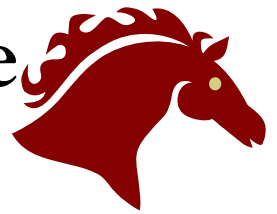


The Stoneleigh Gazette



900 Pemberton Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21212

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Christine Warner, Principal

Donna Wingerd, Administrative Secretary

Melissa O'Brien, Assistant Principal

Amy Eden, Secretary

October, 2009

Message From the Principal

It has been my practice to elaborate on the School Improvement Plan in my October message to families. By October, we have all settled into the routine of a new school year, and can now be reflective in terms of what our individual and collective goals should be. We capture our local school goals in our Stoneleigh Elementary School Improvement Plan.

What is the School Improvement Plan?

As reflected in the *Baltimore County Blueprint for Progress*, the number one goal of every Baltimore County Public School is to increase student achievement. To reach this goal, every school is expected to generate a school improvement plan. This plan is the document that results from staff and school improvement team members' participation in the school improvement planning process. The school improvement planning process in the Baltimore County Public School System is based on the premise that student achievement will increase when:

- There has been an analysis of the needs of students as revealed by data;
- Efforts and resources are focused towards student academic needs;
- The school improvement plan includes measurable long-term goals and short-term objectives aligned to the BCPS Master Plan, as well as aligned strategies, activities, assessments, professional development plans, budgets, and organization;
- There is regular monitoring of the plan to maintain focus and ongoing revision of the plan as needed data is available; and
- Progress towards goals and objectives is recognized and celebrated.

We share highlights of our performance data and welcome you to visit www.mdk12.org for additional data on our school.

Stoneleigh Elementary MSA Data:



MSA Data: Reading, 2009

Grade	Advanced	Proficient	Combined Advanced & Proficient	Basic
Grade 3	56.0% (+22.7)	38.5% (-21.5)	94.5% (+1.2)	5.5% (-1.2)
Grade 4	47.5% (-7.2)	47.5% (+4.5)	95.0% (-2.7)	5.0% (-2.7)
Grade 5	88.2% (+6.5)	10.6% (-3.4)	98.8% (+3.1)	1.2% (-3.1)

Mathematics, 2009

Grade	Advanced	Proficient	Combined Advanced & Proficient	Basic
Grade 3	51.6% (+2.1)	39.6% (-2.3)	91.2% (-0.2)	8.2% (+0.2)
Grade 4	65.3% (-1.43)	29.7% (-0.2)	95.0% (-1.6)	5.0% (-1.6)
Grade 5	58.8% (+0.7)	38.8% (+3.3)	97.6% (+4.0)	2.4% (-4.1)

Each year, we will place our school improvement plan in the office for review. The format of our plan is lengthy; and by virtue of its length, we have provided a summary this year for your review. Please review and feel free to send in your comments or suggestions. We value your input.

Executive Summary: Stoneleigh Elementary
School Improvement Plan – 2009/2010

READING

Best Practices

- ❖ Establish and maintain grade level professional learning communities (PLCs) who are responsible for monitoring the relationship between intended, assessed, and learned curriculum to ensure access to rigorous curriculum for all students.

