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Newsletter

September 16, 2009

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| September | 21 - Buster the Bus Program for Kindergarten Students, 10:00 AM |
| | - School Improvement Team Meeting, 3:45 PM |
| | 22 - Volunteer Training, 9:15 AM in the Library |
| | 24 - Innisbrook Orders Due |
| | 28 - Yom Kippur - Schools and Offices CLOSED |
| October | 5 - Volunteer Training, 6:15 PM |
| | - Parent Meeting, Topic: New Report Cards, 7PM |
| | 6 - Grade 5 Fieldtrip "Eco-Trekkers", 9AM-3PM |
| | 12 - AC/Heat Conversion Begins in BCPS Buildings |
| | 13 - Multi-School Mile Run, 4-5PM |
| | 16 - MSTA Convention/Staff Development- SCHOOLS CLOSED FOR STUDENTS |
| | 19 - Friendly Farm Night, 4-8PM |

Dear Parents,

I want to thank all our parents who participated in our Back to School Night on September 8. If you were not there, the teachers usually send home information. Our School Improvement Team (SIT) is having its first meeting next Monday. You will find the names and emails of our parent members later in this newsletter. Be sure to contact one of them if you have a question or concern that you would like this team to discuss. We pride ourselves on the way that we encourage our parents to be our partners in their children's education. One way to nurture this relationship is to keep people informed and to address concerns in an efficient, respectful manner. Please feel free to contact anyone on this team if you have a concern.

Recently, we sent home our request for emergency closing plans. These are for when Fifth District is the **ONLY** school to close in our system. We cannot finalize this until we have a plan for every child in our building. Mrs. Harris has been working diligently to get this done and we hope to have it out to you promptly. If we would close early without this in place, it would be a real problem. If you have not done so already, please immediately return that paperwork to us.

Another response that we need from you is the behavior handbook receipt. All students in grades one through five have already had their presentations. The kindergarten students will have their presentation later this month. Please look over the receipt carefully as it allows you to express your permission for several other events. If you only sign the behavior portion, we will assume that you are

permitting all the others. Every student must have their own receipt on file at our school each year. Thank you for taking the time to address this matter.

You know that we have a very thorough safety plan for our building. While I cannot give you specific details due to security, I can promise you that we practice all our drills seriously and correct any glitches that we encounter. One of the many reasons that Fifth District is a safe environment is the cooperation of our community with our expectations. If you are picking up your children from school, they must be signed out at the office. If you are running a little late, please feel free to call the office and we will be happy to have the children wait in the office until you arrive. Please do not meet them as they are getting on the bus and take them with you. If they go out of the building in a bus line, we expect that they are on the bus. In case of an emergency, we need to account for every child. Thank you for working with us on this.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, your children's teachers, Mr. Quinn and I want to hear from you. You can call, use our emails, or use the tear off at the end of the newsletter. We look forward to working with you this year to continue to make Fifth District one of the finest elementary schools in Maryland.

Sincerely,
Carole D. Zuentel

Volunteer Training

Please remember that beginning this year, all parents who are **volunteering in our building or even just going on a field trip MUST attend a volunteer training. Our next scheduled training session is on Tuesday, September 22, at 9:15 AM in the Library.** We are also planning an additional evening training to line up with the parent meeting that is scheduled for October 5 to address the new report card that BCPS is implementing this year. The volunteer training will begin at 6:15, followed by the report card meeting at 7:00. Our fifth grade field trip to Eco-Trekkers is on October 6, so all the chaperones need to attend training **before** that date. More information will be forthcoming.

