



## Advanced Academic Programs

Dear Families,

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) offers a continuum of advanced academic services for all students in grades K-8. This newsletter includes information on these services and about testing, screening, and identification procedures for full-time Advanced Academic Program placement (Level IV). If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Silberberg, Brookfield's Advanced Academic Resource Teacher at 703-814-8731 or [jksilberberg@fcps.edu](mailto:jksilberberg@fcps.edu).

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### ADVANCED ACADEMIC PROGRAMS (AAP) CONTINUUM OF SERVICES

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) offers a continuum of advanced academic services for all students in grades K-8. Learning experiences are designed to develop higher-level thinking through enrichment, acceleration, and extension of the Program of Studies. Teachers, administrators, and advanced academic resource teachers (AARTs) work together to provide the following Levels of Service:

- **Critical and Creative Thinking Lessons, Grades K-6 (Level I)**  
The first level is provided to all students in grades kindergarten through grade six and consists of model lessons that are designed to teach critical and creative thinking skills. The lessons are modeled in all classrooms by advanced academic resource teachers and the thinking strategies are then used throughout the year by classroom teachers and other teachers who work with students. Student responses to these lessons are used as part of the identification process for levels II-IV. Parents may also practice these strategies during family conversations and activities. A description of the 9 critical and creative thinking strategies can be found at <http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/aap/level1.html>.
- **Differentiated Lessons in Areas of Academic Strength, Grades K-6 (Level II)**  
The advanced academic resource teacher collaborates with classroom teachers to provide additional challenge through lessons and resources that extend and enrich the program of studies. Screening for this level of service is ongoing throughout the school year. The Young Scholars Model begins at this level and is designed to find and nurture advanced academic potential in students from historically underrepresented populations.
- **Part-Time Advanced Academic Program, Grades 3-6 (Level III)**  
Students identified by a local school screening committee for part-time advanced academic services (Level III) are challenged through models and strategies designed to extend and enrich the POS in the four core subject areas. Screening for this level of service is ongoing throughout the school year.

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- **Full-Time Advanced Academic Placement, Grades 3-8 (Level IV)**  
Students found eligible for placement in a full-time Advanced Academic Program (Level IV) through a central selection process receive a highly challenging instructional program in the four core subject areas. Screening for this level of service occurs in the fall for students who are new to FCPS and in the spring for all other students. The referral deadline is in October for students who are new to FCPS and the first week of February for spring screening. Additional information is available in the Parent Information Packet, published on the AAP website, [www.fcps.edu/dis/aap](http://www.fcps.edu/dis/aap).
- **IBMYP: Selected Schools, Grades 6-10**  
The International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program is designed for students ages 11-16. The program helps students develop the knowledge, understanding, attitudes, and skills necessary to participate actively and responsibly in a changing world. The curriculum is supported by the fundamental concepts of intercultural awareness, holistic learning, and communication.

#### Honors, Grades 7-8

Advanced and/or accelerated classes are available for students in grades 7- 8 through an open enrollment process. Students receive instruction that is differentiated for advanced learners in the four core subjects in one or more areas of academic strength or interest.

#### SCREENING

Multiple criteria are reviewed to determine eligibility for all FCPS Advanced Academic Programs. The local school committee determines student eligibility for part-time school-based services. The countywide central selection committee determines eligibility for full-time AAP (Level IV) placement.

#### TESTING

Each fall all FCPS first grade students are administered the Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT). Students in second through seventh grades who do not have an NNAT score may also be administered the NNAT. **Brookfield ES will administer the NNAT on November 15<sup>th</sup>.** Each fall all FCPS second grade students are administered the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT). Students in third through seventh grades who do not have a CogAT score may also be administered the CogAT. **Brookfield ES will administer the CogAT October 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>.** A second grade screening pool is established using the test results from first and second grade testing. Students in the second grade pool are automatically screened for full-time AAP (Level IV) placement. Parents or guardians may exercise a one-time retest option during the fall testing cycle.

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#### REFERRALS for FULL-TIME ADVANCED ACADEMIC PLACEMENT LEVEL IV (Grades 2-7)

Parents or guardians of students not in the second grade screening pool may initiate the full-time AAP (Level IV) screening process by completing and submitting an **AAP Level IV Referral Form to the local school principal no later than February 3, 2012. No late referrals will be accepted.** Second graders not in the pool and all third through seventh graders are screened only by referral. Forms are available on the AAP website ([www.fcps.edu/DIS/aap](http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/aap)) and in the *Parent Information Packet* available at the local school. (Please note: Parents or guardians of students who are in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade pool will be notified by the school. Students who are not in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade pool will not receive notification. The benchmark score used to create the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade pool will be published on the Advanced Academic Programs website mid-January.)

#### PARENT INFORMATION MEETING

*A parent information meeting will be held at Brookfield Elementary School on October 25, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. Kathy Silberberg, the advanced academic resource teacher, will provide information about levels of service at Brookfield ES, as well as explain and answer questions about the screening processes for part-time school based and Level IV services. The meeting is open to all K-6 parents.*

Thank you,  
Mrs. Mary Miller  
Mrs. Jennifer Drummond  
Mrs. VaRonica Sloan Clemons

#### October Events

- ◆ 5 & 6 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Field Trip to Colvin Run Mill
- ◆ 5 - PTA Meeting - 7:00 pm - South Wing Art Room
- ◆ 6 - Headstart Field Trip to Gunston Hall
- ◆ 6 - PTA Assembly
- ◆ 10 - Columbus Day - No School
- ◆ 11 - Interims Distributed (Grades 1-6)
- ◆ 17 - Kindergarten Literacy Night, 6 pm
- ◆ 18 - Fall Picture Day
- ◆ 22 - Fall Festival - 11am - 3 pm
- ◆ 25 - Advanced Academics Programs Parent Meeting -6:30 pm
- ◆ 27 - First Grade Literacy Night, 6 pm

**\*\*Community Flyer Distribution\*\***

Fall Community Flyers will be distributed on 10/18. If you or your organization would like to participate in Brookfield Elementary School's twice-a-year community flyer distribution, mark October 18, 2011 and March 27, 2012 on your calendar.

