

Principal's Newsletter, June 2011

Dear Bannockburn Parents,

Another successful school year is coming to an end! Reflecting on the past school year makes us realize how fortunate we are at Bannockburn Elementary. Our school has been successful due to the wonderful collaborative partnership between students, staff members, and parents. Our students are meeting high standards of performance due to the excellent teaching from our wonderful staff and support from our parents. We must recognize our students for their perseverance, hard-work, and effort displayed throughout the school year. Yesterday's Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast was a huge success! With close to thirty parents in attendance, we were able to show a small token of our appreciation for the incredible support volunteers have made to our school. We are thankful to the hundreds of volunteers who have assisted in our classrooms, media center, and lunch/recess duty this past school year.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful PTA and executive board. Jennifer McCarthy and Lisa Sorokin, PTA co-presidents, have provided excellent leadership and support to the PTA committees, the school staff and administration, and most importantly to the students at Bannockburn ES. A special thank you to Jennifer McCarthy for completing her two year term as PTA president. Job well done! Thank you to all parents on the PTA and the various committees for your endless contributions and dedicating a great deal of time to provide beneficial activities, programs and events to our school. Without your support and dedication we would not be able to have such wonderful and successful school activities including and not limited to before/after school clubs, school fundraisers, charity events, volunteering in the classroom, media center and lunch/recess duty, staff appreciation week, arts integration programs, May Fair, Silent Auction, Math Day, Cultural Arts assemblies and Character Education assemblies. We are very thankful for your generous support and we look forward to next year.

Thank you to our wonderful Bannockburn Climate Committee including our parent representatives for organizing Character Education assemblies throughout the year and a wonderful end of the year Character Education assembly. Our third grade students, under the direction of their classroom teachers and Adventure Theatre, will perform a variety of student-created skits that focus on character values. All students in grades K-5 will be recognized with individual certificates. Thank you to Stephanie Rothschild and Jennifer Nordheimer for organizing a terrific year of cultural arts assemblies that have enhanced our students learning experiences. Another thank you to Susan Shipp, Kate Robinson, Linda Lane, and Stephanie Rothschild for their support with wonderful Community Service projects throughout the year including sandwich making, food drive, walk for the homeless, Pennies for Patients, Japan fundraiser, etc.

Congratulations to the following students for being recognized with individual awards: Adam Hollies, Madison Holt, Jared Levine and Hannah Weisman representing Bannockburn in the Honors Chorus performance. Also, congratulations to our 4th/5th grade students who performed in the Spring Chorus performances of RATS and the Spring Instrumental Music Concerts. A big thank you to Mrs. Volin, the

chorus director and Mrs. Foley, our Instrumental Music Teacher, for organizing these wonderful performances. Congratulations to Clement Granger-Veyron in 5th grade for receiving an ESOL award for his outstanding achievement in school this year.

During the next two weeks of June, staff and students are busy with teaching and learning, assessments, and exciting events such as Field Day, field trips, and end of the year picnics/parties, school events, and celebrations. Please see the calendar of events in this newsletter for specific times/dates that pertain to your child's grade level. Our annual Field Day will be held on Tuesday, June 7th. Grades 3-5 will have field day in the morning and grades K-2 will have field day in the afternoon. Please make sure your children are dressed appropriately, have sunscreen, water, and hats/glasses if needed. The 4th/5th grade Patrol Ceremony will be held on Monday, June 13th at 9:30. The 5th grade Promotion Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, June 15th at 1:00 p.m. Our 5th grade Clap Out will be held on June 15th following the Promotion Ceremony at approximately 2:15 p.m. Thursday, June 16th, is the last day of school for students, which is an early dismissal day. Dismissal begins at 1:00 p.m.

We have already started the planning and preparation process for the 2011-2012 school year. One of the planning areas is to ensure our staffing exemplifies the very best of educators who demonstrate a passion for teaching and working with children. Unfortunately, we will be saying farewell to several of our staff members at the end of the school year, who will be moving onto new experiences and challenges. We would like to thank them all for their dedication and commitment to our students during their time at Bannockburn ES. After 28 years of teaching and 16 years of dedicated service to the Bannockburn Elementary School community, our wonderful music teacher, Mrs. Andrea Volin, will be retiring at the end of this school year. To honor her, the BES PTA has set up a "tribute book" on the PTA website, where you can post notes to thank her, share memories, and wish her well in her retirement. To post a comment, please go to the PTA's website at www.bannockburn-pta.org. Mrs. Megan Ferrari, a third grade teacher, is moving to the Boston, Massachusetts area. Mrs. Tricia Russell, our third grade teacher, will be teaching in the Fairfax county school district next year. Mrs. Lauren Treiber, our staff development teacher, will be staying home next year on long-term child care leave. Mr. Michael Warner, our media specialist, will become the media specialist at Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School in Germantown, MD. Mrs. Penny Hess, our paraeducator and lunch aide, will become a paraeducator at Wyngate Elementary in Bethesda, MD. Naina Suri, our part-time ESOL teacher, will become a full-time ESOL teacher at Somerset ES. Replacing such teachers and staff members will be challenging, but our focus will continue to be recruiting and hiring talented teachers who are passionate, energetic, and creative in the art of teaching and learning. These changes in staffing are for the 2011-2012 school year and do not impact the current school year in any way. The teachers mentioned will be here for the remainder of the school year to ensure academic and social success for all of our children. On behalf of the Bannockburn staff and school community, I wish all of them the very best in their future endeavors. As we say farewell to some of our great staff members, we are looking forward to welcoming new staff to our school community. I will keep you informed throughout the summer of any new additions to the Bannockburn staff.

