

Beall's

# Dragon Tales

February 25 - March 7, 2008

Issue 5

**C**an you believe that we have already reached the end of February? Did you notice that we have one extra day in February this year since it is a leap year? Since leap years only come along every four years, it would be interesting to see how many leap years each member of your family has seen. Do you know why we have leap years? See if you can figure it out! (answer on page 3)



## Hot Stuff

**Tuesday, Feb 26**

\* Basketball Club 8:00 AM

**Wednesday, Feb 27**

\* Early Release Day

- ~No Pre-K Speech Language
- ~HeadStart dismisses 10:30 AM
- ~Pre-K dismisses 10:00 AM
- ~K-5 dismisses at 12:35 PM

**Week of March 3**

\* Interims and Data Notebooks come home

**Tuesday, March 4**

\* Basketball Club 8:00 AM

**Monday, March 10**

\* Class Pictures PreK - 2

**Tuesday, March 11**

\* Basketball Club 8:00 AM  
\* Class Pictures 3 - 5, & Clubs

### Website Updates



You may have noticed that the front page of our website is a little bit out of date at the moment. While our technical support people were installing some new software for students and teachers to use, the

programs used for updating the website were inadvertently removed from the web master's computer! A request has been sent to the technical support office and as soon as the programs are reinstalled the website will be updated immediately!

continued on back 

Until that time, please use the calendars included in the Dragon Tales to keep you informed of upcoming dates!

## Interims and Data Notebooks

It is hard to believe but we are already halfway through the third marking period. This means that it is time for interims and data notebooks to be coming home! Keep an eye out during the week of March 3 for these items. Every student should be bringing home both. Please remember to sign and return both items to school as soon as you can. Data Notebooks are used daily in classrooms and the longer they are at home, the farther behind the data collection gets! Take this time to discuss with your child the progress he or she is making in school. It is a good idea to set



some new goals to accomplish throughout the remainder of the marking period!

## Testing Is Coming!

### MSA

As part of the Federal Government's No Child Left Behind Act all states are required to assess student progress on a yearly basis. In the state of Maryland, students take the Maryland School



Assessments (MSA) in Reading, Math and Science (Grade 5 only). The MSA is taken annually by students in grades 3 through 8 to see how well each student has learned the reading and math skills that are specified by Maryland content standards. Elementary schools county

continued on next page 

## Looking Ahead

**Monday, March 17**

\* Family Life Parent Meeting for Grade 5 parents 4:00 PM

**Tuesday, March 18**

\* Kids on the Block assembly for 4th Grade 10:00 AM

**Wednesday, March 19**

\* Author Assemblies 9:15 AM and 10:00 AM

**Friday, March 21 - Sunday, March 30**

\* Spring Break!

~Students return to school on Monday, March 31

**Tues, April 1 & Wed, April 2**

\* MSA Reading Test

~Grades 3&4 (9:00 - 11:30 AM)

**Thurs, April 3 & Fri, April 4**

\* MSA Reading Test

~Grade 5 (9:00 - 11:30 AM)

**Friday, April 4**

\* End of 3rd Marking Period

**Monday, April 7**

\* No School

~Professional Day

**Tues, April 8 & Wed, April 9**

\* MSA Math Testing

~Grades 3&4 (9:00 - 11:30 AM)

**Thurs, April 10 & Fri, April 11**

\* MSA Math Test

~Grade 5 (9:00 - 11:30 AM)

wide will be taking the MSA starting right after Spring Break. Our students come back to school on Monday, March 31 and testing starts on Tuesday, April 1 for those students in Grades 3 and 4.

**Attendance is very important during MSA as we only have a two week window during which we are allowed to test students.**

Please make sure that your child arrives to school on time, well rested and ready to go! Breakfast is really important everyday, but particularly on testing days! Please make sure your child has eaten, or has enough time to eat at school. Testing starts promptly at 9:00 AM and late students will have to wait until a section ends to be admitted. MSA is a time to demonstrate all the excellent teaching and learning that goes on daily at Beall. To learn more about MSA and how Beall has done in the past, please check out the Maryland School Improvement website at: <http://mdk12.org>

### **TerraNova 2 (TN2)**

Students in grade 2 are required by the Maryland State Department of Education to take the Terra Nova 2 test. The TN2 is a test of basic skills in reading, language mechanics and math. The TN2 is a norm-referenced test which provides information about how the student compared to a national sample of students taking the same test. The test takes about 2 and 1/2 hours total but is spread over a period of four or five days. This year the TN2 takes place from Monday, April 28 through Friday, May 2. Please avoid scheduling doctor's appointments or other activities which would take your child out of school during this time.

