



MCNAIR NEWS



2499 THOMAS JEFFERSON DRIVE
HERNDON, VA 20171

JANUARY 4, 2010
VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5

A NOTE FROM DR. WEST...

Dear McNair Families,

Welcome back! I trust that you had a restful holiday break. I love new beginnings! January provides us with a wonderful opportunity to revisit our goals, both personal and professional. Personally, I always need to work on balancing home and school life and will continue this effort in 2010. Professionally, I would like to connect with McNair's parents on a different level. One way I hope to do this is by scheduling book groups for parents. All of us view what we read through different

lenses. It will be great to read together and get your points of view. I would like to invite any interested parents to join me on February 3, at 7PM to discuss our first selection: The World is Flat, by Thomas Friedman. My hope is that people would purchase the book and read some or most of it prior to our book talk. We will speak just once about this book. After our discussion, the group of parents who attends this meeting will help us choose the next reading selection. Our first selection has a connection with

preparing our students to be successful in the 21st Century. As partners in your children's education, I would love to explore and discuss this topic with you.

On behalf of all of us at McNair, best wishes for a fabulous 2010. We look forward to working with you and your students for the remainder of this year. I do believe the best is yet to come!

Sincerely,

Theresa West , Principal

ARE YOU FOLLOWING THE ABC'S OF HOMEWORK?

Most teachers give homework. They use it to reinforce what your child has learned in school and to allow your child to practice skills. Take this quiz to find out if you're following the ABCs of homework. Give yourself five points for something you usually do, zero points for something you never do—or any score in between.

A is for Attitude. I help my child develop a positive attitude toward school and learning.

B is for Breaks. I know

my child learns better in short chunks of time. I make sure my child schedules breaks while doing homework.

C is for Choice. I let my child make choices. I let him or her decide if he or she wants to study math first or write a required essay. I let my child decide to study after school or in the evening.

D is for Directions. I teach my child to read the directions carefully. If necessary, I restate directions so my child can understand

them.

E is for Encouragement. I know my main job as a parent is to encourage my child. I find positive things to say—about his or her effort, accuracy, or attitude.

How Did You Score?

More than 20 points means you're doing an excellent job helping your child with homework. Fifteen to 19 is average. Below 15 points? Try to practice some of the ABCs of homework given in the quiz.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Jan. 6 | Lego League Open House
6 PM — all are welcome! |
| Jan. 18 | Martin Luther King Jr.
Birthday No School |
| Jan. 19 | PTA Meeting
6:00 PM |
| Jan. 22 | Bingo Night
6:00 PM |
| Jan. 28 | Second Grading Period Ends |
| Jan. 28 | 4th Grade Chorus and String Concert
7:00 PM |
| Jan. 29 | Teacher Workday
No School |
| Feb. 1 | Teacher Workday
No School |
| Feb. 3 | Principal/Parent Book Group
7:00 PM |
| Feb. 5 | Advanced Academics Packets Due |
| Feb. 8-12 | Scholastic Book Fair |
| Feb. 9 | Family Book Fair Night
6:00-8:00 PM |
| Feb 15 | President's Day
No school |
| Feb. 16 | PTA Meeting
6:00 PM |
| March 16 | PTA Meeting
6:00 PM |
| March 29-April 2 | Spring Vacation
No School |

MCNAIR PHONE NUMBERS

Office: 703-793-4800

Attendance: 703-793-4747

Clinic: 703-793-4810





MCNAIR MUSIC NOTES — JANUARY 2010



December highlighted all of the music programs at McNair with performances by the Band, Chorus, Recorder Club and Strings at the **Winter Concert**. The McNair Singers (grades 4, 5 & 6) and Recorder Club serenaded shoppers at the **Reston Town Center Fountain** on a bright Saturday morning. Great job, McNair musicians!

January and February promise to be busy for our **Fourth Graders** as they prepare for their **Winter Concert** with strings and chorus. This program will be held for parents in the evening on January 28th. All fourth graders will showcase the skills and music they have learned so far this year. In addition, **Colonial Day** will feature more music and movement that students are learning to connect with their Virginia Studies curriculum. This event is scheduled for February 5th. Please check with your students for more information coming home.

In January, students in **General Music** will continue to learn about music styles and

composers, while singing and moving to music. Sixth graders will explore Jazz, Fifth Graders will explore the connection between Art and Music with Impressionism, Third graders will begin Recorder instruction, and students in K-2 will continue to increase their musical vocabulary with songs, games and movement to music with winter themes.

