

# Belmont Elementary School

## SOARING EAGLES

Vision: Belmont Elementary is the school where everyone wants to attend and work.

**Believe Every Learning Moment Occurs Now and Tomorrow**

Volume 1, Issue 1  
September 9, 2009

**For Translation in Spanish, please call the school.**

Si quiere esta carta en español por favor llame a la escuela (703) 494-4945.

### From the Principal:

Welcome back to school! I want to start by congratulating all of the students, staff and parents of Belmont—WE MADE AYP for the 2009-10 school year. Our students did such an amazing job and really “rocked the test”. Our preliminary overall (3rd-5th grade combined) pass rate was 89.58% in Math and 93.26% in Reading. Way to go Belmont!

I am so excited for this school year. Our teachers have been in the building working to get the school up and running. The positive energy that we have had is just invigorating. Our first day of school got off to a great start. Everyone had smiling faces!

Over the summer, 150 of our students attended our Belmont summer program. They were three wonderful weeks full of learning. Our students worked very hard and I am very proud

of them. We also offered summer school to our rising kindergarten students. We had 28 students attend this program. It was a great opportunity for our students to prepare themselves for their first school experience.

Parent involvement is a key component to our schools success. Please consider volunteering in your child’s classroom, supporting our Fun Friday activities, attending family events and keeping open lines of communication with your child’s teacher.

Our Teacher Parent Advisory Council (TPAC) is another great way to get involved with our school. This group meets three times during the year to look at data and monitor progress on our school improvement plans. We also discuss the school budget. If you are interested in representing your neighborhood, please return the application on the back of this newsletter to the office no later than September 18th.

I would like to welcome all of our new

staff members to the Belmont family. Jessica Miller is in Kindergarten, Brittney Poulos and Jenn Matice are in Second grade, Judy Collazo and Christa Kempf are in ESOL., Pam Buckley our Early Intervention Specialist, Antoinette McDonald our Teacher on Administrative Assignment and Michelle Vignon in Gifted.

I am looking forward to a wonderful school year. I look forward to working with you throughout the school year. Please feel free to contact me should you have any concerns or want to talk.

Bridget Outlaw

### From The County:

Free and Reduced Price Meal Applications were mailed by the school division to families with children registered in Prince William County Schools. If you did not receive an application, please contact School Food and Nutrition Services at 703.791.7314 or your school. You may also complete the application electronically. Visit the school system website at [www.pwcs.edu](http://www.pwcs.edu) to access the electronic application.

#### It’s Back to School Time in Adult Education!

Adult Education classes, offered by Prince William County Public Schools, serving residents of Prince William County, Manassas City, and Manassas Park, will begin the week of September 21, 2009. Classes include: Adult Basic Education (for reading, writing, and math improvement), GED Preparation, English for Speakers of Other Languages, and the National External Diploma Program.

Registration for classes will be held from 5 - 7 p.m. at Stonewall Middle School in Manassas on Wednesday, September 9, 2009 and Thursday, September 10, 2009 and at Gar-Field High School in Woodbridge on Monday, September 14, 2009 and Tuesday, September 15, 2009. Daytime registration will be held from noon - 2 p.m. at the Adult Learning Center at Independent Hill on Friday, September 11, 2009. Allow approximately one hour for registration. Tuition fees must be paid in full at the time of registration.

For more information call 703.791.2319.

## Announcement for Parents:

This year a new process has been implemented to centralize the PWCS schools' online system allowing parents to have **one user account** for their school Web site log in and the Edulink Intouch log in. To obtain your user account follow the steps below:

**All parents must obtain an authorization letter in person at your child's school** in order to log in to your school's Web site or to log in to Edulink Intouch.

This year, there is a new process to log into **Edulink Intouch** to view student grades or emergency information. Follow the steps below:

- At "Back to School Night" on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, come to Belmont to receive a printed authorization letter which will have a student "passcode" that you will need when you register on your school's Web site. Bring a photo ID. If you have children in more than one school, please go to each school in person.
- After receiving the letter, go to one of

your children's school Web sites and register by clicking on the left button "**New User Registration.**" **You only have to register once at one school Web site**, even if you have children at more than one school.

