



Bannockburn Elementary

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

The Principal's Newsletter—April 2011

Dear Bannockburn Parents,

April will hopefully bring cool, spring weather and it marks the beginning of the fourth marking period. We are very proud of the hard work that all of our students have exhibited during the past three marking periods. We look forward to a wonderful fourth quarter as we near the end of the 2010-2011 school year. We are very proud of our 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students for their diligence and focus while completing the Maryland School Assessment (MSA) in math and reading. At the beginning of April, our 2nd grade students participated in the Terra Nova 2 Assessment, which assesses them in math, math computation, reading, language and language mechanics.

During the month of April we have many exciting events planned. 2nd Graders participated in the **Terra Nova 2 Assessment from April 4-8th. On Thursday, April 7th, the third marking period report cards and comment sheets were sent home.** Please review the report card grades with your child and sign and return the report card envelope to your child's teacher. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns. **The Science Fair for grades 3-5 will be held on Thursday, April 14th at 7:00 p.m., and Take Your Child To Work Day is scheduled for Thursday, April 28th.** If you plan to have your child visit your work for the day or half a day, please send a note to school no later than Wednesday, April 27th. This visit will be an excused absence as long as we receive a note prior to the visit. At the end of the month of April, we will have our **Kindergarten Orientation on Friday, April 29th. (There will be no school on that day for our current Kindergarteners.)** This is when we meet all of our prospective kindergarten students for next year and parents register their children for kindergarten. If you have a child who is eligible to start kindergarten next year (your child needs to be 5 years old by September 1, 2011), please contact our main office to schedule an appointment time to come to the orientation if you have not already done so. Please pass this information on to any families in your community who may have a kindergarten student joining Bannockburn next year.

Congratulations to the following students for being recognized with individual awards. In fourth grade, Ethan Foster, Kennedy Hill, Reginald Shardow, Amanda Lucini, and Brooke McLeod; in fifth grade, Karl-Emmanuel Boa-Kouassi, Kayla Britton, Shane McLeod, and Rachel Ruffin for being recognized at the African American Festival for Academic Excellence; Laura Brueggeman, Cameron Corcoran, Lily Friedman, Ava Henderson, Jared Lapidus, Sam Shiffman, Rachel Singer, Rian Singleton, Saul Singleton, and Rachel Zeidenberg for being recognized as our ten finalists in the NGA Geo-Bee. Rachel Singer was our NGA Geo-Bee Winner, and is competing at the state GeoBee. Also, congratulations to one of our fifth grade students, Rachel Ruffin, for being selected as a 2011 Carson Scholar. With this honor, Rachel receives a medal, certificate, and a \$1,000 scholarship award that will be invested for her college education. Rachel is among over 4,800 gifted students from across the country that have been named Carson Scholars.

I wish you and your families a well-rested, warm-weathered spring break! If you have any questions, please contact me at 301-320-6555 or email at Daniel_Walder@mcpsmd.org.

Sincerely,

Daniel Walder
Principal

Important April Dates

- 4th-8th: Terra Nova 2 Assessment for 2nd Grade
- 5th: PTA Meeting 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- 6th: Parent Tour of School—9:30-11:00 a.m.
- 7th: Cultural Arts Performance, Gr. 3-5 at 1:30-2:15 p.m.; Gr. K-2 at 2:30-3:15 p.m.
- 8th: 4th grade field trip to Woodlawn Manor Museum
- 11th-12th: MSA Testing for Science; 5th Grade
- 11th-15th: Family Life unit for 5th Grade
- 13th: School Improvement Plan (SIP) Meeting at 3:45 p.m. —Media Center
- 14th: Science Fair-7:00-9:00 p.m.
- 18th-25th: Spring Break for students
- 26th: Return to School
- 28th: Take Your Child To Work Day
Family Science Night at the Udvar-Hazy Center-Dulles Airport— 5:00-9:15 p.m.
- 29th: Kindergarten Orientation (all day)- NO SCHOOL for Current Kindergarten Students
3rd Grade-In school—Adventure Theater

Kindergarten Orientation

Our Kindergarten Orientation will be held on Friday, April 29th, from 10:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. In order to enter Kindergarten for the 2011-2012 school year, your child must be five years old on or before September 1, 2011. Please call the school office and speak with Mrs. Tina Errigo to schedule a registration time. After we have received your contact information, you will receive a packet of information regarding Kindergarten Orientation in April. We would appreciate it if you would pass this information along to any friends or neighbors who may have children eligible to enter Kindergarten next fall. In addition, we look forward to meeting you and your incoming kindergarten child at the Kindergarten Orientation in April. Our current Kindergarteners will not have classes on Friday, April 29th, so that the teachers may be available for the Kindergarten Orientation.

