



# STENWOOD HIVE HAPPENINGS

September 2009

FCPS

## Principally speaking...

We had a wonderful opening of the 2009-2010 school year. Our halls are once again filled with our student's smiling faces and cheerful chatter. The teachers have spent this past week getting to know their students with interesting "get acquainted" activities which helped everyone become familiar and comfortable. The classrooms look great with student work already appearing on the walls. The atmosphere has been alive with the anticipation of a great year!

I want to say a big "Thank You" to all the teachers, office staff, custodians, and volunteers who have helped to make this school opening a smooth one. We are all looking forward to an exciting school year!

**On Thursday, September 17th, starting at 7:00 p.m.**, Stenwood Elementary School will have our annual Back-to-School Night. **The evening will begin in the classrooms.** General information will be shared at the beginning of the evening through our closed-circuit television. This will be followed by two 25 minute information sessions in the classrooms. During these sessions you will have the opportunity to meet all of us at the school who will be working with your son or daughter every school day for the rest of the year.

Parking will be available at the back of the school and the main back door will be open for easy access. Due to our limitations on space, **we ask that children do not attend this evening event.**

In this busy world, it is difficult to do all that is asked of us, but one evening at Back-to-School Night will put you in personal touch with teachers who will be working with you to ensure your son's or daughter's success.

You are the most important people in your son's or daughter's life. Sometimes that may not seem like the case, but it is. Here at Stenwood Elementary School we know the value of parent involvement. We will all do a better job with our students if we communicate throughout the year.

I hope to greet you at Back-to-School Night.

**Laraine W. Edwards**  
**Principal**  
**Stenwood ES**  
**703-208-7600**



## TESTING TALK...

Coming up in September and October are the **Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT), and BART and Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT).**

The **Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT)** is a nonverbal measure of school learning ability that is related to classroom achievement. It is designed to assess ability without requiring the student to read, write, or speak.

The **NNAT** will be administered on September 22 to all second grade students and selected 3-6 grade students that are new to Stenwood. Letters with more information will be mailed home.

The purpose of the **Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)** is to provide information about students' developed abilities in verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal reasoning. The types of tasks included in the test are based on content that children of this age group are likely to have experienced, yet are not

necessarily those tasks included in the school curriculum.

The **CogAt** will be administered between October 21, 22 and 23 to all second grade students and selected 3-6 grade students that are new to Stenwood. Letters with more information will be mailed home.

## SOLs – Mark your calendars!

The SOLs will be administered between May 18<sup>th</sup> and June 5<sup>th</sup>. Please do not schedule any appointments during those dates. Specific dates for each grade level will be published in the November newsletter.

All students in grades 3-6 take a reading and math test in addition to the other tests taken at a grade level. Tests for each grade level are listed below.

Visit the Virginia Department of Education Website for more information.

<http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Superintendent/Sols/home.shtml>

<http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Parents/index.html>

For further information, please contact our Assistant Principal, Melissa A. Tochterman:

[MATochterman@fcps.edu](mailto:MATochterman@fcps.edu).

Grade Levels	Tests
Grade 3	Reading (2 parts), Math, History, Science
Grade 4	Reading, Math, VA Studies
Grade 5	Writing, Reading, Math, Science
Grade 6	Reading, Math, History

## IMPORTANT DATES:

**Sept. 17**—Fall Picture Day

**Sept. 17**—Back To School Night—7 p.m.

**Sept. 24**—New Parent Coffee—9 a.m.

## From the Cafeteria ...

Breakfast is no longer being served at Stenwood.



**Free and Reduced-Price Status:** Students eligible for free and reduced-price meals will continue to receive these benefits until Tuesday, September 30th, 2009. New applications for free and reduced-price meals must be received and eligibility approved to continue after Sept. 30, 2009. If you need additional information, please contact the Office of Food and Nutrition Services at 703-813-4800.

## WELCOME!

Stenwood welcomes South Korean Intern, Jungmin Lee. Ms. Lee is a sophomore at Sangmyung University and is studying to be a teacher. Mrs. Donnelly, the Reading Specialist, is her cooperating teacher. Stenwood is excited to have this international experience. Ms. Lee will be at our school until December 22nd.



## Homework is Important...

A homework assignment on state capitals can teach much more than geography. A science project helps your child learn much more than the scientific method. Here are some of the "life lessons" your child learns every time he sits down to do homework:

**Responsibility.** When kids do their homework, they learn the importance of meeting a responsibility. They also learn they are accountable for what happens to them. (If parents take too much responsibility for homework, this lesson can't be learned.)

**Time management.** Your child wants to sleep over at a friend's house on Friday, but he also has to finish his book for a book report. What a great opportunity to learn time management: "If your book is read, you can go to Jim's. If not, you can't."

**Independence.** This may be the first time that someone outside your family has expected your child to do anything. As your child completes homework, he's learning that he has the ability to stand on his own two feet.

**Perseverance.** Many parents want to make things easier for their child. But, as homework expert John Rosemond notes in *Ending the Homework Hassle*, "Little do they realize that more often than not, making a child's life easier in the present will only make it harder in the future."

**Motivation.** Homework can help children learn to be self-motivated. The child who becomes fascinated to learn more about ancient Egypt, or who wants to learn more about the solar system, is learning skills that will make him successful throughout his life.

(copied from *The Parent Institute*, a Division of NIS, Inc.)

## Library Buzz...



When will my child be going to the library?

