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Dates to remember:

- September 5** - Labor Day Holiday – No School
- September 12** - PTA Open House – 6:30 p.m.
- September 19** – 1st Quarter Progress Reports issued
- October 6** - Fall Pictures
- October 13-14**-No School
- October 21** – Spike's Spooktacular Fall Carnival

The Bulldog Bulletin is published monthly by the Brushy Creek PTA.

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PTA Co-Presidents: Angela Murphy & Abbie Standridge

Editor: Julie Paré

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The Bulldog Bulletin



PTA Open House

Monday, September 12th

5:30 Challenge Open House

6:30 PTA Meeting

6:45-7:30 Visit Classrooms

Come See What Your Child Has Been

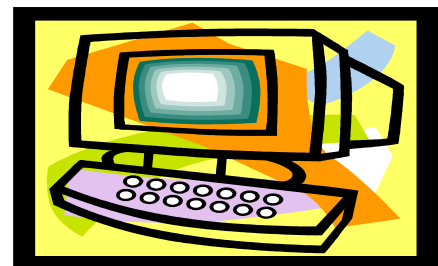
Working On So Far This Year!



REMINDER: Fall Fundraiser deadline is September 13th!!! Look for more information on Page 4.



If you signed up to receive the Bulldog Bulletin via email, thanks so much for helping the PTA save time and money. We are working on the email list, and plan to deliver the October issue to your inbox.











If you didn't sign up, or aren't sure, send an email to brushycreekpta@gmail.com, and we'll add you to the list.

The Principal's Corner

We are so excited to have our students back at Brushy Creek for a "Lights, Camera, Action" school year where we are "Learning, Celebrating, Achieving!" I have had the pleasure of meeting all of our children and so many parents and grandparents. I appreciate all of your well-wishes for another great year!

We hope you will make plans to join us for our first PTA meeting and Open House on Monday, September 12. Our general PTA meeting will begin at 6:30 pm. Open House in individual classrooms will immediately follow the PTA meeting. Parents of Challenge students are invited to a special drop-in session with Ms. Schultz from 5:30 – 6:30 pm in room 401.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we strive for safety during dismissal. We appreciate your understanding that we will be able to move traffic more efficiently after the first several days. It is always challenging to get back into a routine or to learn a new system. Thank you for displaying your school-issued family number and most especially for your patience. I would like to take this opportunity to offer a few reminders:

-  • Prominently display your family number using one of the cards you received at the beginning of the year. Please call the office if you need additional numbers for drivers designated to pick up your children.
-  • Pull as far forward as possible in the driveway before stopping.
-  • Be sure your car is at a complete stop before allowing children to enter or exit.
-  • Cross the driveway only at crosswalks, and wait for a staff member to assist you.
-  • Do not drop children at any location other than those designated. There is no supervision for children in these locations.
-  • All walkers should have a signed permission form.
-  • Please avoid parking your car to walk in to pick up your children. This slows down the process for those who are following our procedures.
-  • We cannot honor requests for early dismissals after 2:00 pm.

Each year, we minimize the wait time in our afternoon car line to about 12 minutes. With your cooperation, we know we can accomplish this goal again this year!

Again, I welcome you to the 2011 – 2012 school year! Please let me know if there is anything I can do to assist your family this year.

Sincerely,

DeeDec Washington, Ph. D.



Coach's Corner

Susan Florence, Instructional

If it's September then the air is beginning to get a bit cooler and the leaves look like Jack Frost is beginning to use his paint! It is also MAP testing time at Brushy Creek. The MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) test is a computer generated and administered test given to all first through fifth grade students throughout Greenville County. Students will begin testing on Wed., Sept. 7 and will test through Tues., Sept. 13.

Students will take a reading and a math test. Each test takes about 60 minutes to complete and is given on different days. Your children will not take their reading and math test on the same day. If your children are absent on their day of testing they will take their make-up test the first day they return to school. MAP test results will be sent home in October after the district's testing window has closed (September 30).

What is SIC?