Application and Selection Process for Elementary Foreign Language Immersion Programs

If you are interested in having your child attend the Elementary Foreign Language Programs, the immersion lottery process application dates are from February 1 to April 8th. Parents may participate in the immersion lottery process using the Elementary Immersion Interest Form. The form and directions will be available on the Montgomery County Public Schools website at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms at our school's main office and by calling the Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services at 301-529-2040.

Whitman Cluster Summer School Programs

Have camp plans for July yet? Why not have your children come join us for math and reading camp? It isn't all about work. The teachers have created a fun environment reinforcing skills and making learning fun. Burning Tree Elementary School and Wood Acres Elementary School are planning to host half day summer programs during the month of July. The Burning Tree program will focus on reading and writing and the Wood Acres program will focus on math and writing. These programs will be open to any child going into Gr. 1-5 in the Whitman Cluster attendance area. The cost will be \$295.00 for the three week program. Sign up now. Should the program not have enough enrollment by the end of April, we will have to cancel. So hurry! A copy of the application form has been sent home. If you have any questions, please contact the main office.

MCPS Parent Academy Workshops

Parent Academy workshops give parents the tools and strategies they need to help their children be successful in school. All workshops are FREE and held at schools and locations throughout Montgomery County. The Spring Schedule of Workshops is available online at www.mcpsparentacademy.org. Flyers are being sent home.

Family Science Night

On Thursday, April 28th, the Whitman Cluster Elementary Schools are invited to a very special evening at the National Air and Space Museum Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center near Dulles International Airport. This evening is for students in 4th and 5th grades and their parents and family. There will be exploring around museum seeing the SR-71 and the James S. McDonnell Space Hanger. A 35-minute presentation by a space scientist, *Saying Hi to E.T. on a Planet Far, Far Away*, followed by the IMAX film *Magnificent Desolation*. A bus will be provided only if 40 or more people sign up leaving Bannockburn at 5:00 p.m. and returning around 9:30 p.m. Please return your registration forms as soon as possible. The Family Science Night tickets are on a first come/first serve basis.

From Our School Counselor

Elizabeth Whiting

April is Cooperation Month

Kindergarten will be posting their ideas of cooperation on our front hall Character Education bulletin board this month. Corky Desimone will assist in posting all the examples and making the letters as she has for several years. What would we do without our volunteers around this school? What a great example of cooperation in this small piece of what goes on at Bannockburn everyday! Most things at school, at home, and at your workplace do not get done without cooperation and everyone doing their piece of the pie. Using the word Cooperation with children as you accomplish something around the house is a concrete example for them to understand this concept. Children feel needed and proud of themselves when they realize that without their help and participation a family event or daily business would not get done or would not go as smoothly. Getting out the door for an outing whether to make the plane to Florida or taking a trip to the zoo is a good time to point out how a child helped and cooperated to make that happen. Everyone likes to be acknowledged.

Lost and Found

All lost and found items will be picked up by April 15. Please make sure you or your child checks for lost belongings before that time.

Second Grade Global Screening

Our school is in the process of gathering information about our second grade students in order to provide each child with challenging instruction in grade 3. This process is known as global screening. In early March, second grade parents received a parent survey in the mail. Information about your child from you is very valuable and we will consider it carefully during the global screening process. Please return the completed survey to your child's 2nd grade teacher.

Adventure Theater

Adventure Theater will again be working with third grade to write and develop skits about historical characters and our Bannockburn values. These small plays will be presented at the Character Education assembly on June 2.