- Parents who are also PWCS **school staff members** do not have to register as a "New User" on SchoolFusion. They will simply log on to their school Web site as usual, click on "My Family" and add the student passcodes on that menu.

- Fill out the online registration form and enter your student's ID number and "passcode" for each of your children in PWCS schools. **If you have children in more than one school, you can enter all children's passcodes from one Web site.** Also, you can add more children at a later time by clicking on your "My family" icon after logging into a school Web site.

- You can **use the same log in user name and password for all Web sites** where your children attend school.

You can **use the same school Web site log in and password to log into Edulink Intouch** as well.

After you have registered as a "New User" on the Web site, you will be able to log in to Edulink Intouch (also a button on the left of your school's Web site) and view your student's information. **However please wait 48 hours before logging into Edulink Intouch** since there is a time delay to transfer login information to the Intouch system. Your Edulink Intouch login user name and password **will be the same** as your school Web site log in.

## Crews to Pump Up Fun Fridays

This year, instead of having PTSO functions at which a few children have fun playing bingo or enjoy the carnival, we have decided to increase the fun for all students on the last Friday of each month by using our valuable parent volunteers to help celebrate the whole school's accomplishments in that past month.

How it works: Each month, a different grade level's parents are recruited at that month's arts event (a concert, an art show, or a literacy night, etc.) that will be held early in the month. Then, those parents volunteer at the school on the last Friday of the month to be that month's Fun Friday Crew.

Fun Friday crew members can: lead relay races in the bus loop, organize a kickball game, recruit karaoke singers in the multi-purpose room, bag and distribute free popcorn to all students, wear funny hats/wigs/smocks, or even start a conga line to the dismissal areas.

In September, Mrs. Outlaw and Mrs. Rickey, who volunteered to organize the parents for these Fun Fridays, will kick off the year with a Starter Fun Friday on Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>, in conjunction with the SOL Award Ceremony that will be held from 2 - 2:30 pm. If you could help with this first event, please contact Jamie Rickey at [3jrickey@verizon.net](mailto:3jrickey@verizon.net) or 703-730-6412.

In the following months, we'll rely on the parents of a specific grade level. Here is the plan:

| <u>Month</u> | <u>Grade Level</u> | <u>Date of Arts Event</u>     | <u>Date of Fun Friday</u>     |
|--------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| October      | Kindergarten       | Friday, Oct. 16 <sup>th</sup> | Friday, Oct. 30 <sup>th</sup> |
| January      | Third grade        | Friday, Jan. 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Friday, Jan. 29 <sup>th</sup> |
| February     | Fifth grade        | Friday, Feb. 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Friday, Feb. 26 <sup>th</sup> |
| March        | Fourth grade       | Friday, Mar. 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Friday, Mar. 26 <sup>th</sup> |
| April        | First grade        | Friday, Apr. 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Friday, Apr. 30 <sup>th</sup> |
| May          | Second grade       | Friday, May 7 <sup>th</sup>   | Friday, May 28 <sup>th</sup>  |

In November, December, and June, the Fun Fridays will be replaced by school holidays and other classroom parties.

For questions or to volunteer, please call the Fun Friday Volunteer Coordinator Jamie Rickey at 703-730-6412 or email her at [3jrickey@verizon.net](mailto:3jrickey@verizon.net).



## ODYSSEY OF THE MIND K – 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE TEAMS FORMING IF WE HAVE COACHES WHO VOLUNTEER

Coaches can be parents, teachers, grandparents, etc. You can be an assistant, co-coach, or head coach. No experience is necessary; training is provided. Our gifted resource teacher, Mrs. Vignon, is coaching a third-to-fifth-grade team, as is Mrs. Rickey, the program coordinator and a coach from last year. We can use all the help we can get to assist our teams and to coach more teams (especially to coach the kindergarten-to-second grade teams) to expand this opportunity to as many children as possible.