Please enjoy the change of pace that the summer brings. Have a happy, relaxing, and safe summer with your children. We look forward to seeing everyone upon our return for the 2011-2012 school year for our Meet & Greet on Friday morning, August 26th from 11:00-12:00. Post cards will be mailed to your children during the week of August 22nd, naming their teacher for the new school year. Mrs. Holcomb, Mrs. Errigo, and I will keep the main office open throughout the summer, so please feel free to contact us should you have any questions in preparation for the upcoming school year. Have a wonderful, relaxing summer and we will see you on August 26th for our Meet & Greet at 11:00 a.m.

Sincerely,

Daniel Walder

Principal

Important June Dates

1st: Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast at 8:15-9:15 a.m. in the All Purpose Room

2nd: Character Education Assembly– 2:30 p.m. in the gym

3rd: 4th Grade all day field trip to Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC)

Parent Tour of School– 9:30-10:30 a.m.

2nd Grade in school field trip with Pizza Man—2:00-3:15 p.m.

7th: Field Day for all grades; Grades 3-5 in the AM and Grades K-2 in the PM

PTA Meeting and the State of the School Presentation– 6:30-8:30 p.m.

8th: Rain date for Field Day

9th: 5th Grade leaves for Williamsburg overnight field trip– be at school no later than 8:00 a.m.

10th: 5th Grade returns from Williamsburg field trip — approximately at 6:00 p.m.

4th Grade End of Year Party on playground from 2:00-3:30 p.m.

From Our School Counselor

Drive for Supplies

The MCPS yearly Drive for Supplies is this month. Students are encouraged to recycle used but usable school materials rather than throwing them away at the end of the school year. As students prepare to leave for the summer, it is amazing how much stuff is no longer wanted. Rather than tossing these things in the trash, MCPS encourages students to help collect them for donation to disadvantaged children. Bannockburn students help me sort supplies (pencils, crayons, paper, rulers, notebooks, pens, glue, binders, etc.) and box them in preparation for summer pick up. The unwanted supplies are taken to a central location where older students sort again and help with the distribution. Reuse-Recycle results in less trash in Montgomery County landfills and more supplies for students who need them.

Don't forget to check the lost and found corner in the All Purpose room as well. Anything remaining at the end of the year is also donated to an appropriate charity.

Mrs. Elizabeth Whiting

Summer Technology

It used to be that concerns of parents about technology centered around TV, movies, and the internet. That almost seems like a simpler time doesn't it? These things still need to be monitored by parents but the list of possible dangers has expanded. They now include cell phones, Facebook, e readers, and all sorts of web connected devices. A parent's roll in keeping a child safe regarding technology has also expanded. It is still the recommendation to keep computers, TVs, etc out of a child's bedroom and in a more public place in the household, but now Wi Fi is everywhere and so are the devices that use them. Parents, however, are still in control of the use of any piece of technology.

Summer allows more free time to explore technology. It is also a good time for parents to make sure it is a safe time. MCPS has lots of information for parents on it's website. You can go to www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/cybersafety.

PTA Co-Presidents' Letter

The month of May at Bannockburn highlighted the many talents of Bannockburn students and staff at the 2011 BES Variety Show. With 40 acts and over 120 students participating, it was a magical night for

participants and audience members alike. The Variety Show was organized and presented by Glenn Makl, who put on a wonderful production that truly exemplified the spirit of Bannockburn Elementary. Without Glenn and his hard working staff of volunteers, including Kim Collett, Corkey DeSimone, Debby Gestiehr, and Stefanie Rothschild, our school would not be able to put on this incredible production.

It is hard to believe that the 2010-2011 school year has come to an end. I hope that you and your children come away with wonderful memories of Bannockburn this year. This month marks the end of my tenure as Bannockburn PTA President. I have thoroughly enjoyed these past two years serving as President. I want to thank my amazing co-President, Lisa Sorkin, for her hard work, energy and endless enthusiasm. Without her, this job would not have been nearly as easy or fun! I also want to thank our incredibly dedicated and hardworking PTA Board who worked tirelessly to enrich your child's Bannockburn experience. Thank you Stephanie Seiberg, Ellen Wright, Allison Harrison, Angie Zeidenberg, Stefanie Rothschild, Jennifer Nordheimer, Kate Robinson, Susan Eagle, Grace Park, Scott Sherman, Susan Shipp and Leslie Meyers for your dedication and service to our school.

It has been a pleasure working with Mr. Walder, Susan Holcomb and Tina Errigo in the front office and the entire Bannockburn staff. We are so lucky to have such enthusiastic, dedicated teachers and staff. They make Bannockburn a very special place to go to school.

The 2011-2012 PTA Board officially takes office on July 1. I look forward to working with the PTA Board - - with some old and new members -- to continue the good work of the Bannockburn PTA next year.

Have a safe, happy and healthy summer. We look forward to seeing you again on August 26 at the Meet and Greet.

Jennifer McCarthy & Lisa Sorkin, PTA Co-Presidents