- ❖ Identify and consistently implement a common core of research-based instructional practices resulting in more purposeful and engaging student work.
 - ❑ Provide for a Comprehensive Literacy Program addressing: phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension skills utilizing the VSC and BCPS core reading curriculum.
 - ❑ Provide student opportunities to collaborative practice, application and extension of explicitly taught skills through the implementation of the Four Step Model (T/TS/ST/S) gradually releasing responsibility to students
 - ❑ Regular use of BCRs (brief constructed responses) and ECRs (extended constructed responses).
 - ❑ Utilize the BCPS Theme Packets in conjunction with the Core Program.
 - ❑ Implement research-based practices for differentiating content, process, and products for individuals and small groups of students to maximize student engagement and achievement; with particular emphasis on **Special Education Legal Updates, and Best Inclusive Practices: Planning, Co-teaching Models, Documentation and Precision for Differentiated Instruction as well as exploration of AIM as it relates to the at-risk population.**
 - ❑ Utilize MSA rubrics and exemplary responses to debrief with students.
 - ❑ Maintain the Data Management System using item analysis data for instructional decision-making (Assessment Calendar/*AssessTrax*, DIBELS, informal assessments, and standardized testing).
 - ❑ Provide additional focus to VSC assessment limits.
 - ❑ Participation in Grade Level PLC meetings.
 - ❑ Offer daily 10-15 minute vocabulary instruction focusing on definition within the context, multiple meanings, prefixes, roots, and suffixes, word origins, synonyms and antonyms as appropriate.

- ❑ Maintain flexible grouping and materials of instruction to ensure that students' instructional levels, learning styles, and needed skills are addressed.
- ❑ Administer fluency checks to monitor students' rate of reading and word accuracy in order to facilitate the acquisition of comprehension skills.
- ❑ Administer comprehension checks.
- ❑ Refine the co-planning and co-teaching model in order to facilitate professional growth of teachers and increase student achievement (Lesson Study).
- ❑ Promote technology integration in an effort to provide engaging instruction (co-teaching, use of ELMO, Safari Montage)

Interventions

- ❖ Develop, implement, and monitor intervention programs for students who have not demonstrated proficiency in reading.
 - ❑ Utilize the Reading Item Analysis Data Chart to develop and intervene in a timely manner those students on the Watch List.
 - ❑ Consideration of the Extra Mile Club.
 - ❑ Establish an end of day Reading Club (3:05-3:25 p.m.) to work on comprehension and fluency for targeted fourth and fifth graders.
 - ❑ Full implementation of the BCPS Three Tiered Model under the direction of the Literacy Team.
 - ❑ Participation in SST Process (Student Support Team Process).
 - ❑ Provide additional instructional time to implement prescribed intervention programs and strategies needed to help students attain grade level performance.

Home School Communication

- ❖ Strengthen communication and mutual support between and among parents/guardians with concrete strategies to use at home to help their children achieve high standards.
 - ❑ Utilization of the Home School Communication folder.
 - ❑ Grade Level Publication of quarterly newsletter using consistent format.
 - ❑ Maintenance of Parent/Guardian Conference/Contact Record by grade level and total school (face-to-face, phone, email).
 - ❑ Provide parents/guardians with information on literacy topics through newsletters, reading night (every other year), reinforcement activities, take-home literacy activities and on-line resources.

Professional Development

- ❖ Support teachers in the implementation of reading techniques through professional development opportunities and through the establishment of a local school-mentoring program in the context of PLCs with consideration given to vertical teams as appropriate.
 - ❑ **Provide all teachers with opportunities to grow professionally in the areas of Special Education Legal Updates, and Best Inclusive Practices: Planning, Co-teaching Models, Documentation and Precision for Differentiated Instruction as well as exploration of AIM as it relates to the at-risk population.**
 - ❑ **Implementation of the new BCPS Report Card Overview and follow-up PLC training meetings to meet the individual needs of teachers/teams.**

- Provide all teachers with opportunities to increase awareness and use of information technologies to support instructional planning, implementation, and assessment.