The perk of being a coach: your child is placed automatically on a team without having to try-out. If we have more children than we have spaces open on teams, we will hold try-outs for the remaining positions.

Please come to our **Prospective Coaches' Meeting on Tues., Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the Belmont Library** for more information on helping to make this program succeed this year.

For interested students and their parents/guardians, we will also have an Informational Night on Tues., Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the Belmont Library. At this meeting, we will introduce the coaches, announce when they will be meeting and which problem each team will be solving, etc., and conduct the try-outs, if necessary.

Estimated cost of the program this year is \$35, with financial assistance available. Once-a-week meetings will start in November and last until March.

This year's problems include "Surprise Party" for kindergarten-grade 2. The team presents a humorous performance of a surprise party for a team-created character. The surprise is an occasion that is not normally celebrated. Partygoers give three gifts and present a party "noisemaker" that makes an unusual sound instead of a loud sound.

Problems for grades 3 – 5 include: Nature Trail'R, Return to the Gift of Flight, Discovered Treasures, Column Structure, and Food Court.

In Nature Trail'R, teams design, build and drive a human-powered vehicle and camper that go to a campground, are disconnected, and the vehicle travels on a nature trail, on which it overcomes an obstacle, cleans up the environment, encounters wild-life, and undergoes a repair. A character explains the experience. Sponsored by NASA.

In Return to The Gift of Flight, teams make and operate a series of aircraft that will fly straight, make a target spin, travel slowly, drop something into a target, touch down and take off, and launch multiple aircraft. Aircraft testing is shown in a team-created performance that includes a creative "air traffic controller."

In Discovered Treasures, the team portrays the discovery of two archaeological treasures. One is a team-created discovery of an actual historical treasure; the other is the team's depiction of a modern sculpture or structure that exists today, but is discovered in the future. The performance includes an artistic representation of the two discovered treasures and characters on the discovery teams.

In Column Structure, the team builds balsa wood columns that support as much weight as possible, but cannot be connected to each other. Weight is added until the structure breaks or time ends. Bonus is given for the number of columns used. The testing of the columns is part of an original team-created performance.

In Food Court, teams present a humorous performance where a food item is accused of being unhealthy and must defend itself among its food peers. All characters are food items and include: "the accused," "the accuser," additional characters, and a jury that reveals its decision to the audience.

Odyssey of the Mind is an international organization that empowers students to creatively solve problems such as building mechanical devices or performing short skits. They bring their solutions to a friendly competition that encourages kids to be their best (Sat., March 13<sup>th</sup> at Hayfield Secondary School in Alexandria).

For more information, please call the program coordinator Jamie Rickey at 703-730-6412 or email her at [3jrickey@verizon.net](mailto:3jrickey@verizon.net).

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Occurs Now and Tomorrow**



## **We Welcome your Checks:**

If your check is returned for insufficient funds, we will electronically present it to your bank for the face value plus a \$35 processing fee and any protest or bad check return fee charged by your financial institution. This action will be taken without further notice.

All returned checks referred for collection are subject to a \$35 processing fee, any protest or bad check return fee charged by your financial institution, and all other charges, interest, and attorney's fees allowed by law.

## **Student Safety:**

Parents and staff are asked to be cautious around school buses loading and unloading children at school and at bus stops. By law, motorists must stop when a school bus is stopped with its red lights blinking and stop sign extended, except when the bus is on the opposite side of a median strip. Motorists must also stop if the bus is loading or unloading children and the signal devices are not functioning properly. Passing a stopped school bus is considered reckless driving and carries a minimum fine of \$250. Most fatalities and major injuries associated with pupil transportation occur when students are struck by motorists who are attempting to pass school buses while students are being loaded or discharged. Please be aware to ensure the safety of all our children.

