



News from the Administration

November 2011

Beverly Farms at Northlake, 15101 Bauer Drive, Rockville MD 20853
301.469.1050

Writing Our Way To Success

There are wonderful things happening in the classrooms at Beverly Farms. Our teachers are doing a great job teaching your children strong writing skills. Writing is a skill that is required in every subject. One of our School Improvement Goals is to make sure that every student shows growth in writing by the end of the year. Teachers are working hard to integrate writing into all subjects. This aligns very well to teaching both fiction and nonfiction writing, particularly while learning subjects such as science and social studies.

We are using Ruth Culham's 6 +1 Traits of Writing to help students master the many different facets of good writing. The six traits include ideas, organization, conventions, sentence fluency, word choice, and voice. The +1 represents the presentation of writing. Students will be instructed on each one of these traits as the year progresses. All grade levels will be working on the traits at the same time. We are currently working on ideas and organization and will begin conventions in December followed by sentence fluency, word choice, and finally wrapping up the year with voice.

Teachers are working together to find effective strategies to use in writing instruction. Such productive collaboration really benefits our students. Staff from Kindergarten to Grade 5 are using the same vocabulary as well as group scoring student work using the same rubrics. This creates a cohesive learning experience for students as they move through the grade levels.

Yes, wonderful things are happening here at Beverly Farms. As a result, students are excited about writing and it is showing in their work.

PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE WRITING. WRITING IS A CRAFT THAT REQUIRES BOTH TALENT AND ACQUIRED SKILLS. YOU LEARN BY DOING, BY MAKING MISTAKES AND THEN SEEING WHERE YOU WENT WRONG.

-JEFFREY A. CARVER

IMPORTANT DATES

October 28 Halloween Festivities

- *Party Set-up at 1:40*
- *Parade at 2:00*
- *Class Parties After Parade ending at 2:50*

October 28 Alternative Activity to Halloween in Media Center 2:00 – 2:50

October 31 No School for Students – Teacher Professional Workday

November 4 Individual Student Picture Day

November 10 Early Release Day -1:00 Dismissal Parent Teacher Conferences

November 11 Early Release Day -1:00 Dismissal Parent Teacher Conferences

November 23 Early Release Day -1:00 Dismissal Thanksgiving Holiday

November 24 & 25
No School
Happy Thanksgiving

