

GATOR AID

September 3, 2009

Monday 7th - Schools and Offices Closed

Tuesday 8th (B-day)

Wednesday 9th (C-day)

Thursday 10th (D-day)

Friday 11th (A-day)

September 2, 2009

Dear Parents,

Welcome back and a special welcome to those who are new to the Youth's Benefit School community. Thanks to the combined efforts of teachers, secretaries, custodians, and the entire staff, as well as the cooperation from all of our parents and students, we have had a very smooth start to the school year. It is a great challenge to be fully prepared for more than 1000 students, but the task has been accomplished!

You will notice a few positive changes to the school as you visit for the first time this year. During the summer every classroom in each of our two buildings was equipped with an LCD projector. In addition, a total of 20 Interactive White Boards were installed. Many of our teachers participated in training and they are enthusiastically awaiting the final connections that will allow them to use the technology to enrich instruction in their classrooms. It is because of your generous support of the Educational Foundation and the PTA fundraisers that those organizations were able to make donations to the school to fund these projects. Digital Document Cameras, Interactive Slates and Activate Responders are among other types of equipment that will be purchased for use in the classrooms. We are committed to working with the Educational Foundation and PTA to ensure continuous improvement in the quality of instructional we make available to our students. You will be hearing more about the Educational Foundation's Bull Roast scheduled for Saturday, October 24th, which is planned in order to

generate funds for another initiative, the Carson Reading Rooms at YBES.

On a related note, I would like to acknowledge a gift made to Youth's Benefit Elementary by Cristal Global (an international chemical manufacturer). Last spring, Gabriela Drusano, now a first grader, was selected as one of 12 finalists from five countries in an art contest for the children of Cristal Global employees. In honor of her accomplishment, Cristal Global donated \$1000 to YBES. It was decided that it would be most appropriate to use the money to purchase digital document cameras for each of the art rooms. In this way, every student at YBES will reap the benefit of the gift. Congratulations to Gabby and thank you to Cristal Global.

Harford County Public Schools has adopted a new version of the Harcourt reading program this year. In accordance with the recommendations for grouping that come with that program, teachers are beginning to regroup students during reading instruction so they can select texts on just the right level and focus on specific skills needed by their group of students. Teachers are using data from last year, as well as teacher recommendations, to cluster students into instructional groups where they will be, at the same time, comfortable and challenged. Teams of teachers will meet on a regular basis to monitor student progress and make any necessary adjustments.

Mathematics grouping is essentially by homeroom, except for the most advanced math students who may complete units at a much faster pace and will be engaged in a more in depth study of the concepts and skills. The only other movement of students during math time will be to balance the numbers of students working with each teacher.

Once again this year there will be three "Back to School" nights, thus making parking and traffic less problematic for those who wish to attend. The teachers will be presenting information to parents according to the following schedule:

Grades K & 3- Monday, September 14	6:30 - 8:00 P.M.
Grades 1 & 4 - Tuesday, September 15 th	6:30 - 8:00 P.M.
Grades 2 & 5 - Wednesday, September 16 th	6:30 - 8:00 P.M.

Each evening will begin in the intermediate building multi-purpose room with greetings and introductions of the staff. The night will be

broken into two sessions so you will be able to visit more than one classroom if you have children in both of the grade levels designated for that date. The members of the PTA and Educational Foundation will also be here on those evenings to share their goals for the year. Our staff is looking forward to spending a very enjoyable and successful year with your children and you.

Sincerely,
Angela Morton
Principal

General Information:

Arrival and dismissal of students is a very busy time for us here at school. Please help us to make these times as safe as possible by:

- Not dropping your child off in the mornings before 8:30. The doors to school will be locked until 8:30 am each day and there is no supervision outside the school.
- Having your child ride the bus.
- Using the car rider drop off areas for both buildings. Primary drop off is in the middle of the top parking lot. Intermediate drop off is in the parking lot, near the gym door.
- Not making last minute changes in the way your child is to be dismissed. Changes to dismissal should be in writing and sent in with your child that day, unless there is an emergency.
- Keeping a regular schedule for your child's dismissal. Having students dismiss in different ways, several days a week is confusing for everyone.