***Bolded represents new focus/initiatives**

Executive Summary: Stoneleigh Elementary
School Improvement Plan – 2009/2010

MATHEMATICS

Best Practices

- ❖ Establish and maintain grade level professional learning communities (PLCs) who are responsible for monitoring the relationship between intended, assessed, and learned curriculum to ensure access to rigorous curriculum for all students.
- ❖ Identify and consistently implement a common core of research-based instructional practices resulting in more purposeful and engaging student work.
 - Provide for a Comprehensive Mathematics Program integrating the mathematical processes, problem-solving, communication, connections, reasoning, and representation into real world problem-solving using the VSC, the BCPS Mathematics curriculum, and the Scott Foresman Addison Wesley Program including *Investigations*.
 - Provide consistent development of mathematics vocabulary that focuses on the relationship of the definition with its conceptual use. Utilize word walls, vocabulary charts, cards or other visuals to integrate the use of mathematical vocabulary into instruction.
 - Provide student opportunities for collaborative practice, application, and extension of explicitly taught skills using the 5Es Model (engagement, exploration, explanation, extension, evaluation).
 - Implement research-based practices for differentiating content, process, and products for individuals and small groups of students to maximize student engagement and achievement; **with particular emphasis on Special Education Legal Updates, and Best Inclusive Practices: Planning, Co-teaching Models, Documentation and Precision for Differentiated Instruction as well as exploration of AIM as it relates to the at-risk population.**
 - Utilize MSA rubrics and exemplary responses to debrief with students
 - **Refine the co-planning and co-teaching model in order to facilitate professional growth of teachers and increase student achievement (Lesson Study).**
 - Provide additional focus given to VSC assessment limits.
 - Participation in Grade Level PLC meetings.
 - Monitor student progress through ongoing assessment and evaluation using established data management system providing item analysis data.
 - Maintain flexible grouping and appropriate instructional materials to ensure that students' instructional levels, learning styles, and needed skills are addressed.

Interventions

- ❖ Develop, implement, and monitor intervention programs for students who have not demonstrated proficiency in mathematics.
 - Utilize the Mathematics Item Analysis Data Charts at grade 1 and 2 and *AssessTrax* at grades 3-5 to develop and intervene in a timely manner those students on the Watch List.

- ❑ Consideration of the Extra Mile Club/ possible use of AIM interim as appropriate for at-risk students.
- ❑ Participation in SST Process (Student Support Team Process).
- ❑ **Provide additional instructional time to implement prescribed intervention program for targeted students in grades 4 & 5 three days per week at the beginning of the day (8:00-8:25 a.m.) and intervention strategies needed to help students attain grade level performance.**
- ❑ **Promote technology integration in an effort to provide engaging instruction (co-teaching, use of ELMO, Safari Montage)**

Home School Communication

- ❖ Strengthen communication and mutual support between and among parents/guardians with concrete strategies to use at home to help their children achieve high standards.
 - ❑ Utilization of the Home School Communication folder.
 - ❑ Grade Level Publication of a quarterly newsletter using consistent format.
 - ❑ Maintenance of Parent/Guardian Conference/Contact Record by grade level and total school (face-to-face, phone, email).
 - ❑ Provide parents/guardians with information on mathematics topics through newsletters, mathematics night (every other year), reinforcement activities, take-home mathematics activities and online resources.

Professional Development

- ❖ Support teachers in the implementation of mathematics techniques through professional development opportunities and through the establishment of a local school-mentoring program in the context of PLCs with consideration given to vertical teams as appropriate.
 - ❑ Utilize resource personnel to provide content area strategies and activities that can be used to promote best mathematics practices.
 - ❑ **Provide all teachers with opportunities to grow professionally in the areas of Special Education Legal Updates, and Best Inclusive Practices: Planning, Co-teaching Models, Documentation and Precision for Differentiated Instruction as well as exploration of AIM as it relates to the at-risk population.**
 - ❑ **Implementation of the new BCPS Report Card Overview and follow-up PLC training meetings to meet the individual needs of teachers/teams.**
 - ❑ Provide all teachers with opportunities to increase awareness and use of information technologies to support instructional planning, implementation, and assessment.

