

Bannockburn Elementary School

6520 Dalroy Lane
Bethesda, Maryland 20817
301-320-6555



August 4, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year at Bannockburn Elementary School! We hope you have had a restful and fun-filled summer with your families and friends, and we hope you are feeling energized to begin the new school year. It is hard to believe that the summer is flying by and school will open in a few weeks. ***The first day of school is Monday, August 31st!*** We are looking forward to seeing our returning students and saying hello to those students and families new to our community. We would like to extend a warm welcome to all of you who are new to the school community and hope that you will become involved in our school programs and PTA activities. Please let us know if we can assist in helping you and your children become acquainted with our school and community. The Bannockburn teachers and staff are excited about the upcoming school year and they will be working in their classrooms to create the most challenging and positive learning environment for your children.

I believe that in order to be successful, the staff and community have to work as a team towards a common vision and goal. We will work hard with you to make Bannockburn ES a professional learning community, where we will help each other to grow and provide every child with a challenging and engaging learning experience in which they can reach their own potential. My goal is to work closely with you and the staff to ensure that all of our children's needs are being met.

I would like to congratulate our students and staff for the outstanding work they have done at Bannockburn this past year! We were recognized as one of the top local schools in the Washington D.C. area for having 99.4% of our students score at the proficient or advanced level on the 2009 Maryland School Assessment (MSA) in both reading and math. Great job Bannockburn students! It is a collaborative effort and we would like to thank our wonderful parents, the PTA and parent volunteers for your incredible support. We will continue to strive for "every student to shine."

You will find many enclosures in this mailing. Please take the time to review them, as some enclosures may require your response. There is a special message from the PTA presidents, Mr. Scott Sherman and Mrs. Jennifer McCarthy, with much information regarding after school activities, PTA membership, etc. Also, pay close attention to the transportation schedule, as this will help you identify the bus routes and drop off and pick up locations. You will also see school supply lists for each grade level. Included in the attachments is a letter from me to your child. I am asking the Bannockburn students to write a letter to me and draw a picture of their favorite summer experiences. I will collect the letters from the students when they return to school and then I will display them on a bulletin board. A copy of the letter to the students will be sent to you by email and extra copies will be available in the main office. Please feel free to make copies if you have multiple children attending Bannockburn ES.

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As these tight budget times continue, we appreciate the funding and support the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has received from the County Council. We recognize that it is imperative to use our resources in the most efficient and effective manner. MCPS staffing allocations are based on projected enrollment. We certainly hope that at the beginning of the school year our actual enrollment matches the projected enrollment. Unfortunately, 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. 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. With the current fluctuation in student enrollment at Bannockburn ES, our staffing assignments have not been finalized and we are still finishing the hiring of staff. As soon as all positions are filled, we will distribute a staff organizational chart for the 2009-2010 school year to the community.

The teachers and I have been busy hiring new staff. We are very delighted to welcome such wonderful and talented people to the Bannockburn community. We interviewed many candidates for each position, and we were impressed with our new staff members' dedication, enthusiasm, and creativity. While we are sad to see some of our colleagues leave, we are excited to introduce the new additions to our Bannockburn family. Please welcome:

- Ashley Fagel, first grade teacher, formerly as a 2nd and 4th grade teacher at Diamond ES
- Leah Bailey, second grade teacher, formerly a 1st grade teacher at Weller Road ES
- Michael Warner, media specialist, formerly a media specialist at Magruder HS
- Naina Suri, ESOL teacher, formerly an ESOL teacher at Westland MS
- Michael Anderson, fourth grade teacher, formerly a fourth grade teacher in NYC public schools
- Megan Ferrari, primary teacher, formerly a 2nd grade long-term substitute at Bannockburn
- Raienne South, fifth grade teacher, formerly teacher intern
- Donna Long, reading initiative teacher, formerly a 4th grade teacher at Carderock Springs ES
- Tina Errigo, attendance secretary, formerly a media assistant at Brookhaven ES
- Heather Stewart Frank, paraeducator, from Carderock Springs ES
- Eileen Foster, instructional data assistant, from Dufief ES
- Tyrone Jones, assistant building manager, formerly with Little Bennett ES

Over the summer, two additional staff members have moved onto new professional opportunities. It is with sadness for us and excitement for both of them that we say goodbye to Mrs. Johanna Ezangano, assistant building manager, who transferred to Rosemont ES, and Mrs. Meredith McCone, who will be teaching third grade in Fairfax, Virginia.

Class lists are finalized right before school begins. Your student(s) will receive a postcard from their new classroom teacher after the 24th of August. **On Friday, August 28th, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, students and their family members are invited to the school for our "Meet and Greet."**

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Our “Meet and Greet” gives students and parents an opportunity to meet their new teacher and find their classroom. Building maps will be available to help you find your child’s classroom. We hope you will be able to join us. It should be a great afternoon and we look forward to seeing all of our Bannockburn families. It will be great to see the children and hear their voices echoing throughout the building.

Parents of incoming kindergarteners are invited to attend a parents-only meeting on Friday, August 28th, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in room K-2. There will be childcare in the all purpose room for kindergarteners. At this parents-only meeting, kindergarten teachers will be discussing bus information, first week of school procedures, student snacks, supplies, and much more! After the meeting, kindergarten parents are to go pick up their children and bring them back to their assigned classroom for the Meet and Greet, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Once again, we look forward to seeing you at the Meet and Greet on August 28th, and on the first day of school, Monday, August 31st! I am excited to begin a new school year with the wonderful students, parents, and teachers of Bannockburn ES! If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school office at (301) 320-6555. Enjoy the remaining days of your summer.

Sincerely,

Daniel Walder
Principal