The S.I.C. serves to provide parents, teachers, administrators, and community representatives with support, information, and improvement strategies for the purpose of meeting the educational needs of our students. A shared vision for supporting student learning with a sense of community will help BCES grow. All parents of students currently enrolled at BCES are invited to attend our SIC meetings, regularly held on the second Wednesday of each month. We look forward to seeing you there! This year's first meeting is on Wed., September 14 at 9 am in the Small Conference Room.

Save The Date!

Our Spike's Spooktacular Carnival is Friday, October 21st! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Becky Musgrove at rebeccamusgrove@rocketmail.com.



PTA®

Thanks to everyone who has joined the PTA so far. We are off to a great start!

Our fall fundraiser is in full swing. The children have been very enthusiastic about our lucky duck reward program. Your child can earn up to four ducks--look for a form in the fundraising envelope that tells all about it. This fundraiser is the biggest of the year, and all of the money we raise goes right back into our school. All sales should be turned in by Tuesday, September 13.

Don't forget, there is also an option for families who would prefer to make a donation. For a donation of \$35 for one child, or \$50 if you have more than one child at Brushy Creek, you can still get one duck per child, and your children will be able to come to the magic show at the end of the sale. Just put your donation in an envelope marked "PTA," and write your child's name and teacher's name on it.

We would like to thank Anne Marie Serwinowski and Becky Musgrove, our Co-Vice Presidents of Ways and Means, and Amanda Spradling, Fall Fundraiser Chair, for all of their hard work.

We are looking forward to Open House on Monday, September 12, at PM. If you'd like to get more involved in the PTA, we'd love to have you! There are lots of options--for people who have a lot of time or a little. And remember, if you have any questions at any time, please email us at:

brushycreekpta@gmail.com

Your PTA Co-Presidents,

Abbie Standridge & Angela Murphy

Each student who brings in 15 box tops by September 30th will get a free ice cream. Please make sure your bag or envelope of Box Tops is labeled with child's name and teacher.



Please Remember to Label ALL Money That Is Sent In To The School!

HELP SAVE PTAWOOD!

Our PTA Membership Goal this year is 812, and we currently have 524 Members! Please consider joining PTA today. The first class in each grade level to reach 100% Membership by Sept. 16 will receive a pizza party. Each class that reaches the 100% goal after this date will also receive coin coupons to eat free at Texas Road House. Join today and help save PTA! Membership dues are only \$5.50. Please send in your dues in an envelope marked for PTA Membership with your children's names and their teacher's names. Thanks for your support!



BiLo's Rodney Dillard, District Director, and Keith Wilder, Store Director, present a check for \$500.00 to Anne Marie Serwinowski, BCES PTA VP for Ways & Means. Thank you, BiLo!

Your PTA Dollars At Work

This summer the PTA bought planners for all students in 1st through 5th grade. These agendas are chock full of useful information, like the student handbook and a calendar for the whole year--check it out!

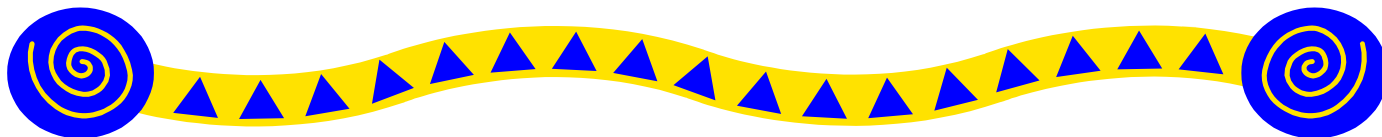


2010-12 Reflections Contest

Brushy Creek Elementary continues to emphasize the arts in education by sponsoring the National PTA's Reflections contest. The categories include literature, music composition, dance choreography, visual arts, photography, and film/video production. Brushy Creek students will join others across the nation as they create art entries based on this year's theme "Diversity Is....." Student works are judged on artistic merit, creativity, and theme interpretation. We have had a great turnout in the past, with Brushy Creek students placing at the District and even the State level! Entry forms will be available in the PTA room. For more information about the Reflections contest go to www.ptareflections.org or contact BCES Reflections chair Amy Smith at kasparsmith@hotmail.com. Entries are due by October 5, so start creating!