Do you have white shirts and black pants that your children have outgrown? The music department can use these items to help students with uniform needs. Please drop clothing by the office in a bag or box labeled Mrs. Junttila/Music, and we will make sure to thank you for your donation!

Here is an interesting fact about the brain and music: "Using MRI imaging of the brain, scientists have found that listening to music requires the coordination of almost every part of the brain and playing music involves even more areas. Because music has many components (hearing, affect, singing, playing, reading, writing) many parts of the

brain must work in concert

(Ruth Boshkoff, *Kodály Envoy* Winter 2010). We appreciate your support of the music programs at McNair and the work we do to engage your children in learning across the curriculum while having fun!

Happy New Year!

**Your General Music Team,
Mrs. Junttila and Miss Hatcher**



Special thanks to our fabulous music teachers (Mrs. Junttila, Ms. Hatcher, Mrs. Brown, Ms. Adams and Ms. Fraser) and our talented musicians. The concerts in December were outstanding!



MCNAIR LIBRARY AND CLASSROOMS BENEFIT FROM BOOK FAIRS

Thanks to your support of the Scholastic Book Fair last year, we recently purchased and received 57 fabulous books to support our character education program. They include such titles as Manners at School, Manners in the Lunchroom, Trustworthiness, Responsibility, Leadership, and Sharing. Many other books were also purchased to supplement and replenish our school library. A set of the Diary of a Wimpy Kid will re-

place the worn out, well loved copies in the Library. More sports records books and almanacs were also purchased. The latest books from The Magic Tree House, The Last Olympian and the 39 Clues series were ordered for their many fans.

The library staff would like to extend their gratitude to **Andi Burkholder** who coordinated the Book Fair, to all the parents who helped and to all families

who purchased books for their students.

This year's Book Fair will be the week of February 8th. Please save the date and plan to join us on Family Night for on February 9th. It's a great deal of fun!

Nan Poore

McNair Librarian



Save the Date: The Scholastic Book Fair Family Night at McNair is February 9 from 6:00-8:00 PM





ADVANCED ACADEMIC CORNER: A REVIEW OF ADVANCED ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND SCREENING

CONTINUUM OF SERVICES

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) offers a continuum of advanced academic services for all students in grades K-8. Learning experiences are designed to develop higher-level thinking

through enrichment, acceleration, and extension of the Program of Studies. Teachers, administrators, and Advanced Academic Resource Teachers (AARTs) work together to provide the following Levels of Service:

- **Critical and Creative Thinking Strategies, Grades K-6 (Level I)**
- **Differentiated Lessons in Areas of Academic Strength, Grades K-6 (Level II)**
- **Part-Time Advanced Academic Program, Grades 3-6 (Level III)**
- **Full-Time Advanced Academic Placement, Grades 3-8 (Level IV)**
- **IBMYP: Selected**

Schools, Grades 6-10

- **Honors, Grades 7-8**

SCREENING

Multiple criteria are reviewed to determine eligibility for all FCPS Advanced Academic Programs.

Formal identification begins with Level III services. The local school AAP committee determines student eligibility for school-based services. The countywide AAP Central Selection Committee determines eligibility for full-time AAP (Level IV) placement.

TESTING

Each fall all FCPS second grade students, as well as students in third through seventh grades who do not have ability test scores, are administered the Cognitive Abilities Test and/or the Naglieri Nonverbal Test. A second grade screening pool is established using these test results. Students in the second grade pool are automatically screened for full-time AAP (Level IV) placement. Parents/guardians may exercise their one-time retest

option during the September-October testing cycle.

REFERRALS for FULL-TIME ADVANCED ACADEMIC PLACEMENT LEVEL IV (Grades 2-7)

Parents/guardians of students not in the second grade screening pool may initiate the full-time AAP (Level IV) screening process by completing and submitting an *AAP Level IV Referral Form to the local school principal no later than February 5, 2010*. No late referrals will be accepted. Second graders **not** in the pool and **all** third through seventh graders are screened only by referral. Forms are available on the AAP website and in the *Parent Information Packet* which is available at the local schools. Additional information is available on the Advanced Academics website. <http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/gt/index.html>

Our Advanced Academics Resource Teacher, Ms. **Katie Le** is available if you need more information regarding Advanced Academic Programs via email at ktle@fcps.edu or by phone at (703) 793-4800.

DECEMBER HAPPENINGS AT MCNAIR...