*Bolded represents new focus/initiatives

<h2>Calendar of Events</h2>

- | | | |
|------------------|---|--|
| October 16, 2009 | - | Professional Development Day, Schools Closed for students |
| October 19, 2009 | - | Kindergarten Field Trip to North Run Farm
School Improvement Team Meeting, Stoneleigh Library, 3:30 p.m. |
| October 20, 2009 | - | Board of Education Meeting, Greenwood, ESS Building, 6:30 p.m.
Innisbrook Product Delivery, 12:00-7:00 p.m. |
| October 22, 2009 | - | PTA Newsletter goes home |



- October 23, 2009 - PTA Movie Night
- October 27, 2009 - Cross County Run at Stoneleigh Elementary
- November 3, 2009 - Board of Education Meeting, Greenwood, ESS Building, 7:00 p.m.
- November 4, 2009 - Picture Retake Day
- November 5, 2009 - First Marking Period Ends
- November 6, 2009 - Professional Development Day, Schools Closed for students
- November 12, 2009 - Stoneleigh Gazette goes home



Future Dates for Planning Purposes

- November 19, 2009 - Distribution of Report Cards
- November 16-20, 2009 - American Education Week
 - Monday, 11/16/09 - Grade 4 Visitation*
 - Tuesday, 11/17/09 - Grade 2 Visitation*
 - Wednesday, 11/18/09 - Grade 1 Visitation*
 - Thursday, 11/21/09 - Kindergarten and Grade 5 Visitation*
 - Friday, 11/22/09 - Grade 3 Visitation*
- November 23, 2009 - Elementary Conference Day, School Closed for Elementary Students
- November 26-27, 2009 - Thanksgiving Holiday, Schools Closed
- November 30, 2009 - Magnet School Applications Deadline



School Improvement Team

The School Improvement Team met at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, September 21, 2009. Mrs. Warner and Ms. O'Brien reviewed with the committee the 2009/2011 school improvement plan. With the exception of a few editorial errors, everyone agreed that the plan looked good. The Reading and Mathematics Executive Summaries will be reviewed on October 19, 2009 at the next School Improvement Team Meeting.

New agenda items include: Review of the SIT Members for 2009/2010; Climate Survey Results; Review School Plan, Executive Summaries (Reading and Mathematics). The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m. The next school improvement team meeting will be held on Monday, October 19, 2009 at 3:30 p.m. in the library.

For your convenience, a complete copy of the minutes and the agendas are located on the Stoneleigh School web site.

Report Card Information for Parents

Following is the web page link that is needed to access the new report card information:
<http://www.bcps.org/parents/ReportCard/default.html>. This guide can be downloaded and saved by right-

clicking on the link. The guide can be used electronically since the table of contents is fully hyperlinked. Parents will also find sample report cards for each grade level in English and in five other languages.

You may also access this web page in either of the two ways listed below:

1. Open the Internet.
2. Enter this address – www.bcps.org
3. Click on the Parents/Families tab.
4. Scroll down to Guides and Resources on the left side of the screen.
5. Click on Elementary Report Card Information.

~~OR~~

1. Open the Internet.
2. Enter this address – <http://www.bcps.org/parents/>
3. Scroll down to Guides and Resources on the left side of the screen.
4. Click on Elementary Report Card Information.

GRADING PERIOD	1	2	3	4
READING	A			
WRITTEN COMMUNICATION	A			
MATHEMATICS	C			
SCIENCE/HEALTH	B			
SOCIAL STUDIES	B			
ART	A			
MUSIC	A			
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	C			
Grade Average	B			
Attendance:	Present	10		
	Absent	2		
	Tardy	1		

Availability to Classrooms

Classrooms are available to students from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. If your student forgets something, he or she will have to secure the item on the next school day. Consider having your student team up with a buddy to contact for a forgotten assignment. Students, parents, and guardians **will not** be permitted to return to unattended classrooms. Thank you for your understanding as we work to build responsibility and independence in our students.



Calls to School

As Stoneleigh Elementary School has only two incoming/outgoing telephone lines and increased enrollment, it is important that after school **changes/reminders for students**, i.e. girl scouts, brownies, going home with Mrs., are communicated to your student before they leave the house in the morning. If you are uncertain about whether your student will remember a change in plans, please send a note to the teacher for that day.



