

BROOKFIELD BABBLE

February 2012
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Brookfield Elementary
4200 Lees Corner Road
Chantilly, VA 20151
(703) 814-8700

<http://www.fcps.edu/BrookfieldES>
<http://www.brookfieldpta.org>



Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) welcomes parent involvement in their child's school experience. Your support and encouragement is crucial to your student's academic success. Here are some ideas about how to be involved:



Be an informed parent:

- Maintain communication with the school throughout the year. Regularly review the school calendar, policies, and procedures.
- Read communication from the teacher, the school, and the school system such as newsletters, memos, and notes. Ask questions if you need more information.
- Watch FCPS cable television programs and regularly review the web site www.fcps.edu, including the *Familygram* online.
- Sign up for Keep in Touch e-mail notification (<http://www.fcps.edu/kit/>) and FCPS 24-7 Learning (<http://fcps.blackboard.com/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp>).
- Become informed about your child's grade level curriculum — Virginia Standards of Learning and FCPS Program of Studies.
- Learn about and support the safety procedures your child's school has established.
- Notify the school when you change your home address or emergency contacts, and tell the school about important events that might affect your child.

Get to know your child's teacher:

- Establish continual communication with your child's teacher. Find out how to best contact the teacher and when it is best to contact him or her.
- Recognize that you are a partner in your child's education and have valuable information to share about your child. You are his or her first teacher and the only one that will last a lifetime.
- Talk with your child's teacher about the expectations he or she has for you and your child. Talk about the goals you both have for your child. Ask your child's teacher what you can do at home to support your child's academic achievement.

Support learning at home:

- Talk with your child about his or her school day and what he or she is learning at school. Listen to what your child shares.
- Learn about the FCPS guidelines for homework, and establish a homework routine at home.
- Understand how nutrition, rest, exercise, family, and fun activities affect your child's academic, physical, and social development.

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- Use resources available to FCPS families.
- Learn about after-school activities—clubs, athletics, tutoring, and School Age Child Care (SACC).
- If English is not your first language, find out about and use FCPS translation and interpretation resources.
- Get to know the parent liaison at your child's school and how he or she can support your involvement in your child's education.
- Learn how the school will accommodate your child's special needs—academic, health, emotional, and dietary.

Become an active supporter of education:

- Attend special functions held by the school—parent meetings, curriculum nights, parent education programs, concerts, athletic events, and school-wide social events.
- Join the parent-teacher organization and attend sponsored functions.
- Become involved in the decision-making process in your child's school—serve on a committee, complete surveys, and share your views.
- Offer to volunteer at your child's school—help in the classroom, library, or office. Work at home on school projects.
- Become a tutor or a mentor for children who need support.

Mary Miller
Principal

VaRonica Sloan Clemons
Assistant Principal

Jennifer L. Drummond
Assistant Principal



February Events

- ◆ 1, 8 - Spelling Bee Club - 2:45 - 3:30 PM
- ◆ 1 - PTA Meeting - 7 PM
- ◆ 2 - Curriculum Night at Rocky Run MS - 6 PM
- ◆ 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28 - After-school SOL Club, 2:50 -4:30 PM
- ◆ 3 - PTA Movie Night - 7 PM
- ◆ 7 - PTA McDonald's Night - Greenbriar Location - 5 PM
- ◆ 7, 14, 21, 28 - Girl Power and Future Club - 3:00 - 4:00 PM
- ◆ 9 - Band and Orchestra Informance - 6:30 PM
- ◆ 10 - 4th Grade Colonial Day
- ◆ 13 - ACC Site Rehearsal - Colin Powell ES - 2:30 PM
- ◆ 14 - Progress Reports Distributed
- ◆ 16 - School-wide Spelling Bee - 8:30 AM
- ◆ 16 - Franklin MS Parent Information Night at Franklin MS
- ◆ 20 - President's Day Holiday - No School
- ◆ 23 - Kindergarten - First Kid for a Day Presentations
- ◆ 24 - PTA Science Fair: 8:15 AM
- ◆ 24 - SCA Spirit Day: Teacher Dress Like a Student/Student Dress Like a Teacher
- ◆ 28 - 4th Grade Field Trip to the National Symphony Orchestra

