

# Forestville ES News Nest

May 26, 2009

Matt Harris, Principal

## 2009-10 Continuation of Teacher Leadership and BLOOM



Each grade level team has a leader, and the team leaders meet monthly along with the administration. For the 2008-09 school year, this leadership was comprised of Mrs. Early (K), Mrs. Lombardi (1<sup>st</sup>), Mrs. Paull (2<sup>nd</sup>), Miss Ade (3<sup>rd</sup>), Mrs. Loving (4<sup>th</sup>), Miss Glascock (5<sup>th</sup>), Miss Conner (6<sup>th</sup>), Miss Stanford (special education), Mr. King and Miss Parmiter (specialists), Miss Kim and Mrs. Stark (PBS). The 2009-10 school year brings some changes in Team Leaders:

1. **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:** Miss Gilbert resumes her role as team leader after a brief hiatus to work on her Masters.
2. **4<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Mrs. Erin Loving did a wonderful job of bringing the 4<sup>th</sup> grade team together with her experience, structure and organization. Miss **Kristin Smith and Miss Laura Stanley** will now co-lead this team.
3. **GT Team Leader:** With the advent of the Accelerated Academics Program into 6<sup>th</sup> grade, we need a leader from that team. The GT team has a liaison with the GT Office (Mrs. Shana Twitchell), but we will add a GT Leader to our monthly team leader meetings: Mr. **Jeff LeLoup and Miss Meredith Keuchel** will split the responsibilities.

### Upcoming Events

- ◆ 6/4 Strings Concert
- ◆ 6/10 Band Concert
- ◆ 6/11 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Career Day
- ◆ 6/16 Yearbooks Distributed
- ◆ 6/18 Last Day of School

A team leader has at least four roles:

1. To serve as a conduit of information, decision making, and content from the teams to each other (vertical teaming) and the administration. To use democratic terms, they are the representative for their team.
2. To hear and interpret new FCPS ventures to their team mates.
3. To create a buzz among their team mates about new Forestville ventures, e.g. BLOOM, eCART, Aspire, I&E, Professional Learning Community (PLC) and Team Meeting structure etc.
4. To lead their weekly team meeting, insuring that it holds to PLC standards.

A little more than three years ago, seven Forestville teachers put together a proposal which is considered visionary, not just for our school but for school aged children. At the heart of the BLOOM proposal is the belief that our children must move past the content of the SOL and POS and venture into areas of critical thinking, global citizens.

Although flawed (in part by its massive undertaking), BLOOM is still in the neonatal stage of what it can and should be. That opinion is underscored by the work of Daniel Pink ([A Whole New Mind](#)) and now continued in the book by Tony Wagner [The Global Achievement Gap](#). Part of the FCPS focus in Teacher Leadership Grants was building leadership capacity in each school selected. Certainly, we would describe the teachers involved: Tara Belke, Jane Conner, Helen Cole, Lisa Magdaleno, Patrick Mills, Mary Ellen O'Brien, Renee Parmiter, Kristen Sloan, and Mary Zarling as leaders in their own right. By adding Kristin Smith, Laura Stanley, Jeff LeLoup and Meredith Keuchel, we continue that expansion.

Here's the schizoid rub of our current academic approach and the gauntlet thrown down by [The Global Achievement Gap](#) : When we are asked to give direct concentrated focus to SOL content, how do we also do justice to engaging students in higher order thinking skills? When the arts are given the short shrift across the country in so many ways, how do we pay our dues to both the arts and academics?

So there are two important questions:

- How do we continue and enhance the work laid out by BLOOM?
- How do we bring the ideas expressed by Pink, Wagner and others to life at Forestville?

On Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, the team leaders and administrators will spend part of the day in collaboration in answering these questions. In addition, we will review the survey results taken by the instructional staff on the implementation of 26 best instructional practices outlined by FCPS. The day will be chocked full of great information. If you wish to have more information about any of the practices or about the books mentioned, please email Mr. Harris or Mrs. Quigley.

### **Thanks to those Teachers who are changing Grade Levels:**

**Mrs. Nancy Crotty** is moving to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Mrs. Erin Loving** is moving to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

We thank these teachers for their willingness to flex to meet the needs of our student population.

## Scholarship Club Expanded:

The early intervention program known as the Scholarship Club is being expanded for the 2009-10 school year.