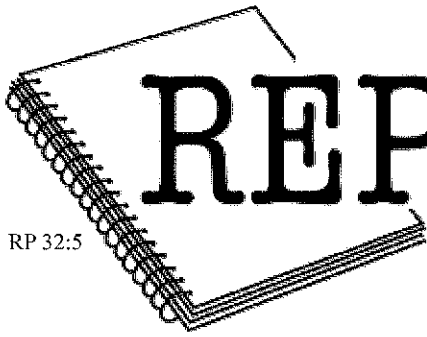
Donuts for Dads & Tea for Moms was a great time for all who attended. Special thanks to **Mr. Russell, Ms. Kurabatchew, Mr. White and all of our parents who attended.**



Girls on the Run — Congratulations to all of our girls (Aeris, Ariana, Anabel, Bailly, Brione, Caroline, Chandana, Dennis, Hannah,



Jennifer, Jessica, Jordan, Karen, Maddi, Monique, Nikita, Pooja, Sumaya, Tanu, & Yogita) who completed a 5K on December 5, 2009. Special thanks to **Ms. Hansen** (our organizer), **Mrs. Lindgren, Ms. Robson, Ms. Ramia, and Mrs. Fechter** for their support.



REPORT to PARENTS

RP 32:5

Limiting Your Child's Online Access With Parental Controls

We all know that, as much as technology has opened new worlds to our children, it has also put them at risk of predators and of growing up too soon through exposure to things they shouldn't see at their ages. It's important for parents and caregivers to do all we can to help our children use technology safely and wisely. Here are some very important suggestions to put to work in your home:

Be in control. Parental controls are available for every make and model of computer and it's important to make sure they're in place. Use the "search" feature on your computer to locate where the parental controls feature is. Make sure you, with your own password, are the only one who can change the control settings. Each user of the family computer should be given access to the computer only through his or her own password. For each child, determine what type of content you want him or her to be able to see, and what you want blocked.

Check with your provider. Make sure to find out what services your Internet Service Provider (ISP) offers to help protect your children online. Many ISPs have invested heavily in ways to make sure that children can use the Internet safely.

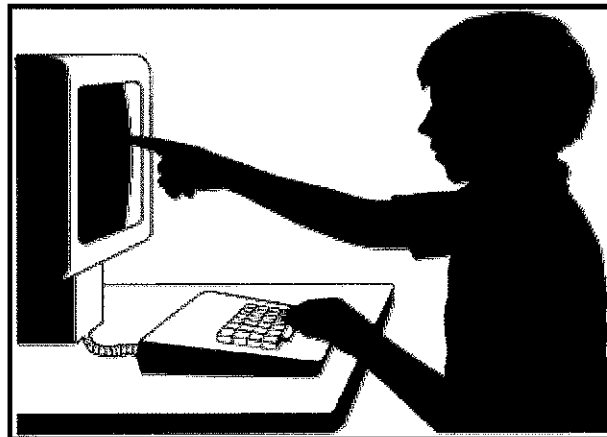
Be picky. You can use parental controls to make sure your children visit only sites that are age-appropriate, or can make sure they can't download any files from the Web. You also can filter out content you don't want them to see, and prevent them from running certain programs.

Watch the clock. Parental controls often allow you to determine when, by hours of the day and days of the week, your children can access the Web, and when they will be blocked. This keeps kids from spending too much time on the computer and from getting on when no one's home to supervise.

Sharing is bad. Although it's important for you to always know

their passwords, do not let your older and younger children share passwords and do not divulge yours to them. If they sign on under your user name/password, they will not be protected through the parental controls you've set.

Get extra protection. Several excellent products go further than your computer's built-in parental controls and give you more confidence that your child's Web experiences will be safe. For those who are really concerned, a program such as the highly rated Web Watcher can track everything that happens on your child's or your family's computer, including who's using it, when, for how long, and on which sites.



Check their history. It's always a good idea to log onto the computer using your child's password and user name after your child has finished surfing the Web, whether it's for homework, to be on MySpace, or to play games. Log in as them, open the Internet browser, and then view the sites they've just visited by simply clicking the little down-

pointing arrow at the right hand side of the box where you type in a Web address. When you click on the down-arrow, all the recently visited sites will be displayed in a list. Check to see if there are sites that your child visited that he or she shouldn't have.

Sneaky tricks. Unfortunately, older children, who are most likely to want to visit "off limits" sites, are also able to learn how to delete their history of visited sites. Fortunately, you can use an empty history as a clue. Make sure your children know that they will be disciplined if you see that they have deleted their history (which is done by going to the "tools" menu and clicking on "Internet options" or "options" and choosing to "delete").

Remember, experts, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, recommend that children spend no more than two hours a day using a computer, especially when on the Internet. It's up to you to help them make sure that their spending that time wisely, and safely.

