

August 2008

Dear Beall Families:

Welcome to the 2008-2009 school year. It is hard to believe that it is time to open our doors for another great year of learning. I am very excited to welcome you all back in a few weeks. I hope you all were able to have some time to reconnect and relax with your families. We have been working hard all summer long to prepare for the opening of school. I look forward to working with you in order to build upon the many successes that we had during the 2007-2008 school year. We should all be very pleased with the performance Beall students demonstrated on the state testing. This success should be celebrated by all in our school community as each of us had an important role in helping our children achieve at such high levels. I would like to commend you, the parents, for supporting the learning that takes place within our walls each day, and the staff for working hard to ensure that all of our students learn and are excited about school. Most importantly, I would like to recognize our students for working hard and not giving up even when the work was difficult. It is in this way that our band will continue to work together to make beautiful music for our children.

During the summer our school family had to say goodbye to Tiffany Warner, who will be staying home to care for her children. We also said good bye to Brenda Benya, Jessica Steben, Nina Suri, and Mathew Wray who have taken other teaching assignments. Kimberly Meadows will be teaching in Atlanta in the fall and Kristin Reumont and Jennifer Friedman will be pursuing their master's degrees.

One of the most important jobs that a principal does during the summer is to interview and hire staff that will complement the school, and most importantly, the students. Fortunately, we were able to find the very best teachers to join the stellar group of professionals already on staff. Please join me in welcoming the following staff to the Beall family:

- **Pre Kindergarten** Laurie Oyer (Former Reading Recovery Teacher at Beall)
- **First** Amiee Isaac (Former AAC teacher at Beall)
- **Third** Michelle Stanley
- **Third** Esta Franklin (Former Long Term Sub at Beall)
- **Third** Lauren Boyd (Former grade 5 teacher at Beall)
- **Fifth** Marc Amnott
- **Fifth** Sandra Russell (Former grade 3 teacher at Beall)
- **Fifth** Cindy Kuhn (Former focus teacher at Beall)
- **ESOL** Sandy Vogelman
- **Focus Teacher** Brooke Walsh
- **Resource Teacher** Alison Lechter
- **AAC** Kelly Kearns

I have enclosed some important information in this packet for you to review, including Open House information, Back-to-School Night dates, supply lists, a school calendar, and some key important school policies. Please keep this packet handy as it may answer some of your questions as the school year progresses.

Best wishes for a restful and refreshing last few weeks of summer! We are looking forward to a challenging and rewarding year as we all work together to build success for every student!

Troy E. Boddy
Principal



BEALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Troy E. Boddy, Principal
Mary Reed, Assistant Principal

August 2008

FROM THE PTA

Welcome back to Beall! We are already working to make 2008-2009 a great year for the Beall community.

Our first PTA meeting is October 7th from 7:00-8:00 PM.
We are looking forward to meeting and working with all of our parents!

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| Dante Ramarui | President |
| Rebecca Parlakian/John Spanno | Co-Vice Presidents |
| Ali Hakimi | Treasurer |
| Priya Agarwal/ Alicia Pedone | Secretary |

SALLY FOSTER

We are delighted to sell Sally Foster items again this year as our school receives a 50% profit on every purchase. The packets will be sent home the first week of school.

IN AND ABOUT THE OFFICE

Be sure to stop in at the office FIRST **whenever** coming to Beall Elementary School. Our secretaries are there to assist you. Mrs. Melonee Noll is our Attendance Secretary and Mrs. Lori Sokolowski serves as our Administrative Secretary. Mrs. Kit Sweeney, our Healthroom Technician, is also located in the office. She is available on school days when the health room is open (9:00- 3:00).

VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS

All parents, visitors, and volunteers must make their first stop the school office. Visitors are not allowed in the classroom unless the teacher has given prior permission. If you would like to speak with a teacher or the principal, you must make an appointment in advance. Please be respectful of instructional time. **All parents, visitors and volunteers must wear nametags. This is for the safety for all of our children!** **Volunteer forms for helping at school will come out during the first week of school. Think about how you can help at your child's school. We will match volunteers with teachers or staff requests. Remember there is no guarantee you can help in your student's class. There are always opportunities to help in the office, healthroom, reading room, art class, and the media center. We look forward to working with you. Lori Sokolowski, Melonee Noll.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

On behalf of Dr. Sherry Liebes, Community Superintendent:

"We appreciate the funding and support the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has received from the County Council in these tight budget times. However, the funding MCPS received was less than the Board of Education's requested amount. As a result of this current fiscal situation, it may become necessary for staffing changes to occur in some schools if enrollment comes in below projection and doesn't justify the staffing that was allocated.