As always, emergency changes to dismissal plans should be communicated directly to the office staff as soon as possible so that we can facilitate this change with your student and the homeroom teacher.

Changes?

Throughout the school year, if your address, telephone number, cell phone number, work number or emergency information changes, please notify the school office immediately. Any changes should be made in writing, addressed to the school office and signed by you. In the event of an address change, the school should be notified in **writing within ten days**. After notifying the school, updated proof of residency information will be required to be presented to the school office.



We ask that you comply with this request as it is important for the school to have the most up-to-date information concerning your children in the event of an emergency. Thank you in advance for your cooperation

Attention: Field Trip Volunteers

Were you aware that all chaperones on school field trips are expected to be trained as volunteers prior to participation in the field trip? If you missed the Volunteer Training do not fret. We invite you to call the school office any day **prior to the trip** to schedule a time to come in to view the volunteer video, complete the *Application for Volunteer services* and complete the *Volunteer Training Certificate*. Thank you for attending to this requirement and most of all thank you for being willing to support and serve our Stoneleigh students!



Physical Education News

Cross-Country Runs

Stoneleigh, along with Pinewood, Hampton, and Rodgers Forge Elementary will once again host an optional one-mile run after school on October 27, 2009. Students who are interested in participating at a racing speed will be given permission slips for the events once we start cross-country in October. The locations and dates for this year's one-mile cross-country races are as follows:

1. Hampton Elementary, Thursday, October 15, 2009
2. Rodgers Forge Elementary, Wednesday, October 21, 2009
3. Stoneleigh Elementary, Tuesday, October 27, 2009
 - Races begin promptly at 4:00 p.m. with the fourth grade girls
 - Grade 4 boys - 4:15 p.m.
 - Grade 5 girls - 4:30 p.m.
 - Grade 5 boys - 4:45 p.m.
 - Third graders may run in the fourth grade races
 - Ribbons will be given to the children in each group placing 1st- 10th
 - Students are invited and encouraged to participate in one or all of the races this fall



See you at the races!

Technology News



As Stoneleigh is a green school and we're always trying to care for our environment, we continue to educate our children on ways they can contribute to this cause. You and your family can help out by not only recycling daily items in your homes, but by also recycling old technology equipment, parts, and pieces. If you have any used or unwanted ink cartridges, batteries, or cell phones, please send them into the school office to be recycled. Along with our efforts to help the environment, recycling these items also earns money to go toward new technology for Stoneleigh Elementary! If you have any questions about what can/cannot be recycled or about this program, please email Meaghan Slattery (mslattery@bcps.org) or Donna Wingerd (dwingerd@bcps.org). Thanks! Stay Green, Stoneleigh!

Library/Media News

Summer Reading Club

Congratulations to our summer readers who successfully completed the Sneaks program at the Baltimore County Public Library! I have displayed the names of the readers on our "Wall of Fame" outside the library.

(New this year, Baltimore County Libraries changed the manner in which reports of names are sent to schools. Only students who returned to the library to verify they completed the program were listed).

What’s Going On in the Library?

Fifth grade students just completed a unit on media literacy. Fourth graders examined character as a literary element and identified the features of myths and legends and took a look at the categories of the Dewey Decimal System and practiced classifying books. Both fourth and fifth grade students will have the opportunity to participate in the Black Eyed Susan Award reading program. The chapter books involved will be introduced and children will bring home information if they choose to participate. Third graders examined the literary element of character and identified features of fairy tales. In conjunction with their current science unit about animals, second graders are making a class nonfiction book about the hippopotamus. Second and third graders will evaluate the Black Eyed Susan picture books throughout the year. The first graders learned about library procedures, book care and circulation routines to start their year. Kindergarten students have been learning about good library behavior and book care. We have been reading stories that rhyme and doing weekly activities to reinforce the letters of the alphabet.