FALL FUNDRAISER

The Fall Fundraiser is off to a great start! If you wish to opt out of the fall fundraiser & made a donation instead, your child can still earn a duck. Students can earn up to 4 ducks by selling 2 items, 6 items, a magazine subscription, or 1 on-line order. Students should return the coupon with a parent signature in order to receive a duck. The deadline for the fall fundraiser is **Sept. 13**. This is our **BIGGEST** fundraiser at BCES. The profits from this sale help the PTA purchase equipment for the classrooms, for the library, and also for the school. If you have any questions, please feel contact Anne Marie Serwinowski at serwinowskim@bellsouth.net.



Ever wanted to get a list of students for a party or line up that special friend for a play date? Forgot your homework assignment and need to ask "Katie" a question? If you think you or your child may answer yes to one or more of these questions, order a Brushy Creek directory now. The cost is only \$3.00 per directory. Fill out the following information and return it along with the \$3.00 (make checks payable to Brushy Creek PTA) to your child's home room teacher. The deadline is September 10. You may also request to have your child's information included in the directory even if you do not purchase one. You must sign the form to have your child's information in the directory. If you have questions, please call Candace McCard at 420-2327.

School Directory

Child's Name _____

Teacher _____ Grade _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ Parent Signature _____

GRADE LEVEL UPDATES

Kindergarten is THE place to be! What an exciting time we have had together learning about our school, new friends, and ourselves! We will spend the next few weeks discovering our emotions and understanding how our body parts work together to help us live and learn. In language arts we are sampling each letter of the alphabet by concentrating on both how letters are formed and make sounds. Watch out for those "popcorn words" being introduced over the next few weeks! You can really help by practicing these words at home. In math we are learning how to describe items as we sort, classify, and organize lots of things in our real world. We are also spending time every day exploring how to use and read a calendar. It's just amazing to see how much our kids have grown so far this year!



First Grade Fun... We have had a great start to the year in first grade! We have been learning classroom and school rules and are working hard to follow them. We are continuing to learn more about our friends as we complete our "All About Me" unit. We can't wait to share our class collage books and personal timelines!

Second grade... We've had a great start to second grade! Everyone enjoyed using Chinese Fortune Tellers to get to know our new friends and creating Sunflower Glyphs to tell about ourselves. We are also diving right into the curriculum as we review our number words, learn about place value and discover the many different kinds of landforms. We will also be learning about different types of communities and studying author Kevin Henkes. He writes many children's books, such as *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse* and *Chrysanthemum*. We are looking forward to our first Reading Counts incentive party on September 28. More information will be coming home from your child's teacher. Please help your children learn their family number to make dismissal a smooth process.

Third grade...Lights, Camera, Action...Third grade students started their new school year off with sweet, juicy Watermelon Day. We enjoyed measurement and prediction activities using these cool summer fruits, but the best part was eating them after we counted the seeds. Some of us held seed-spitting contests...sticky but fun! We've launched our academic year with friendly letter writing, place value, matter, and *Tornado*, a novel by Betsy Byars. We're looking forward to writing letters to our families each week in our Weekend Journals. We're looking forward to an Academy Award-Winning third grade year!



Fourth Grade...The fourth graders have been busy settling into their new routine and getting to know one another. It has been a great start to what we know is going to be an amazing year. Our first big project this year was having everyone write a "Where I Am From" poem. Boy did we learn a lot about each other! Some are cute, some are totally hilarious, and others will bring tears to your eyes. You don't want to miss out on these. Please stop by our hallway and see them.