Get Ready!!!...April 10-19, 2012

Boosterthon
FUN RUN

PTA President's Corner

February has arrived. The month of hearts and flowers, or as my husband says, the month when greeting card makers and florists rub their hands in glee. This month brings the PTA movie night and the science fair. Movie night is a lot of fun and a great way for friends to get together at school for a night of movies and popcorn. The science fair is a two-part event. Judging takes place after school on Thursday Feb. 23rd and viewing on Friday morning Feb. 24th. Brookfield students produce some amazing projects.

Kathy Smith, our newly re-elected school board chairperson, attended our PTA meeting. It is always interesting when she attends our meeting. She talked at length about the information found on the Fairfax County website. The website is www.fcps.edu. Did you know the Fairfax County School Board has released its proposed 2013 budget? It is a 2.4 million dollar proposal, which is a 9 percent increase or a 202.3 million dollar increase. Did you know you could attend a board meeting? There are many issues up for discussion, all of which are published on the Fairfax County website.

Kathy Smith also mentioned the other members elected to the school board with her. Ilryong Moon was re-elected and brings his wealth of experience to the school board. Ted Velkoff and Ryan McElveen bring a new perspective. Mr. Velkoff is a former PTA president and is a local parent while Mr. McElveen brings a young and refreshing perspective to the board. This last school board election was a hotly contested one. Now that the election is behind us it is time to put animosity behind us look forward to keeping Fairfax County the best school system around.

At the meeting Kathy Smith again talked about her support of foreign language in the elementary school. It is a commitment that has benefitted Brookfield in a tremendous way. If you currently have a child in first through fifth grade your child is learning Spanish as part of their curriculum. This program has been threatened by budget cuts for many years and is now only available in a few schools, Brookfield Elementary School being one of them. One of the major reasons we have this program is Kathy Smith's support and an amazing Brookfield parent, Sandy Knox. She has been a tireless supporter of the FLES (foreign language in elementary school) program and her enthusiasm and dedication is the biggest reason why it remains at Brookfield. If you ever have the opportunity to attend one of Maestra Jamilet's Spanish classes you should do so. They are so much fun! I love that my second grader will leave Brookfield speaking a second language. What an advantage for these kids.

So enjoy your February especially if your hearts and flowers are the paper kind produced by one of your wonderful children. They may even say "te quiero mama y papa" when they give them to you.

Deb Marciello, PTA President



After-school art classes from Abrakadoodle start Friday, February 24!

Questions? Contact Abrakadoodle@brookfieldpta.org



PTA Movie Night!
Now Showing:
Kung Fu Panda 2

Doors open @ 6:15 PM
Movie starts @ 7 PM
Pizza, candy, and popcorn
will be available for sale

Brookfield PTA Science Fair

It's not too late! If you have an experiment or research project you'd like to share, sign up for Brookfield PTA's Science Fair!

Judging will take place after school on Thursday, February 23rd, and all exhibits will be on display during school hours on Friday, February 24th.

Prizes will be awarded so don't wait! If you haven't done so already, fill out a registration form and turn it into your child's teacher.

Registration forms are available in the front office.

Questions? Contact:
Deb Marciello at 703-961-8113,
or email at
science_fair@brookfieldpta.org
Janice Crowley at 703-263-3111, or email at
science_fair@brookfieldpta.org





A big HELLO and HAPPY NEW YEAR from Brookfield's Library! We hope that you all had a peaceful and happy winter break. Now that we're back in school, even though it's cold outside, 2012 is really heating up down here in the Information Center.

- Primary kids are reading great stories as well as learning important library and computer skills.
- Third graders are learning how to use reference materials.
- Fourth and sixth graders are exploring many different genres of fiction.
- Fifth graders are learning how to take notes in anticipation of the start of our Global Awareness Project.

