
A Word from our Principal

Dear Berkeley Family,

We are now 1/12 of the way through 2012, which in school terms means we are half-way through the year with approximately 18 weeks left...I believe someone noted earlier this week that there are only 16 more Mondays, but who is counting?! While the days pass quickly, wonderful learning moments and experiences can be found.

A few short weeks ago students and teachers of every grade level met for our mid-year administrative assemblies. We came together in order to remind everyone about rules and expectations. A few slides in the presentation highlighted making the most of our time. Much of the first weeks of school entailed establishing good habits and routines. It is expected that students have a clear understanding of acceptable and unacceptable behavior as it relates to the safety, caring, and learning of our community. One of the hardest lessons taught during middle school years is children taking responsibility for their learning and behavior. We use our Advisory period to discuss various topics with students surrounding these issues to better help them talk through how to make good choices. These lessons refer back to PAWS, the acronym used to capture our school values—*Prepare for Learning, Act Appropriately, Work Hard, and Show Respect*.

The conversations from our administrative assemblies were fitting given the month's recognition of bullying prevention. The division hosted a thoughtful and informative presentation about bullying. Berkeley will be using the information to share with our school community. If you wish to see more on the topic, you may visit our division webpage and find information under the department of Specialized Educational Services' page. Later this month, students will participate in a survey about bullying in order for our schools to be more proactive and vigilant in helping students who experience cruel acts. During the month of March, there will be a special presentation that will be for our student body about this important topic.

In honor of February, I would encourage everyone to work on practicing COMPASSION, a character word that is often used in education. Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Life's most urgent question is, what are you doing for others?"

From the hallway to the classroom, and the school bus to home, let's make it our goal to show compassion. In true Berkeley spirit, we are all accountable for making sure others are not made fun of or left out. *Everyone* is special!

Can't Hide That Bulldog Pride!

Warmly,

Karen Swann, Principal

BMSPTA 18th Annual Block Party

**GET READY FOR
THE BMSPTA
18TH ANNUAL
BLOCK PARTY!**



Mark Your
Calendars!
Friday,
May 11, 2012
3:15pm-6:00pm

* Inflatables *
* Games * Food *
* Music * Fun *
And so much
more!

Pies for Pi Day 3-14-12

Berkeley's student newspaper, "Paws in Print" will be raising money with a unique fundraiser combined with the ever-famous Pi Day on March 14, 2012.

A number of teachers and administrators have agreed to be placed on the ballot. The top three vote getters will be pied on 3-14.

All votes can be bought in this election, so encourage your children to cast their votes for the teachers they most want to see get a pie in the face! Fifty cents a vote and all the whipped cream the winning teachers can eat. Ballots will be sold during lunch!



Dolphin Team Wins Reading Contest



Congratulations to the 6th grade students on the Dolphin Team who read their way to success 2nd quarter and beat out the Koalas and Oinkers in a "Who Can Read the Most Words?" contest. Mrs. McClain's readers read a total of 17,770,146 words, for an average of 246,807 words per student.

Dolphins in the Million Word club (Students who read more than a million words by themselves) were Austin Fortiner, David McKinney, Kirk Grierson, Abby Goetsch and Carleigh Rutan. Also in the Million Word Club was Zoli Molnar of the Koalas team. Great Job Students! Read On!

News From The BMS Orchestra Room



Congratulations to our BMS students who performed in the District VIII Middle School Honors Orchestra on January 13-14, 2012: Emily Anderson, Trevor Broady, Samantha Tiffany, Cameron Terhorst, Elizabeth Horley, Brianna McNelly, Joanne Owens, Nicole Harney, Deke Lueker, and Zurwan Purveyor.

Upcoming Events:

March 9th - BMS Festival Orchestra trip to Passage M.S. for Performance Assessment (formerly called District Orchestra Festival).

March 16th - BMS Orchestras host the Berkeley Spring Dance (6:30pm-9:00pm)

March 24th - BMS Orchestras host the WJCC 5th Grade Solo and Ensemble Festival (8:00am-2:00pm)

Dialogue with WJCC Leadership



The Williamsburg James City County PTA Council invite you to a "Dialogue with WJCC Leadership." Superintendent Dr. Steve Constantino will provide an update on the strategic planning process and the 2012/2013 budget. This will be followed by an opportunity for Q7A with WJCC School Board members Heather Cordasco, Elise Emanuel, Joe Fuentes, Ruth Larson and Dr. Oscar Prater in informal breakout sessions.

When - Monday, February 20, 2012, 7:00pm to 8:30pm

Where - Berkeley Middle School, 1118 Ironbound Road, Williamsburg

THIS EVENT IS BEING HOSTED BY THE WJCC PTA COUNCIL AND IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.
ALL ARE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.

Nurses Corner - Debbie Baker, RN

The influenza season will soon be upon us and I would recommend your son/daughter obtain a flu shot if at all possible. This is also a good time to review and update your contact information provided to the school back in September. The faster we can remove a sick student from the classroom and to the clinic and then home is very important. Also, if you have anyone not previously listed that you could add to their emergency card that could also pick up your child up from school if they become sick suddenly while at school would be very helpful. Thank you for assisting me in helping me take care of your student.

Letter from PTA President

Dear BMS Families,

As second semester starts, it looks like it will be a very busy Spring. As you read this month's newsletter, you will see BMS has many wonderful events scheduled. Among other things, PTA will be preparing for the annual Block Party which is scheduled for May 11th. Please put it on your calendar! We will need many volunteers to help pull off another successful party. Details will be sent out soon and we ask you to send your contact information to BMSPTA@gmail.com so we can start compiling our list of super volunteers.

In another month or so, we'll begin developing a slate of officers for next year's PTA. Please consider serving as an officer or committee chair. It's rewarding and fun.

Spring Break is the first week of April and in May, PTA will sponsor Teacher Appreciation Week.

It looks to be a great Spring!

Laura Tripp, President

**** Please Send in Farm Fresh Receipts To Help BMS Earn FREE Items ****

When you shop at Farm Fresh Supermarkets or purchase gas at any Fuel Express, please send the bottom portion of the store receipts and actual gas receipts in with your child (no copies or duplicates). Teachers will send them to the office marked for PTA. Thanks for your support.

News from the Drama Department



Rehearsals are underway for our Spring Musical "The Wiz"!!! The cast of over 50 students are working hard four days a week after school in preparation for the March 9th -

11th shows. Jonah Wilder and Joshua Priest have been named our student directors this year. Nicole Harney won the coveted title of Dorothy.

BMS Merchandise Available

Hey there BULLDOGS ... here we are in the month of February and still enjoying fall weather. Winter coats are still hanging in our closets and it is the perfect weather for BULLDOG T-SHIRTS and HOODIES. We have the following sizes in stock YL, S, M, L, XL and XXL. Hoodies are \$25.00 - T-Shirts are \$12.00. We will be taking orders throughout the month of February. Please send an envelope labeled PTA SPIRIT WEAR to your child's homeroom teacher. Included in the envelope: payment, paper with your child's full name, hoodie or t-shirt size and homeroom teacher. We also have BULLDOG MAGNETS available for only \$5.00. Show off your school spirit and ORDER TODAY !!!



**Berkeley Middle School
1118 Ironbound Road
Williamsburg, Virginia
757-229-8051**

Our website is:

**[http://www.wjcc.k12.va.us
/bms/](http://www.wjcc.k12.va.us/bms/)**

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