Non-profit organizations are welcome to participate. All flyers must be approved by the principal before they are distributed. The fall community flyer must be submitted to the principal by Tuesday, October 11. After approval, copies must be made to be distributed on Tuesday, October 18.

The spring community flyer distribution date will be March 27. This flyer must be submitted to the principal by Tuesday, March 20, 2012.

Please call the office at 703-814-8700 for additional information.



*Don't forget about our Claire's Gourmet fundraiser! The cheesecake is fabulous as well as all of their desserts.*

*Think less holiday baking and spending more time with family. There are lots of other great things to choose from as well and it is a great way to support Brookfield.*

*Orders are due October 14th.  
Delivery will be on Nov. 4th.*

**Looking Ahead to November**

- ◆ 1 - PTA Meeting, 9 am
- ◆ 7-8 - Parent/Teacher Conferences
- ◆ 16 - Chik-Fil-A Night
- ◆ 23 - 2 Hour Early Dismissal
- ◆ 24-25 Thanksgiving Holidays

*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](mailto:babble@brookfieldpta.org).*

*The deadline for submissions is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior. Content from students, parents and teachers*

**PTA**  
everychild.onevoice!

**PTA President's Corner**

*The craziness of September and the back to school rush is behind us. At least I hope it is. I always feel like October is when I get to take a deep breath and realize that my family once again has routine and structure. If you know me then you know routine and structure are words that make me very happy. They rank up there with organization. Hopefully your children have settled into a school routine and are enjoying their classrooms.*

*In September we sent home our new fundraiser from Claire's Gourmet. I hope you got a chance to try a sample at back to school night and liked whatever you tried. It is a new fundraiser for us and we hope it is different from what anyone else is doing. Fundraising is a necessary evil for the PTA. If we want to provide events like the fall festival, bingo night, movie night, the science fair and international night we need to fundraise. We also help Mrs. Miller fund "extras" that she may not be able to provide without our help. Budget cuts are a reality for Fairfax Public Schools and we are always pleased when we can help Brookfield be the best place for our children to learn and thrive.*

*Thanks to our fundraising efforts, we were able to fund Mrs. Miller's entire technology request, support multiple field trips, offer support to the PBS system, purchase more cafeteria tables, and lots of other extras. We also do some small things that add up. We provide peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to any child that does not have a lunch and does not have lunch money on their account. Everyone has a lunch at Brookfield.*

*You can support the PTA in many ways. Become a member. I encourage everyone to join, come to a meeting and find out what new things we have going on. Support the Claire's Gourmet fundraiser. Come to a restaurant night or be a part of Boosterthon in the spring. You can also simply volunteer your time. Volunteers are a much-valued commodity at Brookfield. We appreciate any support you give the PTA.*

*I hope you enjoy the calm of October, at least before the craziness of the holiday season starts.*

**Deb Marciello, PTA President**

## Get to know our new librarian, Ms. Cathy Wilson!

*Background:* Before coming to Brookfield, she was a classroom teacher (mostly 2<sup>nd</sup> grade) and then she worked as a middle school librarian.

*Favorite Books:* There are so many! She is currently reading the *Elephant and Piggie* series by Mo Willems with her daughter.

*Favorite Foods:* She loves Mexican and Italian food.

*Favorite TV shows/movies/actors:*

Bones is her favorite show. Cary Grant will always be her very favorite actor.

*A perfect day for her would be:* Sleeping in without guilt, followed by having someone else cook her a fabulous breakfast. Then she and her daughter would go to a bright sunny place and play all day!

*She became a librarian because:* She always loved being in a library ever since she was a little girl. It's a place where the whole world can be opened up for you when you learn how to use all of the wonderful things that are offered there. She wanted to be a teacher who can help children gain access to those treasures of information.

*Look for a library-related article in future issues of the Babble!*



## Fall Festival!!!

*This year's festival will take place on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> from 11:00a.m. - 3:00p.m.  
Bring your friends, your family and your neighbors!*

- ◆ *Do you have a favorite chili recipe? Enter the chili cook-off competition!*
- ◆ *Let your creativity flow by entering the cake decorating competition or the poster competition.*
- ◆ *Race your friends on the Adrenaline Rush!*
- ◆ *Enjoy the tasty treats from the bake sale.*
- ◆ *Win prizes at the carnival games and try your luck at the 50/50 raffle – the more people that enter, the more the prize will be worth!*
- ◆ *Perhaps your amazing powers will help you win at the Estimation Game*

*It will be a great event!! Come out to support Brookfield!!*

*If you want to volunteer for this event, please contact Lori Zampello at [mlzamp5@verizon.net](mailto:mlzamp5@verizon.net) or Liz Fisher at [blizfisher@hotmail.com](mailto:blizfisher@hotmail.com). We still need lots and lots of help!!*

*Also, please contribute something for your classroom baskets and consider baking something for the Bake Sale.*