



# Bannockburn Elementary

301-320-6555 | 6520 Dalroy Lane, Bethesda MD 20817

## The Principal's Newsletter - January 2011

Dear Bannockburn Parents,

Happy New Year to all of our Bannockburn families and welcome back! We hope you had an enjoyable winter break filled with rest, relaxation, and plenty of memorable experiences with your family and friends. We have made many great accomplishments during 2010 at Bannockburn Elementary. As we begin a new year, we look forward to adding new accomplishments and achievements as we strive to make Bannockburn ES the best school we can be to ensure we provide each and every child with a wonderful and rigorous learning experience! I know that with your continued support, we can achieve this goal.

We ended 2010 in great fashion with a wonderful school community winter holiday celebration at our annual Winter Sing. A special thank you to Mrs. Volin, our music teacher for organizing this event and providing the wonderful songs and music. Another thank you to Mr. Warner, our media specialist, for amazing us with his guitar talent.

We have many exciting events taking place this month, such as a character education performance "**Everyone Belongs**" and the **GeoBee finals on January 7<sup>th</sup> for 4th and 5th graders at 1:30 p.m.** Our annual **Winter Chorus Performances** will be held on the evenings of **January 11th and 12th at 7:00 p.m.!** We also will begin our **Pennies for Patients Drive the week of January 10<sup>th</sup>.** Our **Annual Math Day**, always a big hit, is on **Thursday, January 20th!** The **Principal's Coffee** is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 19th from 9:30-10:30 a.m.** in the media center. **A Cultural Arts Show by Illstyle & Peace**, will take place in the morning of **January 28th.**

The children and staff are back working hard as we near the end of the first semester of school on January 21, 2011 with only three weeks remaining. Then we begin our second semester and third marking period on Tuesday, January 25th. Quarterly conferences are typically held just for the first quarter. For the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th marking periods, quarterly reports are sent home in the form of narrative comments and checklists, accompanied by the student report cards. Of course, if you would like to schedule a conference at any time, please contact your child's teacher(s).

If you have any questions, please contact me at 301-320-6555 or email at [Daniel\\_Walder@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Daniel_Walder@mcpsmd.org). I wish you and your families a very happy and healthy 2011!

Sincerely,

Daniel Walder  
Principal

# Important January Dates

**1st:** New Year's Day! Holiday– No School

**3rd:** School Resumes

**4th:** Student Capacity Study Meeting #1 - 3:45 p.m. in the media center

PTA Meeting 7:00 p.m. **at Carderock Springs ES** re: Changes in MCPS Math curriculum

**7th:** Character Education performance called, "Everyone Belongs"; 9:30 a.m. for grades 3-5 & 10:30 a.m. for grades K-2

GeoBee finals for 4th and 5th graders - 1:30 p.m. in the gym

**10th-14th:** Pennies for Patients Week

**11th:** Winter Chorus Performance for Parents of Students with last names (A-L) at 7:00 p.m.

**12th:** Winter Chorus Performance for Parents of Students with last names (M-Z) at 7:00 p.m.

**13th:** Highly Gifted Center test for 3rd graders– parent request and applied (AM)

**17th: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day– HOLIDAY– NO SCHOOL**

**18th:** Student Capacity Study Meeting #2 at 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the media center

**19th:** Principal's Coffee at 9:30 a.m. in portable #2

**20th:** Math Day!!!

**21st:** 2nd Marking Period Ends

**24th: Professional Day for Teachers– NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**

**25th:** Third marking period begins/Second semester begins

**27th:** Pyle MS Counselors come to speak with out 5th grade students, 12:30-1:30 p.m. in Portable #1

**28th:** Cultural Arts Assembly at 9:30 a.m. for grades 3-5 and 10:30 a.m. for grades K-2

**31st:** Whitman Cluster Concert for Advanced IM Students at Whitman H.S. 7:00 p.m.

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**Make-Up Work For Student Absences:** If your child is absent from school due to illness or any other excused absence, the teachers will work collaboratively with the parents to ensure the child makes up any necessary work. Students who are absent for one day, will have opportunity to make up missed work upon their return. If parents wish to have any missed work to be sent home because their child will be absent for more than two days, please make this arrangement with your child's teacher. The teachers will need at least one school day to put it together. The work could be sent home with another sibling, another student who lives by, or it can be picked up in the main office.