We have updated the Library's web page with a readers' blog. Please take a look at it with your children and encourage them to write about the great books they are reading. You can get to it by visiting Brookfield's web site (<http://www.fcps.edu/BrookfieldES/>), clicking on the *Library* link, and then clicking on the *Brookfield Reading Blog* link. You will find three activities in response to our ongoing Virginia Reader's Choice program, as well as detailed instructions on how to use the blog. The main idea is to read, react and be respectful. We can't wait to hear as many Brookfield Broncos as possible about their reading adventures.

Finally, the **BOOK FAIR IS COMING!** We'll be hosting our annual Book Fair during the week of March 12 - 16, 2012. If you'd like to volunteer, we'd love to have you! Please contact either Mrs. Riddell or me by email or phone: JORiddell@fcps.edu, or CTWilson@fcps.edu, or 703-814-8700. As always, thank you for your support!

---Cathy Wilson and Janice Riddell, your library staff

Looking Ahead to March

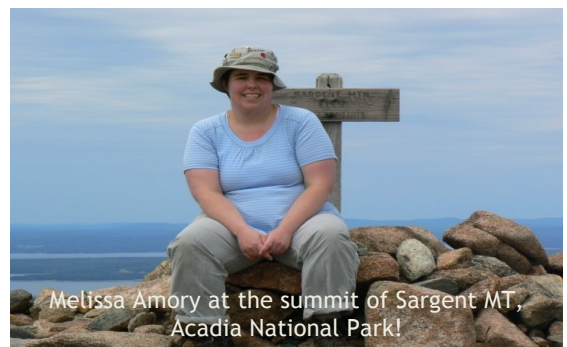
- ◆ 1, 6, 8, 13, 15, 27, 29 - After School SOL Club - 2:50 - 4:30 PM
- ◆ 5 - 5th Grade Writing SOL - Multiple Choice
- ◆ 5 - ACC Site Rehearsal - Colin Powell ES
- ◆ 6 - PTA Meeting, 9 AM
- ◆ 6, 13, 20, 27 - Girl Power & Future Club - 3:00 - 4:00 PM
- ◆ 7 - 5th Grade Writing SOL - Short Paper
- ◆ 12 - 16 - Scholastic Book Fair
- ◆ 13 - Parent Center Open House
- ◆ 14, 21 - Talent Show Rehearsal - 1:00 - 2:30 PM
- ◆ 15 - Curriculum Night
- ◆ 20 - Spring Pictures
- ◆ 23 - PTA Talent Show - 7:00 PM
- ◆ 30 - 3rd Grading Period Ends

Get to Know... Melissa Amory

I can't even believe it but this is my 10th year teaching! Prior to becoming a Reading Resource Teacher I taught Kindergarten and First Grade. Teaching reading has always been my favorite part of teaching! I love watching my kids go from non-readers to readers right before my eyes! I knew I wanted to be a teacher when I was in first grade and learned to read! I don't remember the process at all but I do remember words suddenly making sense! Reading quickly became one of my favorite activities and still is today! Over the last few years I've been teaching myself how to crochet and I'm getting pretty good! I spend a lot free time working on afghans and scarves. I also love to go hiking! Over the summer I usually take a big two-week hiking trip somewhere - last summer it was Yosemite National Park and the summer before that was Washington State. I usually rent a small RV (I like hiking, not necessarily camping!) and my parents usually come with me in their big RV. I enjoy going almost anywhere outdoors but I prefer the mountains over the beach. Currently my favorite TV show is The Big Bang Theory! I'm so excited to be at Brookfield! This is a great school with amazing teachers and terrific kids!

The Brookfield Babble is brought to you by the Brookfield PTA. Submissions may be dropped off in the PTA Mailbox or emailed to babble@brookfieldpta.org.

The deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month prior. Content from students, parents and teachers are welcomed.



Melissa Amory at the summit of Sargent MT, Acadia National Park!

Spirit Day - Friday, Feb 24! Teacher Dress Like a Student/Student Dress Like a Teacher