MCPS staffing allocations are based on projected enrollment. We certainly hope that at the beginning of the school year our actual enrollment matched the projected enrollment. If there is a need to make an adjustment in staffing based on actual enrollment, I will do my best to minimize the impact of these necessary adjustments. I will keep you informed and alert you of any changes that may occur at our school,"

SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

Our current enrollment is about 601 students in grades Pre K-5. To best meet the needs of the students, our current school organization is for 6 full day classes of Kindergarten, 5 classes of first grade, and 5 classes of second grade, 4 classes for grade 3, 3 classes for grade 4, and 4 classes for grade 5.

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|---|------------|
| Office Hours | 8:00-4:00 |
| School Hours (Grade K-5) | 8:50-3:05 |
| Breakfast | 8:30-8:50 |
| AM Pre-K Language | 8:30-11:25 |
| PM Pre-K Language | 12:30-3:05 |
| AM HeadStart | 8:50-11:50 |
| AM Pre-K | 8:50-11:20 |
| Early Release Days (Grades K-5) | 8:30-12:25 |
| Students who walk to school SHOULD NOT ARRIVE BEFORE 8:30 A.M. , as supervision is not available until that time! Students who arrive after 9:00 AM, must be signed in at the school office accompanied by a parent. | |

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Thursday-August 21 Kindergarten Parent Meeting- 7:00 PM-AP Room
- Friday-August 22 **Open House**-1:00-2:00 p.m. *Please note that class lists will be posted Friday. No yellow cards will be sent out!
- Tuesday-August 26 First Day of School K-5 Students
- Monday-September 1 NO SCHOOL-Labor Day
- Wednesday-September 10 Back-to-School Night-Grades 3-5
- Wednesday-September 17 Back-to-School Night-Pre-K-2
- Monday-September 29 Early Release Day

MEDICATION AND HEALTH ROOM

No medication will be administered in school without the parent's/guardian's written

permission and a physician's statement. Medication forms are available in the school office and are required for each episode of illness and for each medication. If you have any questions, call our health technician, Mrs. Kit Sweeney. The parent/guardian must hand-deliver the medication, properly labeled by a pharmacist, and the completed MCPS form 525-13 to the school principal or designee in the school office.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

New **YELLOW EMERGENCY DATA SHEETS** will be sent home with your child during the first week of school. It is very important that these cards be completed and immediately returned to school. During the school year let us know of any changes of address, phone numbers, and/or contact persons. It is important that these cards are always current and correct.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION *Change in policy*****

Birthdays will be recognized on Beall's daily WBEL television broadcast and on the birthday calendar located in the main hallway. Children will receive a birthday pencil from the Principal. In order to encourage healthy eating habits, we are asking parents to refrain from bringing in treats for lunchtime. Please help us enforce this new policy from Food Services.

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

Breakfast is NOT served on the first day of school, Tuesday, August 26th.

Lunch on the first day will be either Teriyaki Beef Bites or French Toast Sticks. Breakfast will begin on Wednesday, August 27th.

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| Breakfast | \$1.30 (reduced price \$.30) | Milk | \$.60 |
| Lunch | \$2.40 (reduced price \$.40) | | |

LUNCH/RECESS TIMES

These are the lunch times for all grades. Recess will follow lunch.