Monday - Kindergarten

Tuesday - 1st grade and pm preschool

Wednesday - 5th and 6th graders

Thursday - 3rd and 4th graders

Friday - 2nd graders

Two authors are coming to Stenwood in September:

**Wednesday October 7th**

Author Fran Cannon Slayton will be talking to the 5th and 6th graders about her book *When the Whistle Blows*.

**Friday October 9th**

Nancy Krulik, author of the *Katie Kazoo* series will be speaking to our 3rd graders.

Look for more information about these authors and their books in Wednesday mail.

**Stenwood Fall Book Fair**

Will take place the Tuesday - Friday the week of October 12th.

Presenting special evening opportunities to

## Bond with Books

and your child in the

## Stenwood Library



The whole family is invited back to Stenwood for a dozen Monday nights!



Librarian, **Mr. Re** and Reading Specialist, **Mrs. Donnelly** will be available to assist kids with finding just right books in the library. Each evening a different topic will be shared with parents.

**Mark your calendar and come back to Stenwood at night!**

<b>Date</b>	<b>The Focus for the Night</b>
Monday, Oct 19 7-8pm	Mrs. Donnelly shares: Reading Comprehension: Key #1 and #2 *
Monday, Nov. 9 7-8pm	Mrs. Donnelly shares : Understanding your child's DRA reading level
Monday, Nov. 23 7-8pm	Mrs. Donnelly shares: Reading Comprehension: Key #3 and #4*
Monday, Dec. 7 7-8pm	Mr. Re shares: Books that Make Great Gifts
Monday, Jan. 11 7-8pm	Mrs. Donnelly shares: What is Word Study? What is WordMasters?
Monday, Jan. 25 7-8pm	Mrs. Donnelly shares: Reading Comprehension: Key #5 and #6*
Monday, Feb. 8 7-8pm	Mrs. Donnelly shares: How to help your child with writing?
Monday, Feb. 22 7-8pm	Mrs. Donnelly shares: Reading Comprehension: Key #7*
Monday, March 8 7-8pm	Mr. Re shares: Reading on the Computer
Monday, March 22 7-8pm	Mr. Re shares: Using Online Encyclopedias and Databases
Monday, April 12 7-8pm	Mrs. Re shares: Responding to Reading using a Blog
Monday, April 26 7-8pm	Mr. Re shares: Tips for Forming a Parent / Child Bookclub

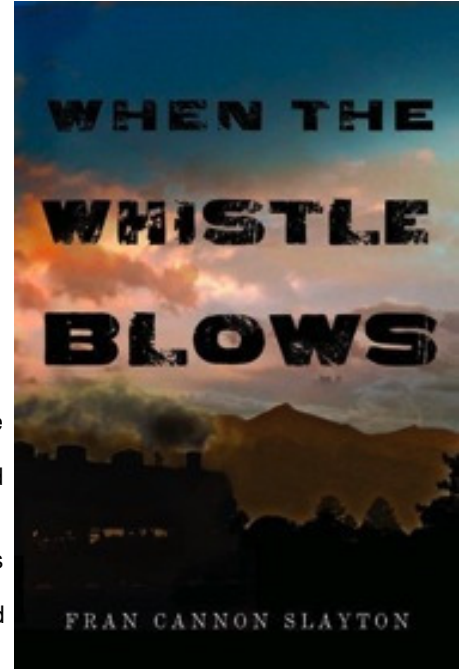
\* as described in *7 Keys to Comprehension: How to Help Your Kids Read It and Get It!* by Susan Zimmermann and Chryse Hutchins.

Wednesday October 7, 2009

## When the Whistle Blows

by Fran Cannon Slayton

A dead-of-night meeting. A coffin. A secret society. By page 14, readers will be gasping along with 12-year-old Jimmy Cannon when he suddenly realizes that one of the people he's spying on is his father. What is this Society? And why is his dad involved? Fran Cannon Slayton expertly blends suspense with emotional complexity in the seven interconnected stories of "When the Whistle Blows." Each takes place on All Hallows' Eve, from 1943 to 1949 in a small railroad town rife with boyish pranks, football games and "pain in the you-know-what" brothers.....This first novel has many strengths -- vivid period details, an engaging voice, finely tuned sentences -- but its greatest is the ability to articulate the ways of fathers and sons, of love and loss, expectation and hurt, of words unsaid and those that pierce like a "single, steaming whistle."  
-- *The Washington Post*, 9/2/09 Mary Quattlebaum



"[When the Whistle Blows] is a growing up novel that includes scenes reminiscent of Richard Peck's *Long Way from Chicago* and has a classical mannerism that will steam its way on to state award lists all over the country. . . This novel is fresh, smart, witty, warm, well-written, funny. . . an amazing novel."  
- *School Library Journal*, 6/09 Diane Chen

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Aladdin's Lamp Children's Bookstore  
2499 N. Harrison Street Arlington, VA 22207  
(703) 241-8281

If you would like to preorder an autographed copy of *When the Whistle Blows* please fill out the form below. Aladdin's Lamp Bookstore is offering a 20% discount to students who purchase books. The price includes tax and has the discount already deducted. Please make checks payable to Aladdin's Lamp.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Homeroom \_\_\_\_\_

Number of copies \_\_\_\_\_ x Price: \$14.25 Total \_\_\_\_\_

Personalized message: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form with a check by Wed. **September 28, 2009.**

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