

THE EAGLE EYE

Bettie F. Williams Elementary School
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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRINCIPAL - MR. MACKAY

Thank you making the opening of school a great success! Our students are doing an exceptional job of adjusting to school routines and procedures. Last year we initiated four basic school-wide rules that we call the "4 R's." They are:

- Eagles are responsible,
- Eagles are respectful,
- Eagles are caring; and
- Eagles are safe.

We also established a standard of behavioral expectations we refer to as "procedures." Following the simple logic that our children cannot live up to expectations unless they know exactly what we want them to do, we created procedures for a variety of daily routines such as changing classes, walking in the hallway to go to PE, and waiting in line in the cafeteria. Our fifth graders have been great role models for our fourth grade students.

This year, the tri-campus schools have added a new initiative to inspire responsibility and build character within our children to help them prepare for the 21st century. Using author Stephen Covey's book The Leader in Me we are introducing our students to the "seven habits of highly effective people." Those habits, along with a brief explanation of each habit from a child's perspective, are as follows:

Habit 1: Be Proactive

I am a responsible person. I take initiative. I choose my actions, attitudes, and moods. I do not blame others for my wrong actions. I do the right thing without being asked, even when no one is looking.

Habit 2: Begin with the End in Mind

I plan ahead and set goals. I do the right things that have meaning and make a difference. I am an important part of my classroom and contribute to my school's mission and vision, and look for ways to be a good citizen.

Habit 3: Put First Things First

I spend my time on things that are most important. This means I say no to things I know I should not do. I set priorities, make a schedule, and follow my plan. I am disciplined and organized.

Habit 4: Think Win-Win

I balance courage for getting what I want with consideration for what others want. I make deposits in others' Emotional Bank Accounts. When conflicts arise, I look for third alternatives.

Habit 5: Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood

I listen to other people's ideas and feelings. I try to see things from their viewpoints. I listen to others without interrupting. I am confident in voicing my ideas. I look people in the eyes when talking.

Habit 6: Synergize

I value other people's strengths and learn from them. I get along well with others, even people who are different than me. I work well in groups. I seek out other people's ideas to solve problems because I know that by teaming with others we can create better solutions than any one of us alone. I am humble.

Habit 7: Sharpen the Saw

I take care of my body by eating right, exercising, and getting sleep. I spend time with family and friends. I learn in lots of ways and in lots of places, not just at school. I take time to find meaningful ways to help others.

To learn more about the Leader in Me and the seven habits of highly effective people, please join us for our first parent night on Tuesday, October 20, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at Diamond Springs Elementary. The guidance counselors from each school will present a program introducing you to the Leader in Me philosophy.

A TASTE OF TITLE I

On October 29th at 9:00 a.m., Williams ES will be hosting a breakfast for all of the parents from our school who have children participating in the Title I reading and math programs.

Breakfast will be served along with some information about how the Title I program helps our students. Please mark this date on your calendar and plan to attend.

NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH WEEK

National School Lunch Week will be held from October 12 through October 16. This is a great week for you to visit our school and have lunch with your child(ren). Since so many parents join us for lunch this week, we have to plan ahead to prepare the right amount of food. We do this by designating a certain day for each homeroom to join us for lunch. We will be sending home a flyer in the "Wednesday Envelope" on October 7th with information regarding which day each grade level will be assigned.

NATIONAL SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK

National School Bus Safety Week will be held from October 19 through October 23. Our bus drivers do an outstanding job of providing safe and dependable transportation to our student's everyday in all kinds of weather. Wednesday, October 21st has been declared Bus Driver Appreciation Day. We will also honor our school crossing guard that day for the work she does to keep our children safe. Please remember these dates and express your appreciation to all of the people for the work they do for our children.



FEDERAL CARDS

On Monday, October 12, 2009 all children attending Virginia Beach City Public Schools will receive a federal card. The information you are asked to complete on this card has a direct impact on the amount of funding the school system receives from the federal government. Last year VBCPS received approximately \$16 million in federal funds.

Please take the time to fill out the card and return it to school the next day. It is very important!



SCHOOL PICTURES ARE COMING FOR THE BAYSIDE TRI-CAMPUS

School pictures for the fall semester will be taken by Lifetouch Studios on Monday, October 26, 2009 during the physical education period. All of the Bayside Tri-Campus students will have their picture taken that day. The pictures taken on October 26th will be used in the Bayside Tri-Campus yearbook. In order to purchase your child's picture you must **prepay** on the day the pictures are taken. You can pay by cash, check, or money order. A reminder will be sent home the week before pictures are taken. Bring your smiles!



COMING SOON!

A PTA Fundraiser! Entertainment
Books!

Look for flyers soon!

STANFORD ACHIEVEMENT TEST – GRADE 4

Our fourth grade students began taking the Stanford 10 Achievement Tests (SAT-10) on Friday, September 25, 2009. Testing will continue through the first week of October with make-up tests given during the second week of October. The testing schedule is as follows.

Word Study Skills	Friday, September 25	8:50
Reading Vocabulary	Friday September 25	9:30
Reading Comprehension	Tuesday, September 29	8:50
Math Prob. Solving	Wednesday, September 30	8:50
Math Procedures	Thursday, October 1	8:50
Language	Friday, October 2	8:50
Make Ups	October 5 - 9	

IT IS IMPORTANT TO BE ON TIME

We believe that it is very important for students to receive a full day of instruction. Our doors open at 7:55 a.m. and the instructional day begins at 8:20. Students who arrive after 8:20 a.m. are considered tardy and must report to the office before going to class.