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|-------------|---------------------------|
| 11:15-12:15 | Kindergarten Lunch/Recess |
| 11:30-12:30 | Grade 3 Lunch/Recess |
| 11:45-12:45 | Grade 1 Lunch/Recess |
| 12:00-1:00 | Grade 4 Lunch/Recess |
| 12:15-1:15 | Grade 2 Lunch/Recess |
| 12:30-1:30 | Grade 5 Lunch/Recess |



APPLICATIONS FOR FREE AND REDUCED MEALS (FARMS)

Guidelines and application forms for free and reduced price meals will be sent home the first week of school. If you believe your child may be eligible for free or reduced meals, please complete and mail the application form as indicated or return it to school. Students who received free or reduced price meals last year 2007-2008 will continue to receive free or reduced meals until September 30th. *By **October 1st**, a new form must be completed and approved to continue meals for this school year.* The more qualifying forms that come in, the more resources Beall gets for students. Please don't be shy about turning in the forms. All information is confidential. It is extremely important that you take the few minutes necessary to fill out and return the form.

CAFETERIA NEWS

MCPS does not maintain a loan program for breakfasts or lunches. Students cannot "borrow" money from the cafeteria or the office to cover the cost of meals. **** Students who do not have money on their lunch account will be served cereal and milk. **** This is the policy from Food Services. Please use the attached "SNAP CAFETERIA" form to open or maintain a computerized cash account for buying meals daily *or for emergencies*. Bring the form along and visit the cafeteria at the Open House on Friday, August 22.

It is very important that students eat lunch in the middle of the day. Please help us make lunchtime enjoyable for your child by being aware of the following ways to ensure that your child has lunch:

- Keep track of money deposited in your child's account at home.
- **CALL** Mrs. Horridge, Beall's Cafeteria Manager, **on any school day** between 9:00 and 11:00 to check the balance in your child's SNAP account. (301) 279-8460.
- Low balance letters will be generated when your student's account balance is \$8.00.
- Every effort will be made to send low balance notices home every Tuesday, please check your student's backpack.

REPORT CARDS AND CONFERENCES

Kindergarten report cards are distributed twice each year, in February and June. Report cards for Grades 1 - 5 are distributed four times a year in nine-week cycles - November, February, April and June. Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled in November, at the end of the first marking period for each student in grades K-5. It is requested that appointments for additional conferences with teachers or the principal be scheduled in advance. We encourage you to meet with your child's teacher as necessary.

CHANGE IN YOUR CHILD'S ROUTINE

LATE ARRIVAL: When a child is late, a parent needs to bring the student to the office to "sign them in" for the day. The child should not go to the classroom first. Office staff will contact the classroom teacher.

LEAVE EARLY: A note should be sent to the school with your child. Parents are asked to come to the office to sign their student out. Parents are requested not to go to the child's classroom to pick up the child; office staff will call the classroom. No child will be permitted to leave school unaccompanied for any reason!

*****New phone number for absent students*****

ABSENT: Please call the absence line by 9:00 a.m. (301) 517-8161 to report your child's absence.

In addition, **when your child returns, a written note explaining the reason for absence MUST be sent to the teacher.**

PHONE CALLS

Please communicate any change to your child's schedule prior to the school day. This will help them be clear about what they will need to do for dismissal.

Please do not call the school office to request a change of plans about how your child is going home. The office received hundreds of calls per day and it is impossible to pass all messages along. Emergencies only please!!!

STAY AFTER SCHOOL: If a child is to stay at school for an after-school activity, a parent must send a note or the child will not be permitted to stay.

GO HOME WITH A FRIEND: If a child is to go home with a friend, the parent must send in a note or the child will not be permitted to go. The note should be given to the homeroom teacher at the beginning of the day for signature.

Note: Students need to bring a note to school if there is any change in the bus that they will be riding or how they will get home at the end of the day. Your cooperation will help ensure your child's safety!

TRANSPORTATION

Attached to this letter is a bus schedule. Please review it carefully as there are changes since last year. During the first week or so of school, buses may be a little early or a little late, as the drivers get accustomed to the run and the new time schedules. Buses will be color coded, with a piece of paper in the front window to help students.

Please Note: Cars are not allowed in the front entrance lanes during school opening and dismissal hours for safety reasons. Your cooperation is appreciated!



GRADE 1 STUDENTS

Please complete this form and pin it to your student's jacket, shirt, dress, or t-shirt on the first day of school. Thank you for your cooperation.

Name _____ Grade _____

Teacher _____

Home Address _____

Parent's Phone Number at 3:00 p.m. _____

Home Phone _____

To School:

_____ walk _____ car _____ bus route # _____ color

From School:

_____ walk _____ car _____ bus route # _____ color