



WESTBRIAR NEWS

www.fcps.edu/WestbriarES

Creating Excellence Together
For Every Child
In Every Classroom
Every Day

Volume 1 Issue 4

Joanne C. Goodwin, Principal ♦ Mary Tam, Assistant Principal

November 2009

Mark
Your
Calendar



<p><i>Second Grading Period Begins</i> Wednesday, November 4</p>
<p><i>PTA Meeting</i> Tuesday, November 10</p>
<p><i>Westbriar-SAIC Pancake Breakfast</i> <i>Book Fair Begins</i> Saturday, November 14</p>
<p><i>Book Fair</i> November 16-20</p>
<p><i>Thanksgiving Lunch</i> Thursday, November 19</p>
<p><i>SCA Spirit Day – Crazy Sock Day</i> Friday, November 20</p>
<p>2 Hour Early Closing Wednesday, November 25</p>
<p>Thanksgiving Holidays Thursday/Friday, November 26-27</p>

Dear Westbriar Families,

It is hard to believe that the first quarter of the school year has flown by so quickly. It has been an eventful first nine weeks. I have enjoyed the opportunity to participate in several of the Westbriar traditions and meet many more students and families. Halloween BINGO night was a great success and it was fun to see so many students in creative costumes. I was amazed at the amount of reading our fifth and sixth graders completed to be ready for the quarterly Battle of the Books.

During the last few days you have had the opportunity to meet with your child's teacher. This meeting should help build strong parent-teacher partnerships. Partnerships are needed if you and your child's teacher are going to reach the common goal of helping your child get the best education possible. Build on this meeting by talking with your child about what you and his/her teacher discussed during the conference. Make sure he/she knows that you and the teacher are working together to help him/her have a successful year.

Looking forward to seeing you at the SAIC/Westbriar Pancake Breakfast!

Sincerely,

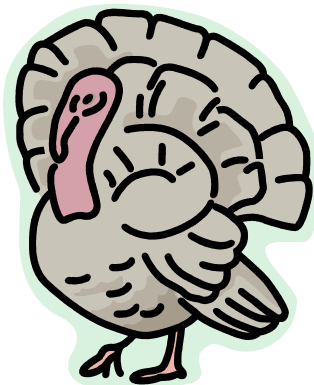
Joanne

Joanne C. Goodwin
Principal



Looking Ahead . . .

Thursday, December 3	FLE Parent Preview, 7:00pm
Wednesday, December 9	Picture Make-up Day
Tuesday, December 15	Interims Go Home
Friday, December 18	SCA Spirit Day-PJ Day
Wednesday, December 23	2 hour early dismissal
Thursday, December 24 – Friday, January 1	Winter Break



Don't Forget Lunch!

Just a reminder that money may be placed in your child(ren)'s lunch account(s) by cash, check or online at www.mylunchmoney.com. Students will receive a reminder (hand stamp or sticker) when balances are low. Cereal and milk will be provided by the PTA to students who have no money on their lunch cards, and parents will be notified. Please be proactive in ensuring that your child has adequate funds for lunch.

Impact Aid Survey

Impact Aid forms were mailed to parents November 2. They are due back to Westbriar by **Friday, November 6**. The Impact Aid program is a federal program which provides federal monies to local school districts that lose property tax revenue due to the presence of tax-exempt federal property in their district. The Student-Parent Survey is used to support FCPS' request for these funds. FCPS receives approximately \$3,000,000 annually from this grant program. All information provided on the Student-Parent Survey will be treated confidentially.

Parent View 24-7

Parent View provides you as a parent with your own single log-in to review your child(ren)'s 24-7 learning accounts. More information about this convenient feature is outlined on our school website www.fcps.edu/WestbriarES/. An online registration is required first. To complete the process you will need to validate your registration at Westbriar with a staff member. You may stop in the school office to validate your registration.

It is quick and easy and it provides you with a single log-in for information. Sign up for Parent View right away!

Thanksgiving Lunch at Westbriar

It's that time again! Please join us for Thanksgiving Luncheon on November 19. Lunch schedules will be altered somewhat for this event. A flyer will go home in the Tuesday folder on November 4 with the prices and the lunch schedule.



Don't Forget!
Westbriar/SAIC
Pancake Breakfast
Saturday, Nov. 14
8-10 a.m.



Winter Weather Reminders

Since winter weather will soon be upon us, here are some tips for those cold, wintry days ahead...

*Listen to your local radio or TV station for news of delayed opening or school closing, or early dismissal, if inclement weather threatens at any time. **Cable Channel 21, the FCPS channel, and the FCPS Hotline 800.839.3277** are also sources of school opening and closing information.

*Update your work/home phone numbers and emergency contact information! It is critical for us to have current and adequate phone numbers to reach a parent or emergency contact in case a child is not picked up from school.

*Expect buses to take a bit longer to make their rounds when the weather is less than ideal.