Children who are not brought to school on time miss valuable instructional time that cannot be recovered. Their day starts off by being behind the rest of their classmates and they become frustrated because it is very hard for a child to catch up with the rest of the class. Students who are tardy also take valuable instructional time away from the other students because the teacher has to stop what she is doing to explain the work to the late student. Eventually, continued tardiness will affect grades and student performance.

For some students, it could impact their privilege to attend our school. If your child is attending Bettie F. Williams, or any of the Bayside Tri-Campus schools, with special permission as an out-of-zone student, chronic tardiness will cause us to revoke the privilege. Parents who have children who are often late to school will be asked to re-verify their address to ensure that they still live within our school zone.

Please be on time!

JOIN THE PTA!

Please join the Bayside Tri-Campus PTA! The cost of membership is just \$5.00 and joining the PTA is just one small way to show your child that you care about our school and his/her education. You can join the PTA anytime during the year by downloading the form from the school website. Please get involved and join today!

SIGN UP FOR MYSCHOOL MAIL NOW!

Keep in touch electronically with the Bayside Tri-Campus and Bettie F. Williams by subscribing to *My School Mail*. To subscribe to My School Mail:

- Go to our school's homepage: <http://www.williamses.vbschools.com/>
- Select the **My School Mail** link (Upper left-hand corner)
- Select the subscription of your choice



This is a great way to get the most up-to-date school news electronically such as this newsletter and important messages and reminders about upcoming events.

IMPORTANT DATES IN OCTOBER

- October is Computer Learning Month
- October is Crime Prevention Month
- October is Italian American and Polish American Heritage Month

October 1	Stanford Achievement Test for Grade 4 – Math Procedures
October 2	Stanford Achievement Test for Grade 4 – Language
October 5	POWER Program Begins for Select Students (3:00-4:30 Monday thru Thursday) 4 th Grade Field Trip to the Planetarium
October 6	Partnership Breakfast hosted by Diamond Springs @ 8:45 a.m. 4 th Grade Field Trip to the Planetarium
October 8	4 th Grade Field Trip to the Planetarium
October 12	Progress Reports Issued to All Students
<i>October 12-16 National School Lunch Week</i>	
October 13	Assembly by Young Audiences: “An Author’s Silly Purpose” @ 9:00 & 1:30
<i>October 19-23 National School Bus Safety Week</i>	
October 20	PTA Board/School Planning Council Meeting at Diamond Springs @ 5:00 Tri-Campus Parent Night at Diamond Springs: “Leader in Me – Seven Habits” @ 6:00
October 26	School Pictures for the Tri-Campus
October 29	Students of the Month Ceremony



WEDNESDAY ENVELOPES

On Wednesday, September 16th all of the schools in the Bayside Tri-Campus (Diamond Springs, Newtown, and Williams) began to send home the “Wednesday Envelope.” Our hope is that we can improve communication between the home and the school by providing a consistent means of sending information home with our students. Although the color of the envelope may be different at each school (the Williams envelope is bright yellow), **every homeroom teacher** will be sending home student work and school information on Wednesday in this envelope. Instead of each teacher having her own system of sending home information and “signed papers,” parents can now expect to see the information on same day of the week no matter how many children you have or where they attend school in the Bayside Tri-Campus. All of the information will come home in the “Wednesday Envelope.” Of course, there will always be some bits of news (e.g. discipline notices) that will need to come home on a more immediate basis, but the bulk of the news (calendars, menus, PTA notices, and newsletters) will be in the “Wednesday Envelope.” If you do not see the “Wednesday Envelope” yet, please contact your child’s teacher immediately. You may be missing some important information!

HOLIDAY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Since 1934, the Virginia-Pilot has provided gifts to children in our community with the goal that no child should go without a gift during the holidays. This year the Salvation Army is partnering with the Joy Fund, Toys for Tots and the Angel Tree to make the process easier for those who are eligible for the program. If you feel that your family is eligible for holiday assistance, please contact our school social worker, Ms. Jeneshia Ferebee (648-4080) to receive an application. You will be considered for not only The Joy Fund benefits, but all of the benefits of The Salvation Army holiday program.

Pay for Your Child’s Meals and Snacks Online!

Virginia Beach City Public Schools offers parents the opportunity to make payments – via an online account – for their child’s meals and/or snacks using Visa, MasterCard, or a debit card. It’s convenient and easy to use. Create your account today!

Benefits of paying online:

- Make payments directly into your child’s account
- Track meal account balances
- View cafeteria purchases
- Set up low-balance e-mail reminders
- Schedule recurring payments

Follow these easy steps to create your online lunch account:

You must be 18 years or older to open an account.

1. Go to vbschools.com and select Lunch Menus/Food Services on the homepage.
 2. Select the link mySchoolBucks.com
 3. Select I’m new to mySchoolBucks.
 4. When prompted to select a state, highlight Virginia and select continue.
 5. Select continue when Virginia Beach School District is displayed on the screen.
 6. Enter your account information and select register. (For privacy, a user must know the student’s ID number, birth date and name to add them to an account.)
- Notice: mySchoolBucks.com charges a convenience fee.