**Mr. Jeff LeLoup** and **Miss Susan Kim** will continue in their roles established this year.

In addition, the following staff members will join their ranks in helping children with academic intervention in reading and mathematics and with study skills:

**Mrs. Sarah Stark**

**Mrs. Kristen Sloan**

**Miss Lindsay Barnas, special educator**

We are pleased that FCPS has allowed us to expand this program.

## 3rd Grade Egyptian Play:

On May 6, Mrs. Crotty's 3rd graders performed the play, "A Different Sort of Pharaoh: The Life of Hatshepsut", by John Rearick. The story is based on the paintings and carvings from Queen Hatshepsut's own temple in Egypt and the ideas of those who have studied her rule. The students were intrigued by her story and enjoyed learning about how she helped ancient Egypt regain its former glory. Mrs. Crotty's class would like to thank Ms. Parmiter for helping with the set design and the Egyptian collars and the custodians for helping to set up Theater B for each performance.

Submitted by Ms. Crotty



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Reading Field Trip to Hutchison Elementary:

On Tuesday, May 19, our second graders took a special field trip devoted to reading. They went to Hutchison Elementary School to read to the Kindergarten classes.

The kids read books to their buddy and then enjoyed snacks provided by the Kindergarteners. When we returned to school the kids wrote about their experience. Some of the students wrote about being nervous reading to their buddy. Most enjoyed the trip and would like to have another field trip like the one on Tuesday.



Some of the comments to the question: "How did reading to the children make you feel?" were:

- It made me feel like an adult.
- It made me feel happy because it seemed like I was teaching a kid how to read a book.
- I felt shy when I read with my buddy.
- It made me feel good because sharing something with them made me proud.
- It made me feel like I was in a concert.
- Reading to them felt good.
- It made me nervous because I was shy.
- Reading to them was fun because I realized how happy they were when we read to them.
- I felt like I was his mother. I taught him the word "was".
- Reading to my buddy felt good because she was a good listener and paid attention.
- Reading to the kindergarteners felt like I was very grownup and that made me feel very special.

Submitted by Ms. Gilbert

## **Sixth Grade Field Trip to Baltimore:**

Among the many stops that our sixth graders made in their annual trip to Baltimore was the Baltimore Aquarium. Here are some boys just taking it easy at the aquarium. Is something fishy going on here?



## **5<sup>th</sup> Grade SOL Writing Test Results:**

Last week, we received the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Writing results from the test taken in March. Approximately 98 per cent of our fifth graders passed the test, and from that number, almost 60 per cent earned an Advanced Proficient. Congratulations to our students, parents and teachers!

## **4 Paws donations:**

For the past ten years, Forestville's first graders and their families have lovingly donated cat food and supplies to the orphan cats and kittens cared for by the 4Paws Cat Rescue Team. In return, group members have brought cats to school each spring to teach basic animal care. I will be retiring this year after twenty-six years at Forestville and would love to have all of our students donate cat food one last time to this caring group. A box will be placed in the lobby for your donations. Thanks for your generosity.  
Submitted by Carole Moore



## **First Graders Go On a Worm Walk:**

The first grades went on a field trip to Ellanor C. Lawrence Park on Tuesday 5/19 and Wednesday 5/20. We went on a hike through the woods to hunt for worms. We even found a black snake! We also visited the nature center and had a picnic lunch.

## **PBS Cardinal Compliment Milestones:**

Within one week, Forestville students reached two milestones:

1. They surpassed the number of Cardinal Compliments earned in the 2007-08 school year which was 14,081.
2. They surpassed 15,000 compliments earned.

Given these two achievements, Mr. Harris is providing a pizza lunch to two students at each grade level and two for excellent hallway behavior. Parents will be notified if their child's name was drawn. Other lunch items will be available for students with food allergies. Congratulations to our student population!



Mrs. Lombardi's class measures with 47 whole class Cardinal Compliments...

## **Thank-you, thank-you, thank-you...**

The office staff wants to thank the community for generously stepping up and helping out in the office while Mrs. Krop was caring for her father. We really appreciate all of the help with the phones, door chime and bus notes! This community is the BEST!

## **Tdap Information for Parents of Rising 6<sup>th</sup> Graders:**

Tdap notices and forms were sent home in Tuesday's folder and the forms are due back **June 5**.

## Race for Hope:

Team Forestville braved the weather to walk in support of brain tumor research and to honor our own survivors, **Brian Cox** and **Molly Quigley**. Even though the weather was soggy a good time was had by all and we will definitely be participating next year. Please plan on joining us for this very worthy cause.