## **Family Life Education**

In your welcome back packets received yesterday you had information regarding Family Life Education. Please take time to review the information taught at your child's grade level. These objectives are taught throughout the school year. If you wish for your child to not participate in some or all of these objectives, please complete the opt out form and return it to school.

## **Nurses Corner:**

Welcome Back to School year 2009-10! I hope everyone had a good summer break. I did and I think it went real fast. We have a challenging year that just started, but I know together we will be able to do it. Here are a few tips to keep you and your children healthy throughout the year and to avoid or diminish the chance of getting sick with the HINI Flu, Seasonal, colds etcetera:

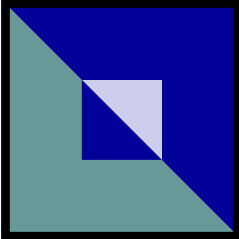
1. Keep child at home if sick with fever, sore throat, cough etcetera.
2. Cover your cough with a tissue or elbow/sleeve and instruct your child to do the same
3. Wash hands often with soap and warm water and instruct your child to do the same.
4. Use alcohol based hand sanitizer if soap and water not available.
5. Make sure you and your child get a good night sleep.
6. Make sure you and your child eat good, balanced meals

I would like to remind Parents that children are not allowed to carry medication back and forth in their back packs for safety issues, except in certain special situations with a written authorization from their doctor. Students that need to take any medicine at school must have a medication form filled out by the Physician if is a prescription or a parental consent if over the counter. Any student with a serious medical condition must have a Health Treatment Plan filled out by the doctor. Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions or would like to talk to me about a health related issue about your child, please call me at 703-494-4945, Tuesdays & Fridays 8-4 PM and Wednesdays 12:30-4 PM.









Escuela Elemental Belmont  
**AGUILAS EN VUELO**  
Visión: Belmont Es La Escuela Donde  
Todos Quieren Aprender y Trabajar.

**Cada Momento de  
Aprendizaje Ocurre  
Ahora y Mañana.**

9 de Septiembre 2009

## De La Directora:

Bienvenidos a un nuevo año escolar. Quiero empezar por felicitar a todos los estudiantes, maestros y padres de nuestra escuela. LOGRAMOS AYP para el año 2009-2010. Nuestros estudiantes se esforzaron y trabajaron duro y han pasado los exámenes estatales. El promedio de los exámenes de tercer a quinto grados fue 89.58 en matemáticas y 93.26 en lectura. ¡Que bien hicieron nuestros niños!

Nuestros maestros han estado en la escuela este verano arreglando sus salones de clases para estar preparados para sus niños. Todos tenemos una energía positiva. Nuestro primer día fue fabuloso. ¡Todos tenían sonrisas!

Durante el verano 150 estudiantes

vinieron a la escuela de verano. Fueron 3 semanas de aprendizaje. Nuestros estudiantes trabajaron duro y estoy orgullosa de ellos. También niños que empiezan kindergarten este año vinieron para la escuela de verano. Fue una gran oportunidad para prepararse para la escuela.

Que los padres estén envueltos en la educación de sus niños es importante para nuestra escuela y sus niños. Por favor considere ayudar a la maestra de su niño en el salón de clase. Puede venir para las actividades de los Viernes Divertidos, o venir a participar en los eventos familiares y manteniendo comunicación abierta con los maestros.

El consejo de Padres y Maestros es otra forma muy importante de participar en nuestra escuela. Este grupo tiene reuniones solo 3 veces durante el año escolar para hablar y sacar ideas de cómo mejorar

la escuela. También hablamos del presupuesto escolar. Si usted está interesado en representar su vecindario, por favor llene la aplicación que está en la última página a no más tardar del 18 de septiembre. Quiero darle una bienvenida a nuestros nuevos maestros: Sra. Millar en kinder, Srta. Poulos y Sra. Matice en segundo, Sra. Collazo y Sra. Kempf en ESOL, Sra. Buckley es especialista en intervención temprana, Sra. McDonald ayudante a la directora, y la Sra. Vignon es la nueva maestra de START y SIGNET.

