

Cougar Roar
June 1, 2009



The Year in Review

It's hard to believe it is June. Every year it gets to this time in the school year and I marvel at how quickly the year has passed. I am finishing up my sixth year of being an administrator at Haycock and I still love coming to work each day. I am always so proud of what the students learn and our teachers accomplish during the ten months school is in session.

This year was no exception. We had a year of becoming cognizant of what we could do to help our environment. Through the combined efforts of the PTA and Haycock School we drastically reduced the amount of paper going home. The PTA electronically sent the "Hotsheet" each week, and Haycock teachers e-mailed newsletters or posted them to their Blackboard sites. The PTA also had more electronic flyers and used Paypal for afterschool activity registration. These efforts have allowed us to order 122 CASES of less Xerox paper next year. This results in a budgetary savings of over \$4,000. Wow!

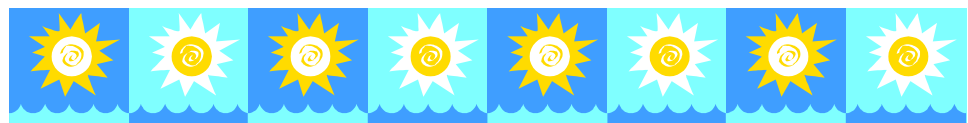
We continued with our academic pursuits, of course. As a staff we continued working on our writing program, adding some "on-demand" writing prompts three times during the school year. We met as "teachers of writers" to look at student work and set goals for students and classes.

Our Positive Behavior Support system continued to grow. Now in its second year, our students have a clearer understanding of what it means to be a STAR student. We have worked on identifying what STAR assembly behavior is this year and more recently revisited cafeteria behavior by adding Fun Lunch as an incentive.

Technology and its use is still an area of focus at Haycock. We recently purchased and mounted four new SMARTboards in four classrooms. The teachers in these rooms have had training in working with the SMARTboards and have agreed to share their new expertise with other Haycock staff members. We plan to continue to purchase more SMARTboards and additional laptops with PTA funds this year.

Our biggest challenge continues to be space. We are hoping that the addition of a six room modular next year will help alleviate some of our issues and will provide the necessary bathrooms that we so need for 770 students.

I wish all of you a wonderfully happy summer. School starts on September 8th. We will have our Open House on September 3rd. Continue to check the website and the Haycock blog throughout the summer.



Staff Changes

The end of the year inevitably brings changes to our Haycock staff. We are lucky this year in that very few staff members are leaving Haycock, but we are saying goodbye to some teachers who have made a significant impact on our Haycock community.

In the music department, Brad Zimmerman is leaving to become the full-time band director at Longfellow Middle School. While I'm sure our 6th graders are thrilled to have Mr. Zimmerman teaching as they move on to 7th grade, we are very sad to see Brad go. Dan Hastings, his assistant for many years will also be leaving.

Gretta Sandberg, our orchestra director, is retiring this year. She has been the orchestra director at Haycock and McLean High School for a number of years. We wish her the best as she moves on to new adventures. She will be missed.

I have not heard definitively who will be replacing either of these valued musicians, but I'm sure our band and strings programs will remain strong.

We are also saying goodbye to 5th grade teacher Kara Jacobs. Kara and her husband are expecting their first child in the fall and she will not return to Haycock at the start of the school year. We are sad to lose Kara, but are so excited about her new addition.

In the special education department, Jenny Keener is moving to New York and will be leaving our school. Jenny had a great first year of teaching at Haycock and we wish her well as she moves on to her new location.

Finally, veteran teacher Beth Roach is retiring. Beth has been teaching in FCPS for 33 years, almost all of these at Haycock. She taught in the Gifted and Talented Center for years and has

been Haycock's instructional coach the last four years. Many of us are not sure what we're going to do without Beth's expertise regarding all things educational. She has touched so many lives during her career as a teacher. Although she will no longer be working at Haycock, Beth will not be able to stay away - especially since she only lives one mile away.

When you're at Haycock, please be sure to send your best wishes to these fabulous Haycock staff members.



News, Notes and Reminders

- **6th Grade Recognition Ceremony:** This will take place at 9:20 on June 18th in the gym.
- **Affinities Festival:** The Affinities Festival will take place June 8th and 9th. The parent evening is June 8th and students will visit the Festival on June 9th.
- **Band Concert:** The band concert will be held on June 10th at 7pm in the gym. This will be Brad Zimmerman and Dan Hasting's last concert at Haycock.
- **Last Day of School:** We will dismiss students on the last day of school between 11:20-11:30. On the last day we have to wait until the buses arrive to let students go. We anticipate that happening in that time frame.
- **Classes for Next Year:** We have been allocated 14 general education positions and 13 advanced academic positions for next year. Given those numbers, we are ending the year planning for 3 first, 3 second, 5 third (3 AA), 5 fourth (3 AA), 5 fifth (3AA) and 6 sixth (4AA). I can't predict exactly what class sizes will be, but I do know that some classes will be very large with the change in the staffing formula due to the budget cuts at the district level.
- **Summer Reading Program:** Be on the lookout for information coming home about Haycock's summer reading program. It's a great way to encourage your student to read during the summer, and it's fun!
- **Summer Hours:** We have limited staff during the summer. In fact, it's only Maureen and our administrative assistant, Diane Long. Please call ahead if you want to guarantee that we'll be in.
- **Back to School Nights:** More information about these will come out later in the summer, but these are the dates and times we have set aside.
 - September 29th**
3rd-4th—6-7:00
K-2 — 7:30- 8:30
 - September 30th**
5th -6th — 6:00-7:00
- **5th Graders get your Tdap -** All 5th graders need to have a Tdap booster prior to being allowed to start school as 6th graders in the fall. Students will not be able to start school without documentation about their compliance with this mandatory requirement.