Fifth Grade...August and September are busy months for fifth graders. We are learning routines that will not only make this school year go smoothly, but will also be beneficial as middle school quickly approaches. In class, students are learning science process skills and extending their knowledge of the place value system in math. In writing, students have worked on selections about their new friends in fifth grade. Reading instruction has included information about book selection and narrator's point of view. In social studies, students are learning about the Reconstruction Period in American history. Everybody is gearing up for another trip to Barrier Island as well. Even though it has been a busy time, we are enjoying and learning in fifth grade.

Special Education...Lights, Camera, and so much Action!!! We are off to a great start! Our new friends are settling into the routine quite well and our returners are so helpful with these new ones. Our "About Me" activities and class work have been such a fun way to get to know each other better! Thank you for sending in snacks for the class to share. Crackers, goldfish, and animal crackers are always welcome (just no snacks that contain nuts!). Many of you are already sending in Box Tops. This will give us a good start for our school competitions! Keep working on those nightly baggie books with your child! And...cut!!!!

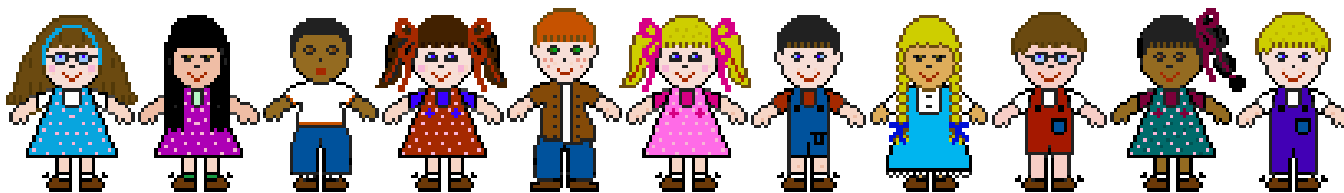
Reading Counts

Lights, Camera, Action: Join Spike in Learning, Celebrating, and Achieving by participating in the BCES Scholastic Reading Counts (SRC) Program.

LEARNING: Students take out a SRC book from the BCES or classroom library and take the corresponding quiz on a computer located in the BCES library or their classroom. SRC automatically generates a quiz that meets each student's reading needs.

CELEBRATING: Every quiz provides a true, formative, curriculum-based assessment so we can use SRC as a regular progress monitor. Students can continue to retake different quizzes on the same book to ensure skills mastery. Students will then receive recognition and prizes in the BCES spotlight.

ACHIEVING: Kid-friendly selections and leveled quiz content ensure that every independent reading experience will be a successful one.



The Counselor's Corner

Mrs. Alice Upchurch 864-355-5404 & Mrs. Nicola McGinty 864-355-5412

akirby@greenville.k12.sc.us

nmcginty@greenville.k12.sc.us

Welcome Back!

We hope you had a safe, relaxing, and fun-filled summer. We missed you! Mrs. McGinty and I hope this school year will be your best ever! Please check our webpage for information about programs and projects in which we will be participating this year.

✓ *Mark your Calendar!*

Coaches 4 Character and the Big Bus Alliance

Invite you and your child to come to hear

Roy Williams, UNC Head Basketball Coach

September 27th, 7 p.m.

Redemption World Outreach Center

Be at school and on time EVERYDAY!

Please try to have your child at school and on time everyday. Regular school attendance in elementary school sets a good pattern for your child's entire school career. Show him/her that school comes first by trying to minimize the number of days your child is either absent or tardy. Also, try to schedule routine doctor and dentist appointments for after school or over school breaks.



This year we will again participate in the Pinwheels for Peace project on September 21, 2011 – the International Day of Peace. Pinwheels for Peace is a nonpolitical project by which students and teachers can make a public visual statement about their feelings about war, peace, tolerance, cooperation, harmony and unity. Our students will create pinwheels which will then be planted on the school grounds spelling out the word PEACE.

REMINDER: Revised 2011-12 School Year Calendar

The 2011-12 School Year Calendar was revised, which resulted in several changes.

Go to <http://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/emmemo/emm110712/revcalendarsummary11-12.pdf>

for the summary of changes to the calendar.

“Kind words do not cost much. Yet they accomplish much.” - Blaise Pascal