



Orange Hunt Elementary School

SPOTLIGHT

on learning

October 2011

Welcome to Orange Hunt!

By Jason Pensler, principal and Sarah Brooker, assistant principal

Welcome to another year of learning and discovering at Orange Hunt Elementary! We are delighted to have been appointed as the school's new principals and we have enjoyed spending the last month helping teachers and students settle in to the new school year.

It's an honor to be part of such a dedicated and caring staff and school community. We know this will be a wonderful and very productive year! We welcome your involvement and partnership.

We are looking forward to getting to know our families as the year progresses, but in the meantime, let us share with you a little bit about each of us!

Before I was appointed principal, I was your assistant principal last year. Previously, I was assistant principal at Poplar Tree Elementary for five years. I have been in education for 13 years and have spent time in the class-



Principal Jason Pensler and Assistant Principal Sarah Brooker look forward to a productive new school year with the Orange Hunt Owls!

room teaching second, third and fifth grades, as well as the Advanced Academics Program.

I am a native of Northern Virginia, graduating from Mount Vernon High School. I earned my bachelor of science degree in Sociology from Virginia Commonwealth University and my master's degree in Early Childhood Education from George Mason University. When I am not having fun with the Orange Hunt Owls, I enjoy spending time with my wife Carmen and our two children, four-year-old Jaimilee and Cailyn, who is two.

Did I mention I am an avid sports fan? I root for

the Baltimore Ravens, Washington Capitals, Detroit Tigers, and VCU Rams.

I am Mrs. Brooker, and I am so happy to be your new assistant principal!

For the past seven years, I have had the privilege of working both at Orange Hunt and Hunt Valley Elementary Schools as the Advanced Academics Resource teacher. Before that, I taught third grade in Gainesville, Florida, where I completed my bachelor's and master's degrees in Elementary Education at the University of Florida. Go Gators!! I live in Reston with my husband, Brian and our 18-month-old son, Aaron. I love this time of year with the excitement of returning to school and the beginning of football season! 📖

Mark Your Calendar!

- ◆ October 9: German Club Grillfest, 2-5 p.m.
- ◆ October 10: No school—Columbus Day holiday
- ◆ October 13: Fall picture day for students
- ◆ October 15: Pyramid Challenge, Irving Middle School
- ◆ October 21: PTA Fall Fest, 5:30-7:30 p.m., cafeteria
- ◆ November 2: PTA Meeting, 7 p.m., cafeteria
- ◆ November 4: End of first quarter
- ◆ November 7 & 8: No school—teacher workdays



With a simple click of the mouse, you can access important school information through the Orange Hunt website. At www.fcps.edu/OrangeHuntES/, you'll find a wealth of information that is easy to navigate.

Important school phone numbers are listed on the homepage, including the attendance line for student absences and the direct line to our school health room. Our calendar, highlighting both school and PTA functions, is regularly updated throughout the year. The "Bell Schedule" link takes you to important information regarding inclement weather schedules and emergency closing plans.

Answers to frequently-asked questions are posted on our site and a good place to start investigating is on the "Site Index" on the left side of the page. There is an alphabetical listing of everything contained on our website.

Our full staff listing by department can be found under "Staff Directory." From there you can click on a name to send an email. PTA information, which includes the names of both board and committee members, is available on the website under "PTA," which also includes an email link to the PTA president.

Want to put money on your child's lunch card? You'll find a link to "mylunchmoney.com" under "Lunch Menu" where you can add money and monitor spending throughout the school year.

Students and parents should check out the "Student Resources" link for helpful tools and educational links, including our library's online catalog. There you will see the link for the digital media resource called **myON™**. It provides 24/7 web-based access to hundreds of digital books and can be used for student independent reading at home and school.

The "Parent Resources" link is helpful as there are several topics listed alphabetically for quick reference. Included on that page are schedules by grade for "specials" classes including art, music and P.E.

Both this monthly newsletter and the PTA's "In the Know" are uploaded to the site, as well as our Handbook, which details our school's policies and procedures.

You also can reach the FCPS website from our website and find emergency announcements and links to 24/7 Learning and Keep in Touch (KIT). 📖

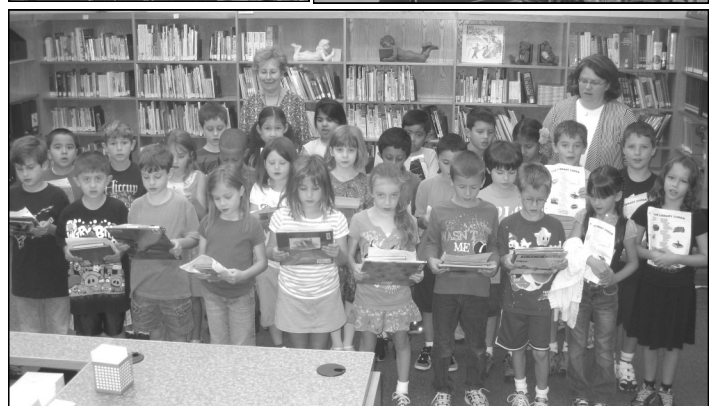
Reminders

- ◆ The **first bell rings** at 8:20 a.m. and students proceed to their classes at that time. When the second bell rings at 8:35 a.m., students who are not in their classrooms are tardy.
- ◆ **Picture Day** is Thursday, October 13. Order forms will go home Tuesday, October 11. Students should return order forms and money on Picture Day. Please do not send in forms or money before that day.



One, Two, Three FOCUS

We hit the ground running this year! Clockwise from right: Mrs. Brooker ensured student safety during our weekly fire drills; Mrs. Patrick's students say "Fourth grade rocks!" Ms. Stanley's second graders read "The Library Cheer;" Mr. Pensler enjoyed story time with Mrs. Choe's kindergartners when he read "Llama, Llama Red Pajama;" Mrs. DePorter's first graders practiced grouping in math centers.



Orange Hunt Elementary

Orange Hunt Community Working Together Leading Every Child to Success!

Office: 703-913-6800 ◆ Fax: 703-913-6897 ◆ Health Room: 703-913-6810 ◆ Absentee: 703-913-6868 (prior to 8:15 a.m.)