Birthday Book Club: A Special Way to Remember Your Child’s Birthday

In honor of your child’s special day, please consider participating in our Birthday Book Club. Here is how it works. We cannot accept books purchased at book stores. They are not “library bound”, (a more durable binding that lasts longer), nor are they shelf ready, having to be sent for cataloging. We ask that students and parents complete the form below and return it to Mrs. Mooney. List books that you would like to see in the library and they will be given priority on book orders. When the book arrives, a special book plate will recognize your child’s birthday. The child will be the first to borrow the book. The average cost of a library book is \$20.00, but we will gladly accept contributions in any amount. Special thanks to Charlene Prem who has volunteered to assist with the program. Of course, all monies will be used to purchase library materials.

Birthday Book Club

Child’s Name: _____

Birth Date: _____

Given By: _____

Requested Titles (please indicate at least three)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.



All books suggested must meet BCPS standards for literature. Paperback books can not be ordered.

Art News

Original Works is coming this month! Original Works is a great fundraiser for the art department at Stoneleigh. You are able to order products that have your student's artwork printed on them. These products are great for gifts and capturing precious memories. Orders will be delivered in December, just in time for the winter holiday. Your student will receive the Original Works packet the third week in October. Orders will be **due on October 30, 2009**. Please remember to send back your order form with the original art work. Checks should be made payable to Stoneleigh Elementary PTA.

You can send in artwork or photographs of your own for this fundraiser! Just stick to these simple guidelines:

- Paper has to be 8"x10 ½";
- No abrasive materials can be used (such as glitter or sand);
- Loose materials must be sealed;
- No metallic papers or materials may be used;
- No copyrighted materials or photographs can be used; and
- Mark the back with the students name, homeroom, and indicate where the top of the artwork with a "T".



Thank you for your support! If you have any questions, please email me at dlinkfiore@bcps.org.

Coats 4 Kids Campaign

Again, this year we are having a Coats 4 Kids drive. Last year we raised \$575.00 for this very worthy cause. The campaign will take place during American Education Week, November 16-20, 2009. If you chose to donate; all you have to do is make a check payable to: Fund for Social Welfare and place it in the box that will be located on the table when you sign in during American Education Week. A new coat for a child is about \$20.00 and this non-profit organization will make sure that a child in need will receive a warm coat for the winter. We will **NOT** be collecting coats, only monetary donations. If you are not able to visit Stoneleigh Elementary during American Education Week, you can still send a check in with your child.

If you are interested in donating a coat, the Volunteer Office of the Baltimore County Department of Social Services would be happy to accept your gently used coat to have available in their clothes closet for families that they are not able to provide with a new coat. You can drop off your gently used coat at the Baltimore County Department of Social Services-Volunteer Office, 6401 York Road, Baltimore, MD 21212.

Thank you in advance for your generous support.

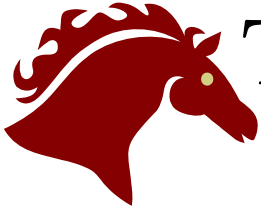
School Store

Once again this year, the school store will be open Tuesdays through Fridays. If a child would like to visit the school store, he/she must report to his/her homeroom first, unpack for the day and secure a pass/permission from the teacher prior to visiting the school store.

“It’s been on my mind...”



Name _____ Telephone Number _____



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October, 2009

CORRECTION TO AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK DATES

On the Stoneleigh Gazette that was sent home with students and or emailed home to parents on Thursday, October 08, 2009, there was a typographical error on the dates for visitation days during American Education Week.

Following are the corrected dates:

November 16-20, 2009

American Education Week

Monday, 11/16/09 - Grade 4 Visitation

Tuesday, 11/17/09 - Grade 2 Visitation

Wednesday, 11/18/09 - Grade 1 Visitation

Thursday, 11/19/09 - Kindergarten and Grade 5 Visitation

Friday, 11/20/09 - Grade 3 Visitation