Se que tendremos un magnífico año escolar, y espero trabajar con usted a través de él. Por favor no dude en llamar si tiene algún problema o pregunta.

Bridget Outlaw

## De la cafetería:

Las aplicaciones de almuerzo gratis o reducidos fueron mandadas a las casa en el verano. Si usted no recibió una aplicación puede contactar a los servicios de nutrición al (703) 791-7314 o a la escuela. También puede llenar la aplicación electrónicamente en la página electrónica de las escuelas del condado: [www.pwcs.edu](http://www.pwcs.edu).

### Clases de educación para adultos:

Empezarán el 21 de septiembre del 2009. Las nuevas clases incluyen Educación Básica (para lectura, escritura y matemáticas). Preparación para el examen GED (de secundaria). Ingleés para personas que hablan otros idiomas. Tendrá que pagar la clase cuando se registre.

Registración para estas clases será de 5-7 de la noche en la escuela superior Gar-Field el lunes 14 de septiembre y el martes 15 de septiembre. La registración toma alrededor de una hora.

Para mas información llame al 703-791-2319

## Anuncio para los Padres:

Este año habrá un proceso nuevo para centralizar el sistema electrónico de las escuelas que dejara a los padres tener **una cuenta** para todos los niños de su casa aunque estén en escuela diferentes llamado EDULINK (para poder ver las calificaciones, tareas, cambiar información familiar, etc.). Para obtener una cuenta siga los siguientes pasos:

**Todos los padres deben obtener una carta de autorización en persona de la escuela de su niño.**

La noche de "Back to School Night" el 22 de septiembre, venga a Belmont a recibir su carta de autorización que tendrá un código secreto que necesita para registrarse en la página electrónica de la escuela. Traiga una identificación. Si tiene niños en más de una escuela tiene que ir a todas las escuelas de sus niños en persona.

Después de recibir la carta, vaya a la página electrónica de la escuela de cualquiera de sus niños y regístrese usando el botón a la izquierda llamado **"New User Registration."** Solo tiene que registrarse una vez en una página electrónica de cualquier escuela de sus niños.

Padres que también **son empleados** no tienen que registrarse como "New User". Ellos simplemente tendrán que ir a la página electrónica como lo hace usualmente, hacer clic en "My Family" y añadir los códigos de sus niños en ese menú.

Por favor llene la registracion y ponga el número de identificación escolar de su niño y su código secreto. Si no sabe el número escolar de su niño (6 dígitos) llame a la escuela. **Acuérdese que si tiene niños en más de una escuela los puede poner a todos en esta misma página.** También, usted puede añadir mas niños a otro tiempo simple-

mente haciendo clic en el botón "My Family" después de haber entrado a la página electrónica de su niño.

Usted puede **usar el mismo nombre de usuario y código para todas las paginas electronicas de las escuelas** en que se encuentran sus niños.

Después de haberse registrado como "New User" en la pagina electrónica, usted podrá entrar a "Edulink Intouch" (también un botón a la izquierda y ver la información de su niño. **Sin embargo tendrá que esperar 48 horas después de la registracion para que la informacion tome efecto y pueda entrar a este sistema.**

Su nombre de usuario y código secreto **será el mismo** en Edulink y en la página electrónica de su escuela.

## Viernes Divertidos

Este año, en vez de tener funciones donde solo algunos de los niños se divierten jugando BINGO o hiendo al carnaval, hemos decidido que todos los niños se van a divertir el último viernes de cada mes contando con padres voluntarios para ayudarnos a celebrar los logros de los estudiantes del mes.

**Aquí esta como trabaja:** Cada mes, un nivel de grado diferente reclutaran de sus padres. Entonces esos padres vendrán el último viernes de ese mes para ayudar en el Viernes Divertido.

Los padres ayudantes podrán organizar juegos, carreras, organizar cantos de Karaioke, ayudar a distribuir palomitas de maíz gratis a todos los niños, vestirse en disfraces . . .un en fin de diversiones.