Saving Our Teens' Best Selves: Confident Parenting in a World of Change

Parent speaker, Ron Taffel, PhD, will speak at Whitman High School Auditorium on Monday, April 11, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. A \$10 donation is requested at the door. This speaker is sponsored by the PTSAs of Whitman and BCC High Schools and PEP. Dr. Taffel has written several books for parents about children.

April 2011 Math Newsletter for Grades 2 through 5

Grade 2 Math Class News!

2nd grade math class is starting April out with a review for our Unit 4: Measurement assessment. We will identify and describe measurable attributes including area, volume, and temperature; estimate and measure length, weight, temperature, time, and capacity; and also solve problems using nonstandard and standard measurement units and concepts for the unit assessment! We will then jump right into unit 5: Numbers and Operations. In this unit we will: demonstrate mastery of basic addition and subtraction facts for sums through 18; solve problems involving money through \$10.00; estimate to check the reasonableness of computation results; and solve problems involving multiplication and division using models and number sentences. Have a fun and well rested Spring Break! ~ Ms. Fioritto

Grade 3 Math Class News!

Third grade math students are hard at work on Unit 5. Students will explore region and set models for fractions. In addition to these two models, they will apply knowledge of division to represent fractions and mixed numbers with length models such as a number line. Students use concrete materials and pictures to represent fractions of the same amount and discover how $\frac{1}{2}$ and one whole can be used as benchmark numbers for comparing fractions. This provides the conceptual understanding that is needed for performing basic operations with fractions in Math 4 and Math 5. In Unit 5, we will also explore concepts of fairness and probability and use new vocabulary to describe the likelihood of events. In the last part of the unit, students develop algorithms for multi-digit multiplication and division using a variety of strategies. For example, they apply counting strategies with money, knowledge of arrays from Unit 2, and basic multiplication/division facts and strategies for breaking apart arrays from Unit 3 to multiply and divide larger numbers. By relating these prior concepts to their new learning, students can develop greater conceptual understanding and procedural fluency with multiplication and division. Please continue to practice basic multiplication and division facts at home.

Thank you for all of your support! ~Mrs. Ferrari, Ms. Griffin, and Ms. Gugerty

Grade 4 Math Class News!

Greetings from the 4th Grade Math Team! Greetings from the 4th grade math team! We are finishing up unit 4. Here is a preview of our final unit for the year, unit 5, which includes students will be able to identifying translations, reflections, and rotations of figures, selecting appropriate attributes and use standard units to solve measurement problems, solving problems involving area, perimeter, volume, and elapsed time, developing and use formulas to solve problems involving area and perimeter of rectangles, and identifying situations that are represented by a negative number.

Thanks as always for your support. ~Mr. Anderson, Mr. Mills, & Mrs. Russell

Grade 5 Math News!

The end of March marked the end of Unit 4. Students were assessed on their understanding of data displays and statistics. Looking ahead to Unit 5, we will be examining standard and metric measurement. We will be measuring length, width, circumference, area, capacity, weight, and volume. Additionally, we will be returning to geometry with a study of transformation (rotations, reflections, translations)! Enjoy the beautiful weather,

~Ms. Levenson, Mr. Oliver, and Ms. Rardin

Math 6 and 7 News!

In Math 6, As we wrap up the end of the geometry unit, we will be switching gears to patterns and functions! As patterns occur in nature with the Spring changes, in the classroom we will be looking at patterns in many varieties and showing how relationships can be represented graphically, numerically, symbolically, and verbally.

~ Ms. Recchiuti and Ms. South

In Math 7, Spring is sprung and we are beginning to investigate patterns to solve functional relationships and problems. We will look at whether functions are linear or nonlinear when shown graphic examples and create our own based on a "rule". ~ Ms. South

PTA Co-Presidents' Letter

Dear Parents:

The Montgomery County Council's hearings on the MCPS operating budget for the 2011-2012 school year were held last week. So many of our school programs, class size and teacher resources are at risk. We hope you were able to attend the budget hearing on Thursday, April 7 to support full funding of the MCPS Operating Budget. The Whitman Cluster testified about the importance of funding our public school and maintaining essential programs and maintaining class size. We urge you to also e-mail the Council members about the serious budget issues we face. We have sent via Bannocknet and posted on the website Dr. Weast's explanation of the County Executive's proposed budget which, if passed, would necessitate an \$82 million reduction to the Board of Education's proposed MCPS 2012 budget. We have sent and posted a sample letter, along with e-mail links for the Council members. Please read it, personalize it and send it on. Your letters can make a difference.