### **Jump Rope for Heart**



Jump Rope for Heart is getting closer! This year Jump Rope for Heart will take place during the week of May 10 - May 14 in PE classes. Collection

forms are passed out to students to raise money for the American Heart Association. Students do not need to bring in donations to participate in the event. If your child is bringing in donations please make sure that the form is completed and sent in by May 14. For students who raise \$50, there will be a T-Shirt party. Remember, if we are able to collect \$8,000 Mr. Healy will be on WBEL where a few lucky, pre-selected students will assist in shaving his head!

### **Leap Year Answer:**

The reason we have a leap year every four years is to make sure that our calendar and the solar year stay aligned. A solar year is the amount of time it takes for the sun to return to the same position on the ecliptic as seen by the earth. Our calendar is called the Gregorian Calendar and it is almost 6 hours shorter than a solar year. In order for the vernal equinox day (when the sun is directly over the Earth's equator) to stay close to March 21 we need to adjust our calendar with leap years.

## Counselor's Corner

Hello Beall Families,

Below are some workshops that may be of interest.

### Ending Power Struggles Without Casualties

Fighting or giving in just increase the child's or teen's desire for power.

Come and learn new approaches that will change the patterns of interaction and develop cooperation within the family. Traduccion al Espanol disponible

Thursday, March 6, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Free. Bethesda Library, 7400 Arlington Rd., Bethesda

### Unplug Your Child

Explore parental options for controlling the machines in your home. We will discuss the reasons kids get so intensely involved and how to encourage them to get the positive aspects of technology without being captured by the addictive qualities.

Traduccion al Espanol disponible  
Monday, March 10, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Free. Davis Library, 6400 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda

### Social Bullies: Dealing with Cliques and Exclusion

People used to think of bullies as the big kid on the playground taking your

lunch money. Today, girls and boys are using less direct techniques to bully: such as exclusion, rumors, and teasing. These bullies are less likely to identify their behavior as bullying. Come and explore these behaviors and discuss strategies for helping bullies, victims and bystanders.

Children and teens welcome.

Traduccion al Espanol disponible  
Tuesday, March 18, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.  
Silver Spring Library, 8901 Colesville Rd., Silver Spring

### How Children Find their Place in the Family: Understanding Birth Order and Family Constellation

What role does birth order and position in the family constellation play in personality development? Is there a difference between actual birth order and perceived birth order? What are some of the unique assets and challenges of being a first born? Second born? Middle child? Youngest? Only? Traduccion al Espanol disponible  
Wednesday, March 19, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Free. Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Dr., Potomac

### Communicating Success to Children: Six-session class

Parents will learn to identify the purposes of a child's misbehavior and develop effective discipline and encouragement strategies for positively redirecting these behaviors. Skills to be covered include: Developing effective consequences, listening and communication, structuring choices, ending power struggles and training children for responsibility. Required text, \$15.

Wednesdays, April 16 - May 21,  
7:00 - 8:30 pm YMCA Ayr lawn Program Center, 5650 Oakmont Ave., Bethesda

### Parenting Teens: Six-session class

Cell phones, friends, homework, chores, driving... so many issues. This class presents a down-to-earth and practical way to meet the challenges of raising teenagers. The group discussion format teaches skills to help improve parent/teen relations; develop teen self-esteem and self-reliance; and promote responsible teen behavior at home, school and in the community. Required text, \$15.

Tuesdays, April 8 - May 13, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. YMCA Ayr lawn Program

## Counselor's Corner

Center, 5650 Oakmont Ave.,  
Bethesda

Registration and Information: Call  
(301) 229-1347 or email:  
parenting@ymcadc.org



### SUBURBAN HOSPITAL Seminar: Parenting a Child with Special Needs: Learning Disabilities and Attention Deficit Disorder

- Recognizing indicators of ADD and LD
  - Navigating the diagnosis process
  - Medication: Do I have to/want to/need to?
  - Advocating for your child at school
  - Developing strategies at home to help everyone
- Dr. Patrick Savage is a psychologist in Montgomery County, who has

worked for the Mental Health Association and Montgomery County Public Schools. His current practice, R Patrick Savage, Jr., Ph.D., ABMP & Associates, addresses a wide array of psycho-social problems. An area of special interest is those children, teens and adults who struggle with AD/HD, ED and LD. \$20/person, \$30/couple. Fee Waivers available. All proceeds fund the prevention services of YMCA Youth & Family Services.

Wednesday, April 9, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Registration begins at 6:30p.m. Please allow time for parking.

Suburban Hospital Auditorium 8600 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda  
Registration for the Dr. Savage workshop only: 301-896-3939, option 2

Traducción al Espanol disponible

Reasonable disability accommodations available on request. Please contact Pam Mintz at (301) 229-1347 by March 24.



- Mrs. Puglisi



### This Issue's Academic Vocabulary Words :

Word of the Week (K - 2)

**label**

A word (or words) that has information about something. It may help describe something or clarify information.

The label on the picture told me where the dorsal fin of a shark is located.



Word of the Week (3-5)

**analogy**

To find a way that two things are similar.

We can make an analogy between the human brain and a computer since both take in information and process it.

