

THE EAGLE EYE

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

The Bettie F. Williams Plan for Continuous Improvement 2009-10 is a blueprint designed to set the course for improvement at our school. This year, our goals are:

- Goal 1: To increase the 5th grade SOL writing pass rate from 83% to 90% by the end of the 2009-10 school year
- Goal 2: To increase the Math SOL pass rate in 4th and 5th grade combined from 80% to 83% by the end of the 2009-10 school year.
- Goal 3: To increase the pass advanced rate in 5th grade Virginia Studies from 43% to 45% by the end of the 2009-10 school year.
- Goal 4: To increase attendance at parental involvements.

As you can see, each goal is written as a specific measurable objective. This will make it easy for everyone to determine whether we have been able to meet our goals at the end of the year. While our goals are aggressive, we believe they are attainable. To achieve to these levels, the staff will develop an action plan for each goal that outlines the strategies that will be implemented to meet success.

If anyone is interested in reviewing the complete Plan for Continuous Improvement, it will be available in the library/media center or from any staff member.

REPORT CARDS ISSUED NOVEMBER 23, 2009

Student report cards will be sent home on Monday, November 23rd. The reports cards will come home in a white envelope. Parents may keep the report card, but should sign and return the envelope to the teacher. This will verify to us that you have seen the report card. Also, there is a space on the outside of the envelope for your comments as well as a section explaining the requirements for making the honor roll and principal's list in grades 4, and 5. Students in special needs programs will continue to receive an IEP progress report. If you have a question about the new report card, please contact your child's teacher.



REPORT CARD HINTS

Here are a few suggestions for our parents as you review your child's report card:

- Emphasize the positive, but do not ignore the negative. Typically, reports cards include a mixture of good news and bad news. If your child has four good grades and one poor grade, commend your child for their good work and discuss ways to improve the poor grade. Many of us see a bad grade and want to "fix" it so fast that we overlook all of the good work our child has done.
- Spend time discussing the "other side" of the report card. Conduct and work habits are just as important as language arts and math.
- There is a lot that goes into determining a student's grade. If you are not sure how a grade was determined contact your child's teacher.
- Write a positive comment on the white envelope and return the envelope to school. If your child did well, let him/her know you are proud. If your child struggled, let your child know that you will help him/her improve next time.

PRINCIPAL'S LIST, HONOR ROLL, CITIZENSHIP, AND ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

Principal's List

A student must make an "A" in all subjects with outstanding or satisfactory in all other areas. (This applies only to students in grades 3-5.)

Honor Roll

A student must maintain a "B" average in all subjects with no grade lower than a "C" and outstanding or satisfactory in all other areas. (This applies only to students in grades 3-5.)

Attendance

To receive a perfect attendance letter, a student must attend school every day during the nine week grading period. (This applies to students in grades K-5.)

Distinguished Eagle

A "Distinguished Eagle" award is given to students who earn an "O" in citizenship for the grading period.

Dedicated Eagle

Students who earn an "O" for work habits are awarded with the "Dedicated Eagle" award.

**TEACHER WORK DAY AND CONFERENCE DAY
– NOVEMBER 3**

School will be closed for students on Tuesday, November 3rd for a teacher work day and conference day.



VETERAN'S DAY IS NOVEMBER 11th

School will be closed on Wednesday, November 11, 2009 in honor of Veteran's Day. Please remember to honor those who have served our country on this very important day.

EARLY DISMISSAL AND THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Wednesday, November 25, 2009 (the day before Thanksgiving) will be an early release day for all students in Virginia Beach Schools. The schedule for that day will be as follows:

Bayside Tri Campus

Diamond Springs 8:00-12:00

Newtown 8:10-12:10

Bettie F. Williams 8:20-12:20

Middle Schools 9:10-1:10

High Schools 7:25-11:25

Our doors still open at 7:55 a.m. We will also serve lunch in the cafeteria on an adjusted schedule. Bag lunches will be available for those who wish to buy their lunch. Finally, the **POWER Program WILL NOT** be operating on Wednesday. All students will leave at 12:20.

School will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday on Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27, 2009.

**BUY YOUR ENTERTAINMENT BOOK
TODAY!**

The Bayside Tri-Campus PTA is sponsoring its first fundraiser by selling *Entertainment Books*. The *Entertainment Book* is filled with coupons from restaurants, hotels, retail stores, and much more. Many of the coupons are "buy one, get one free," so you only have to use the book once or twice to get it value back. The cost of a book is only \$20! You can pay for the book by cash or check. Checks should be made out to the Bayside Tri-Campus PTA. Order forms have been sent home in the Wednesday folder and will be available in the main office at each school. Please support the PTA and the Tri-Campus and buy your book today!

ELECTION DAY – NOVEMBER 3, 2009

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, 2009. As you know, Williams ES is a voting precinct. The polls open at 6:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m. Voting will take place in the gym. If you are planning to vote that day, please use the parking lot on the cafeteria side of the school and go to the back of the lot. You will be able to enter the building through the doors located near the gym hallway. Please do not enter the school through the main entrance to vote.



IMPORTANT DATES IN NOVEMBER

November 3	Staff/Conference Day – No School for Students
November 3	Election Day – Williams ES is a Voting Site
November 11	Veteran's Day – School Closed
November 16-20	American Education Week
November 17	PTA Board Meeting @ 5:00 p.m. Newtown ES "Dinner with Dad" Night @ 6:00 Hosted by Newtown ES
November 19	Students of the Month Program @ 2:00 p.m.
November 23-27	National Family Week
November 23	Report Cards Issued to Students
November 25	Adjusted dismissal Day
November 26 & 27	Thanksgiving Holiday – School Closed



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.

DEVELOPING STUDENT LEADERS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

The Bayside Tri-Campus is

“Developing Student Leaders for the 21st Century.”

- Be proactive – stop, think, and make a good choice
- Begin with the End in Mind – set a goal and work to achieve it
- Put First Things First – do the most important things first, work before play
- Think Win-Win – do what is best for you and your friend, share, compromise
- Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood – listen to others and care about what they are saying
- Synergize – work together
- Sharpen the Saw – have fun and take care of yourself...practice your skills



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.