As April showers turn our grass green after a long winter, Bannockburn will celebrate "Green Lunch Week" starting April 11. Did you know that every day 20 million sandwich bags from school lunches go into landfills in the U.S.? To help you keep your child's lunch "green" and waste-free, the PTA will be selling "Lunchskins" snack and sandwich bags at cost at lunch during lunch week and via backpack express. More information on the sale will be coming home shortly. If you're not familiar with Lunchskins, they are an amazing dishwasher safe fabric reusable replacement for plastic bags, developed by a team of local moms.

Dozens of moms had breakfast with their children at our first Muffins for Moms event on March 1. Thank you to Angie Zeidenberg and Stefanie Rothschild for organizing this event.

Our first bingo night at Whitman HS was a terrific success. The cafeteria was filled with BES families looking for a fun night out. **A special thank you to Bingo Co-chairs Debbie Sonnenreich and Sabrina Clopton for organizing this great event! We also want to thank the following people for volunteering their time to make this event a success.**

Teachers/Staff

Mrs. Whiting and Ms. Griffin

4th Grade Team - Mr. Anderson, Ms. Levenson, Ms. Rardin

5th Grade Team - Mr. Oliver, Ms. Recchiuti, Ms. South

Master of Ceremonies...Keith Parsky

Sub Committee

Janet Forlini

Siobhan Gonzales

Sue Kiernan

Adriana Kugler

Ann London

Amy Strent

Oona Steiglitz

Dina Yetman

Thank you to all of the families who joined us for the inaugural BES Fun Run to help raise money for our PTA one “spring-filled step at a time.” We had well over 350 registered runners and raised over \$8,300! Thank you to all the parent and student volunteers who helped coordinate the event and served as marshals along the route. Thank you also to all the teachers and staff that came out to run with us and to Ms. Fagel, our great master of ceremonies.

We would like to thank our amazing and tireless PTA Fundraising VPs, Allison Harrison and Ellen Wright, who spear-headed this amazing event. The Fun Run would not have taken off without their enthusiasm and dedication. We also want to thank the fabulous Fun Run Committee!!! They ALL spent many hours working to plan and coordinate the event. It was truly a team effort and committee members pitched in with multiple tasks. The committee members and their primary roles were:

Fun Run Committee

Rupa Dainer—Volunteer Recruitment
Emily Eyres—Volunteers Coordination and Marketing
Debbie Friendly—Course Design
Charlotte Troup Leighton--Communications
Amy Mermelstein—T-shirt Design and Corporate Sponsorship
Marc Pearce—Community Relations
Kerry White—Fun Run Letter

Marshals and Other Day of Event Volunteers

Mike McCarthy
Jerry Sorkin
Stephanie Seiberg
Susan Shipp
Nancy Lapidus
Thayer Nelson
Leslie Meyers
Angie Zeidenberg
Peter Zeidenberg
Kathy Redd
Hossain Shafi
Matt Wright
Akin Harrison
Craig Hanna

We want to also thank all of our sponsors:

GOLD LEVEL Sponsors:

Kidball

Bruce Meyers with First Home Mortgage

Phil Corcoran with the Corcoran Group

Glenn Echo Pizza and Subs

SILVER LEVEL Sponsors:

Good Vibrations DJ

Planet Cotton (t-shirt company)

Chicago Title-DC Commercial Center

The White Family

Adventure Theatre

American Plant Food

Realtor Diana Keeling

Craig Strent with Apex Home Loans

BRONZE LEVEL Sponsors:

Ledo Pizza

Potomac Pizza

DrinkMore Water

Glen Echo Hardware

Kids Sports League

Bethesda Co-op

Anglo Dutch Pools and Toys

Glen Echo Pharmacy

Salon Jean & Day Spa

Realtor Eleanor Balaban

Thank You for Supporting our PTA!

Your PTA Co-Presidents

Jen McCarthy & Lisa Sorkin