*Remember that the bus driver **MUST** see an adult at the stop for any kindergarten child. Please be there!

Thank you for helping us ensure that your children get to school and arrive home safely and promptly when wintry weather occurs.



SCA Collection

SCA is connecting each Spirit Day this year with a service learning activity. In November, we will be having a "Sock Hop". Students are encouraged to wear "crazy" socks on Nov. 20. We will be collecting new socks to donate to the Embry Rucker Shelter in Reston. Donations can be placed in a box in the main lobby from Nov. 16 -20. Look for information each month about SCA's service learning link! Thank you for all of your support with hair care products on Crazy Hair Day!

Strategy Games Available at Book Fair

This year the book fair will again carry a selection of strategy games which would be good to add to your home collection or as gifts for family and/or friends. As the Advanced Academic Resource Teacher (AART) at Westbriar, I know that strategy games help children build critical problem solving and social skills through game play. They are fun games and the children don't even realize they are learning how to deal with problems creatively. Some of the games that you might want to consider purchasing for your child are: Applies to Apples, Chocolate Fix, Cover Your Tracks, Fifteen Puzzle, Quoridor, Set, Rush Hour, and Tipover.



Book Fair

The Bookworm Book Fair is coming to Westbriar Elementary the week of November 16! The book fair opens with the Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, November 14, and then is open Monday through Friday morning, November 16 – 20. There are many wonderful books available for children of all ages and interests. Students can preview the books with their classes on Monday and Tuesday and complete a wish list of books they would like. Students may purchase books on Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday morning. The book fair is also open on Thursday, November 19 during the Thanksgiving Lunch. The proceeds from the book fair are used to purchase books for the library to benefit all of our students.

If you are interested in volunteering to help with the book fair, please contact me or our wonderful book fair coordinators, Audrey Hassett and Karen Fowkes. I look forward to seeing you at the book fair!

- Mrs. Martin, Librarian

Counselor's Corner

School is in full-swing and it has been a great year so far! Westbriar students are doing such a great job remembering to SOAR (Show One Another Respect). Ask them to tell you about "Thursday Thank-yous"!

As you know, Westbriar ES is committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students. While students may experience times of conflict and need to learn how to handle these situations, conflicts that are based on bullying behavior pose a different problem. Bullying is physical, verbal, social or emotional teasing, or intimidation that occurs over a period of time; it is also, unfortunately, a common experience for many students. In an effort to prevent these behaviors from occurring at Westbriar, I am teaching lessons to all students in October and November which focus on bullying behaviors. Although I am teaching these lessons, they are not part of the counseling program, but are, instead, lessons that are mandatory for ALL students.

Children who are bullied experience real suffering that can interfere with their social and emotional development, as well as their school performance. If you suspect that your child is bullying others, it's important to seek help for him or her as soon as possible. If you suspect that your child may be the target of bullying

behavior, you can help by providing lots of opportunities to talk with you in an open and honest way. It's also important to respond in a positive and accepting manner. Let your child know that it is not his or her fault and that he or she did the right thing by telling you. Other specific suggestions include the following:

1. Ask your child what he or she thinks should be done. What's already been tried? What worked and what didn't?
2. Seek help from your child's teacher or school counselor. Most bullying occurs on playgrounds, lunchrooms, bathrooms, school buses or unsupervised halls.
3. Don't encourage your child to fight back. Instead, suggest that he or she try walking away to avoid the bully or that they seek help from an adult.
4. Help your child practice what to say to the bully so he or she will be prepared next time.
5. Help your child practice being assertive. The simple act of insisting that the bully leave him or her alone may have a surprising effect. Explain to your child that the bully's true goal is to get a response.
6. Encourage your child to be with friends or other people when traveling or in "high-risk" areas. Bullies are less likely to pick on someone in a group.

If your child becomes withdrawn, depressed or reluctant to come to school, or if you see a decline in school performance, please contact me or your child's teacher. Seeking assistance as early as possible can lessen the risk of lasting consequences for your child. We are here to help! Until next time....keep SOARing!

Mrs. Lonnett - School Counselor

**Thanksgiving Lunch Schedule
November 19, 2009**

TABLE	TIME	TEACHER
1	10:30-11:00	Ain
2	10:40-11:10	Choi
3	10:50-11:20	Fisher
4	11:00-11:30	Scheurer
1	11:10-11:40	Tompkins
2	11:20-11:50	Burns
3	11:30-12:00	Mersinger
	11:40-11:45	Break
4	11:45-12:15	Yount
1	11:55-12:25	Chapman
2	12:05-12:35	Franz
3	12:15-12:45	Shugrue
4	12:25-12:55	Thompson
1	12:35-1:05	Couch
	12:45-12:50	Break
2	12:50-1:20	Jacques
3	1:00-1:30	Meoni
4	1:10-1:40	Pleasant
1	1:20-1:50	Ragan
2	1:30-2:00	Angus
3	1:40-2:10	Cockerill
4	1:50-2:20	Malone