higher order thinking skills—creativity, problem solving, critical thinking etc.
7. We also begin our third year of Positive Behavior Support in which children earned over 15,000 Cardinal Compliments and we saw our new mascot, Forest, encourage students to be good citizens in the cafeteria through the Gold Plate Club and through video clips like the following: **(Second video/ PBS Cafeteria—Forest corrected by students for cafeteria antics produced by Susan Kim, Sarah Stark and Jeff LeLoup).**

This year, the vibrant PBS Committee focuses on bus and bathroom behavior. One relative new event which we hope will be minimized is the outbreak of H1N1 at Forestville. As you will see from this clip shown on Forestvision, we are emphasizing personal hygiene. **(Third video clip: Handwashing featuring our children produced by Sarah Stark and Susan Kim).**

In addition, children who are exhibiting flu symptoms will wear a face mask and will go to our “isolation” room which is the former music room(stage) adjacent to the cafeteria. There they will be cared for by school staff members.

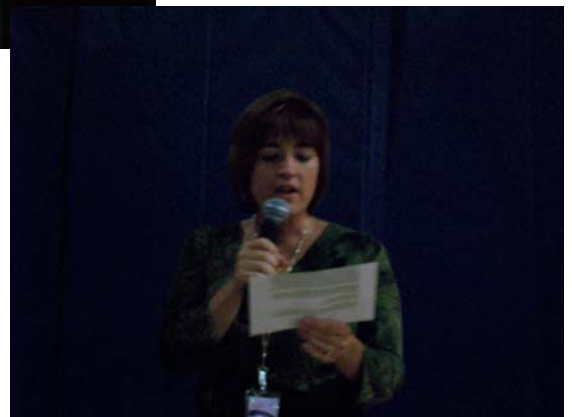
It will be a great year!



Lynn Conforti, PTA President



Matt Harris, Principal



Kathy Quigley, Assistant Principal

Bright Beginnings: 2009-10 Year



SCHOLARSHIP CLUB

Scholarship Club is pleased to announce its second year at Forestville. This year the program has been expanded, involving more teachers and more assistance to students. Scholarship Club provides academic support for students in the morning, prior to the start of the school day. It is a club for students who need specific intervention in the areas of reading or math, or need assistance with organizational and study skills.

The Scholarship Club begins the week of October 5th and run through May.

- **Reading:** Mr. LeLoup and Ms. Kim run the reading component of Scholarship Club. This group meets on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 8:20. Reading fluency, comprehension and test-taking skills related to reading are covered in this course.
- **Math:** Mrs. Sloan and Ms. Barnas teach the math component of the program. Students will meet on Monday and Thursday mornings at 8:20 for help with math fundamentals, number concepts, and specific concepts being taught in their classroom.
- Both the math and reading course are designed for students in grades 1-6.
- **Organizational Skills:** Mrs. Stark teaches the organizational and study skills portion of the course for students in grades 4-6 who need individualized help with effective study strategies and organization. Skills will be taught based on the specific learning strengths of each student.

Students are referred to Scholarship Club by parents and/or teachers. Referral forms are available to parents on Mrs. Stark's 24-7 site. You may also call your child's counselor for more information.

Scholarship Club is designed for students who are struggling in reading, math or organization and study skills and should not be used as a homework club. Students will enter and exit the program on an as-needed basis. Students are expected to be on time every day for the club in order for the assistance to be most effective. Please call Ms. Kim or Mrs. Stark for more information or for assistance making a referral to the program.

PBS

Positive Behavior Support



TEACHER LEADERSHIP GRANT



The BLOOM Tree

UPCOMING EVENTS

10/2/09	SCA Elections
10/6/09	Newcomer's Coffee – 9:30 Cafeteria
10/8/09	PTA – 1st General Meeting – 9:15 Cafeteria
10/12/09	Columbus Day Holiday
10/14/09	Picture Day
10/15/09	Picture Day
10/20/09	Advanced Academics Parent Information Coffee - 8:15 Library
10/26/09 – 10/30/09	National Red Ribbon Week
10/30/09	First Grading Period Ends