Hereford Zone Schools Helping Hopkins

As part of the "Kids Helping Hopkins" initiative, students and representatives from the Hereford Zone Schools are soliciting pledges for their individual participation in the 2nd Annual Baltimore Crossroads event - a 5k and one mile family fun walk/run held on **Saturday, October 31.** Kids Helping Hopkins is a special values-education program endorsed by the Baltimore County School System to support vital programs at the Johns Hopkins Children's Center. The program nurtures compassion, sharing and respect for children in need. This event is open to people of all ages and skill levels and will include activities, exhibits, presentations and more. **All funds raised by Hereford Zone students and representatives will benefit The Johns Hopkins Children's Cancer program.** More information is attached to this newsletter. If you are interested in participating in this event, pledge sheets and event information are available in the school office. It is our hope that Fifth District will be well represented at this worth while event.

Computer Club

Permission slips for the Fifth District Computer Club, which begins October 7, will go home next week. There is a spot for one more student. Anyone interested in joining the next Computer Club session beginning in November is asked to please email Mrs. Dean, our technology resource teacher at rdean@bcps.org or at 410-887-1726.

Parent Meeting - BCPS New Report Card

We are happy to inform you that BCPS is implementing a new report card this year in all the elementary schools. It was piloted in numerous schools last year and survey comments were very favorable. It will give a more accurate picture of our children's learning with the VSC and the other curriculum geared toward the 21st century. To support our parents understanding, we will be offering two parent meetings in October. The first meeting will be held on Monday, October 5 at 7:00 PM in our school library. This will follow a 6:15 volunteer training on that same night in the library. The date for the second meeting will be announced at a later date.

Classroom Celebrations

Sometimes parents want to send in treats for special events, such as birthday celebrations. Please contact your child's teachers before doing this to discuss the day and time that these arrive. Some of our classes have core subjects that go almost to the end of the day and these cannot be cut short for these celebrations. The teachers will be happy to arrange a mutually convenient time for you to do this. Also, teachers are aware if they have any students with special allergy needs or concerns. While, they cannot share that confidential information, they may make specific requests about the types of treats that you send in. Please respect any requests that they might make to assure that all the children safely enjoy the celebrations.

Distribution of Flyers

BCPS is the 26th largest school system in the United States. To keep our system functioning cohesively, the Board of Education has established many rules and policies. These are available on the BCPS.org website under the "Our System" subtitle. This year, the school principals have been given the task of approving all flyer requests in accordance with rule # 2361. This rule clearly states that only materials that concern school-sponsored established relationships or materials from entities of federal, state, or local government, or PTA may be distributed through the schools. If you are considering asking for the distribution of a flyer, please go to the website and read this rule thoroughly before making your request. This recently revised rule may cause flyers that were previously approved to be denied. Thank you for assisting us as we implement this procedure according to the expectation of BCPS.

Cooling/Heating Conversion

To prepare for the winter season, the Department of Physical Facilities will be converting schools from cooling to heating beginning Monday, October 12. It is necessary to shut down the cooling system because, unlike residential systems, most school mechanical systems cannot automatically switch from cooling to heating. Every effort will be made to ensure that the semi-annual changeover takes place with as little inconvenience as possible, however, since the fall and winter temperatures can be erratic, please dress appropriately.

Central Area Educational Advisory Council Meeting Dates/Times

The following Central Area Advisory Council (CAEAC) dates were added, changed, or corrected after the BCPS 2009-2110 Information Calendar was published. We would like to alert you of these changes. The following meetings were added: Meetings are held on Thursdays at 7PM on September 24, October 15, November 19, January 21, February 25, March 18, April 22 and May 20.