Es septiembre la Directora y la Sra. Rickey, mamá voluntaria para organizar estos viernes, empezarán el año con un Viernes divertido especial el día 18 de Septiembre de 2009 junto a las ceremonias de certificados de los exámenes estatales (SOLs) que será de 2 – 2:30 de la tarde. Si usted puede ayudar con este evento por favor escriba a la Sra. Rickey al [3jrickey@verizon.net](mailto:3jrickey@verizon.net) o al 703-730-6412.

En los siguientes meses nesecitaremos padres de los siguientes niveles de grado:

| <u>Mes</u> | <u>Grado</u>  | <u>Evento de Arte</u> | <u>Viernes Divertido</u> |
|------------|---------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Octubre    | Kindergarten  | Viernes, Oct. 16      | Viernes, Oct. 30         |
| Enero      | Tercer grado  | Viernes, Enero 8      | Viernes, Enero 29        |
| Febrero    | Quinto grado  | Viernes, Feb. 5       | Viernes, Feb. 26         |
| Marzo      | Cuarto grado  | Viernes, Mar. 5       | Viernes, Mar. 26         |
| Abril      | Primer grado  | Viernes, Apr. 9       | Viernes, Apr. 30         |
| Mayo       | Segundo grado | Viernes, Mayo 7       | Viernes, May 28          |

En noviembre, diciembre y junio los "Viernes Divertidos" serán reemplazados por fiestas de salón.

**Cada Momento de Aprendizaje  
Ocurre Ahora y Mañana.**



## Sí, puede mandar cheques

Pero si su cheque es devuelto por no tener fondos, lo tendremos que mandar electrónicamente a su banco por el dinero más \$35 dólares de procesamiento. También su propio banco le cobrará por haber escrito un cheque sin fondos.

Todos los cheques que sean devueltos y no sean pagados serán llevados a colección además de \$35 dólares de procesamiento, dinero que cobre su institución, todos los otros cargos, interés y cargos de abogado como lo manda la ley.

## La Seguridad De su Niño:

Padres y maestros se les pide que tengan mucho cuidado alrededor de los camiones escolares que para recoger y dejar niños. Por ley, todos los carros deben de parar cuando un camión escolar haya parado y tenga las luces encendidas y tenga la señal de pare ("STOP"). Carros también deben de parar si el autobús esta parado dejando o recogiendo niños y sus luces no trabajan debidamente. Si usted pasa a un autobús escolar tendrá una multa de \$250 dólares. La mayoría de accidentes fatales son cuando carros tratan de pasar a un autobús escolar que esta dejando o recogiendo niños.

## De La Enfermería:

Bienvenidos al año escolar 2009-10! Espero que todos hayan tenido un verano fabuloso. Aquí hay unas cuantas ideas para mantener a usted y a su hijo saludables a través del año:

1. Mantenga a su hijo en la casa si tiene fiebre, dolor de garganta, tos, etc.
2. cubra su tos con un pañuelo o con su codo y enséñele a su niño como hacerlo.
3. Lavese las manos a menudo con jabón y agua tibia y enséñele a su niño como hacerlo.
4. Use desinfectante de mano con alcohol si no hay jabón y agua.
5. Asegurese que usted y su niño duerman suficientes horas.
6. Asegurese que usted y su niño coman comidas saludables y balanceadas.

Quiero tomar esta oportunidad para recordarles a los padres que los niños no pueden traer medicinas a la escuela. Los estudiantes que necesiten tomar medicamentos en la escuela necesitan que su doctor llene un formulario autorizando la medicina o un formulario llenado por los padres si no es medicina recetada. Cualquier estudiante que tenga una situación medica severa necesita que su doctor llene un plan de tratamiento medico. Si tiene alguna pregunta por favor llámeme a 703-494-4945, los martes y viernes de 8-4 y los miércoles de 12:30- 4 PM.