Bus transportation is not to be used for play dates or students visiting each other after school.

Due to the increasing number of students with peanut and nut allergies, all food brought into the classrooms, including snacks, must be peanut and nut free. Food that will be eaten by all students in the class, must be store bought, with all ingredients listed.

Dear YBES Families,

My name is Lisa Kendall and I will be substituting for Mrs. Enderson in the intermediate art room for the first 5 weeks of school. I received my bachelor's degree in fine arts from MICA and completed the art education program at Towson University. I then taught art at Bel Air High School for four years. I left that position in 2003 to be a stay-at-home-mom with my two girls, who are now in 1st and 3rd grade. My family and I live in Norrisville. I have enjoyed my first few days of school with your children and am very much looking forward to the next five weeks!

JOIN SCOUTING!

Cub scouting is open to boys in the 1st – 5th grades, and is a great way for parents and their son to spend quality time together. Take part in fun activities that help build character, citizenship, and self-esteem. The Girl Scouts of America will have representatives there, too, for those interested in the scouting program for girls. See you on the 24th!

Come see us at JOIN SCOUTING NIGHT at the YBES Intermediate Building on **SEPTEMBER 24, 2009, at 7:00 PM.**

For a little earlier start to scouting, visit:

Pack 899 Meeting on **September 18** at 7:00 PM

Fallston United Methodist Church

For more information, contact:

David Lynn at 410-877-0542 or e-mail: Pack899Fallston@gmail.com

or

Pack 801 Meeting on **September 18** at 7:00 PM

Church of St. Mark

For more information, contact:

Sarah Richard at 410-877-3036 or e-mail: drichard35@comcast.net

~PTA GATOR BITE~

Dear Y.B.E.S. Families and Friends,

As the new President of the PTA, the Board and I wanted to welcome everyone back to school! We hope that you had a wonderful fun-filled summer. We are very excited for the new school year and thought it would be nice to inform you of some of the great upcoming PTA events and important information.

Over the summer, the PTA was thrilled to present Mrs. Morton with a \$ 10,000 contribution in order to purchase technology for our school. It is through our membership drive, fund- raisers and your continued support that we are able to make significant donations to enhance our children's education. We encourage every family to join the PTA this year! Remember by joining the PTA you are showing support and pride for our school. We will also have incentives throughout the year for PTA members.

We are happy to announce the Nominating Committee's candidate for 2nd Vice President, Kim Miller. While Kim has been performing many of the duties since May, we are hopeful that she will be formally elected at our September 29th General PTA Meeting.

We would love to see *you* at our *General Meetings* this year on **9/29, 1/13, 3/2 and 5/6.**

EVERYONE is welcome!

Michelle McCullough

YBES PTA President

Upcoming Events & Information:

- Sept 11th, Box Tops Summer Contest ENDS
- Sept. 18th, Teacher's Box Tops Contest ENDS
- Sept 29th, Book Fair Starts
- Sept 29th, General PTA meeting: Election for 2nd Vice President. Please look for a flier coming home soon in Thursday folders announcing our speakers!
- 2009-2010 PTA Membership Drive - Please look for your forms coming home in Thursday folders soon. They can also be found at our PTA Bulletin Boards in the lobbies of both buildings and will be available at Back to School Nights. If you have any questions, please contact Membership Chair Beth Solak at esolak@yahoo.com
- Wondering how to learn more about the YBES PTA? [Here's how to get PTA information:](#)
 - Read our [Gator Bite](#) in Gator Aid posted on the school website
 - Check out our bulletin boards in the building lobbies
 - Watch out for PTA emails sent to PTA members
 - Use our suggestion boxes by the bulletin boards
 - Email or call us!

President	Michelle McCullough	410-877-8684	fallston5@comcast.net
1st Vice President	Katie Harmon	410-877-3541	kharmon@comcast.net (Candidate)
2nd Vice President	Kim Miller	410-877-7738	themillers514@comcast.net
Treasurer	Rita Howarth	410-692-2188	bayboaters@comcast.net
Recording Secretary	Rebecca Richardson	410-557-0988	herrabee@msn.com
Corresponding Secretary	Jaci Logan	410-877-8264	4logans@verizon.net