Emergency Dismissal



We recently sent home important paperwork to be completed by parents so that we know where to send your child in the event our school must close early due to an emergency, such as a power outage or water loss. Please remember this is for days when **ONLY** Fifth District may close due to these types of emergencies. If you have not already done so, please return this paperwork to us as soon as possible. We cannot complete our parent phone tree or emergency dismissal plans for teachers until all information has been returned. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Parents' Role on School Improvement Team (SIT)

The School Improvement Team (SIT) consists of teachers, staff, and parents of the Fifth District community. Typically members of the team serve a two-year term. The SIT wants to take this opportunity to let community members know the role of the team and encourage parents to consider volunteering to serve on this team in years to come. The SIT meets regularly to share thoughts and concerns which impact Fifth District Elementary School and the School Improvement Plan. Topics of past discussions include academic performance, social concerns, and economic issues unique to our community. Members of SIT are a primary source for parents to utilize when there is a school concern amongst community members. They will always make themselves available to hear your concerns. The parent representatives work closely with the teachers and administration to provide consistency and safety to all our children. They have the special task of relaying information into the school population. If you have any ideas about how to enhance the performance or communication of this team with our community, please share them with one of our parent members. Please plan to stay in the know by seeking out SIT members to obtain information about this year's school program. **Notes from the SIT meetings will be posted on the community bulletin board in the office hallway and on our school website.**

School Improvement Team Members 2009-2010

Name	Title	Email
Carole Quental	Principal	cquental@bcps.org
Randy Quinn	Assistant Principal	rquinn@bcps.org
Amy Martin	PTA President	Amylmartin77@yahoo.com
Joyce Kimble	Parent	jkimble@wbcm.com
Sally Fleischmann	Parent	fletch15@earthlink.net
Martha Craig	Parent	martha.craig@mindspring.com
Dawn Elliott	Parent	5elliots@comcast.net
Mark DiPaula	Grade 5 Teacher	mdipaola2@bcps.org
Brenda Benson	Grade 4 Teacher	bbenson@bcps.org
Molly Mann	Grade 1 Teacher	mmann@bcps.org
Roxanne Dean	Technology Resource Teacher	rdean@bcps.org
Kitty Flanagan	School Nurse	cflanagan@bcps.org
Judy Harris	Secretary	jharris@bcps.org

School Directory

A valuable source of information every year is your school directory, provided by the PTA. The directory contains a list of all the homerooms, and then lists each child's birthday, address, phone number, parents' emails, and names. Directory information forms were distributed the first week of school. Returning parents only need to return their form **IF** they have changes. New families, and returning families with changes, should return their Directory information forms immediately. Participation in the directory is optional. If you have any questions/concerns or new ideas, contact Jeannie Pfitzinger at 410-239-6706. When you join the PTA for \$10, a directory will be sent to you along with your membership card.



Counselor's Corner

Hello everyone! I hope all is going well for you and your family. As noted in the last newsletter, I will periodically send information to you about my work with your children. I always say I have the best job in the school because I get to wear so many different hats that no two days are the same. I would like to share with you my role here at Fifth.



First and foremost, I am a counselor. I counsel children both individually and in small groups. Students who are socially and emotionally secure are typically more academically successful, which is our goal for everyone. I counsel children on topics such as loss, anger management, self esteem, friendship skills and much more. I get to wear my teacher hat when I try to teach them good decision making and problem solving skills. As they get older, children need to be able to do this independently just like they need to read or do math. They cannot always rely on a parent or another grown up to solve their problems. I also get to wear my teacher hat when I do classroom lessons on topics such as self awareness, goal setting, careers, and appreciation of diversity.

As a school counselor, I am also a collaborator. I work with students, parents, teachers, and outside therapists to help your child be the best they can be. I can serve as the link between all of the adults who care so deeply about the happiness and success of your child.

As a consultant, I have knowledge and literature on a variety of topics available to our parents and staff. I have VHS tapes and DVDs on behavior management as well as books on raising boys, educating difficult children, ADHD, dealing with separations, divorces and death, resources for hard economic times, and much, much more. Stop by my office any time or jot me an email! If I don't have an answer, I will work hard with you to find one!

Last but not least, I serve our school as a liaison to different agencies. I am the magnet school liaison, the child protective services liaison, the My Neighbors Foundation liaison and the homeless liaison. I can also assist you if your child goes on home and hospital leave. If you have any questions that are related to any of these services and how I can help you, please contact me at 410-887-1726. I would be more than happy to speak with you to see how I can be of assistance.