**Cold Weather Reminder:** Please be sure to send your child to school dressed for the weather. An idea to consider is having your children layer clothing, so that the child can take off a sweater or sweatshirt depending on the varying temperatures. In addition, students should have a warm jacket, gloves and a winter hat for arrival/dismissal and outdoor recess. We have noticed many children wearing shorts and no jackets when it is in the 30's and 40's. We strive for the students to have outdoor recess everyday, weather permitting. In order for the students to go outside for recess, the temperature needs to be above 26 degrees (including wind-chill) and reasonably dry/damp conditions on the recess blacktop and wood-chip area. We believe that the time outdoors each day is important for the children as a way to release energy and build concentration for afternoon instruction. With the current chilly temperatures students will need a winter jacket, winter hat, and gloves for outdoor recess.

**Special Education Information:** Please visit a new website designed for parents answering frequently asked questions about the special education process and who to contact if you have specific questions regarding services and how decisions are made. The link to the website is: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/specialed/parents/>.

**End of Day Plan Policy- Changes to Dismissal Plans:** Students will be sent home using the daily routine communicated with the school at the beginning of the school year. Play dates should be prearranged in advance of the school day. If there will be a variation in your child's dismissal routine (e.g. change in after-school care/activity or play-date with another child), your child must have a note addressed to the teacher explaining this particular change. A student who is going with another student on a different bus, cannot ride the bus unless he/she has a written note from his/her parent. If you forgot to send a note in the morning, you can fax a note to (301) 320-6559 or call the office prior to 3:00 p.m.

**Winter 2011 MCPS Parent Academy Workshop:** Registration is now under way for the winter 2011 session of the Montgomery County Public Schools Parent Academy. Parents can choose from an exciting lineup of workshops that includes financing college education, bullying, and helping students develop good organizational skills. A series of workshops for beginning computer users and another series on special education also are being offered. Hard copies of the Parent Academy Workshop brochures will be sent home next week. Additional information is available at the following website: [www.mcpsparentacademy.org](http://www.mcpsparentacademy.org).

# **Math Newsletter for Grades 2 through 5**

## **January 2011**

### **Grade 2 Math Class News!**

During the month of January, Ms. Fioritto's math students will be working diligently in unit 3, focusing on addition and subtraction computation. We will be exploring a variety of strategies using place value and grouping for adding and subtracting two and three digit numbers. Our class will also practice using opposite operations in order to solve missing numbers. ~ Ms. Fioritto

### **Grade 3 Math Class News!**

Third grade math students are finishing up with Unit 3. This was a big unit focusing on early multiplication facts, multiplication strategies, fact families, story problems, early division and division strategies. The children are working hard at their facts and also their problem solving skills. Though we've moved onto more multi-step concepts in this unit, students should still be practicing basic multiplication flashcards outside of school. We really appreciate all of the fantastic home involvement during this tough unit. Keep up the great work! ~ Mrs. Ferrari, Ms. Griffin, and Ms. Gugerty

### **Grade 4 Math Class News!**

Greetings from the 4th Grade Math Team! We have just finished Unit 2. In Unit 3, students study the relationship between fractions and decimals. Students recognize, name, compare, and order fractions and decimals. Students practice adding/subtracting fractions with like denominators and decimal fractions. Students use models and pictures to multiply a fraction by a whole number. In addition, students explore probability concepts. As always, thanks for your support.

~ Mr. Anderson, Mr. Mills, and Mrs. Russell

### **Grade 5 Math News!**

Welcome back! In 5<sup>th</sup> grade math, we've jumped right back into Unit 3. We're reviewing long division strategies and revisiting multiplication and division of decimals. Then, we'll begin the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the unit, which focuses on decimals, fractions, probability, and percents. As mentioned in our last newsletter, you can practice the correct way to read decimal numbers by visiting this site: <http://www.coolmath.com/prealgebra/02-decimals/02-decimals-reading-01.htm>. Some of the topics we'll be studying related to fractions are common denominators, equivalent fractions, ordering fractions, converting mixed numbers to improper fractions, and adding and subtracting fractions. For an extra challenge, we'll also be multiplying fractions. Thanks for your continued support. Happy New Year! ~ Ms. Levenson, Mr. Oliver, and Ms. Rardin

### **Math 6 and 7 News!**

**In Math 6**, Happy New Year to everyone! As the holidays pass us, I hope that everyone had a great break! Jumping back into the swing of things, we will be wrapping up the very extensive Unit 2CD. Finishing our calculations and drawings of diagrams to represent multiplication and division of fractions, we will move onto ratios, percents, and proportions! By the end of the month, we will take the unit assessment. This will keep us all busy and warm. ~ Ms. Recchiuti and Ms. South

**In Math 7**, Happy New Year to all! Getting right back to it, we are switching gears to geometric relationships! We will be creating constructions that are based on properties of geometric figures and looking at how line and angle relationships represent aspects of the world we inhabit. For this unit, please make sure your child has a compass, ruler, and protractor to use in class and at home! All of the constructing will be sure to keep us busy and warm! ~ Ms. South