BQ Gill

Who You Gonna Call?

Support for Families in Crisis

As we are all aware, times are tough right now. More and more people have lost their jobs, some their homes, and there is always the insurance issue. You are not alone! If you are a family temporarily in

need, there is help out there for you. Please know that you can contact me here at school to get some help accessing the following resources if you need it. For the most part, I can not sign you up to receive the help without your participation so please just contact me and we can have a confidential discussion about your needs and how to meet them. Listed below are some of the resources available to you. If you have any questions or would like to meet with me, please call 410-887-1726.

Yours in counseling,

Bj Gill

1. **My Neighbors Foundation**—a local group founded in order to help all children participate fully in their educational and social growth. They will fund field trips, buy school supplies, fifth grade year book and spirit clothes, help pay for an activity such as scouts or rec. sports, and much more if your family is in need. Contact either Mrs. Gill at 410-887-1726 or Mrs. Linda Price at 410-374-4657.
2. **Homeless Services**-contact Mrs. Gill at 410-887-1726 who will work with Mr. Dean Coletta, our Pupil Personnel Worker, so that your child can have the benefits of continuing at our school, possibly free lunches, free field trips, and more.
3. **Services for Families with Children, Baltimore County Department of Social Services**—In home counseling for families dealing with financial stressors, a difficult child, addictions effecting the family, etc. Please call 410-853-3164 to explain your situation.
4. **Family Investment Program** - Baltimore County Department of Social Services—Information regarding Section Eight Housing and vouchers for military veterans. Financial support for medicines or burials. Documentation for need is required. Call 410-853-3927.
5. **Baltimore County Crisis Response System**—No charge, 24 hour hotline for suicide threats and violence. Call 410-931-2214.

Band News

Fifth grade band lessons begin the week of September 21st, please be sure that your instrument is rented in time. Lessons are on Tuesday afternoons or sometimes on Friday, on a rotating schedule. Students are required to practice 70 minutes a week but are highly encouraged to practice at least 100-120 minutes to excel.

Mr. Coley

Used Instruments for Sale

2 bell/snare kits (suitable for 5th grade percussionists)
1 full size cello

Please contact Mr. Coley via email at gcoley@bcps.org for contact information regarding these instruments.



Graul's & Giant Fundraiser

Fifth District is once again participating in both the **Graul's receipts** and the **A+ Bonus Bucks** program. Last year, we earned over \$750 through these programs. The school will earn money as families **save and turn in green Graul's receipts to Fifth District from September 21 until March 21**. The deadline for turning in these receipts to the school is April 5.

To **register for the A+ Bonus Bucks** program, select Fifth District (id #01194) as your school of choice online at www.giantfood.com/aplus and then use your Giant Card when you shop. Thanks for helping us earn money to help your children!

Wade Coley, coordinator
gcoley@bcps.org

PTA Book Fair

The PTA's Annual Scholastic Book Fair will be held on Thursday, November 18 through Wednesday, November 25. The PTA is **seeking volunteers to assist with the Book Fair, as well as a chairperson**. Please contact Ms. Amy Martin at 443-326-3711 or at amylmartin77@yahoo.com if you are interested.

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PTA BOOK FAIR TEAR-OFF

_____ I am interested in assisting with the Book Fair.
_____ I am interested in being the chairperson for the Book Fair.

Name: _____

Phone/Email: _____



Home School Connection

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Do you have a question or concern
you would like addressed?



Let's talk!

Name: _____ Phone: _____

My question/concern:

Fifth District Recreation News



Check out the Hereford Zone Rec. Council website at <http://herefordrec.org/> for cancellations or information about recreation programs. If you have additional questions, please contact Richard Butt, Vice President of HZRPC at Richard.Butt@kci.com or the Hereford Community Supervisor, Kara Burman at kburman@baltimorecountymd.gov.