

Phillips Community Newsletter

Phillips School ~ Annandale

November 2008

Special Interest Articles:

- Family Service Corner
- Notes from the Behavior Department
- PAG News
- Classroom News
- Student of the Month
- Events Calendar

AUTUMN FEST PARTY

Special events at our school blasted off with our annual AutumnFest party on Friday, October 31st, or Halloween. The students had the opportunity to decorate cookies, make popcorn hands, and eat mouths....yes, that's right, they ate mouths made from apple slices with peanut butter and small marshmallows as the teeth.

Activities at the party were pinning the tail on the cat, ring toss on the gargoyle, and talking to the floating head. The more



energetic challenges were swinging hips on the hula hoops, playing sports games on the Wii and dancing to Dance, Dance, Revolution.

November and December will be very busy with these upcoming events:

- November 21st
 - 1st Quarter Honor Roll Assembly (1:30 - 2:45)
- November 23rd
 - Thanksgiving Lunch
- December
 - Student of the Month Lunch
- December 19th
 - PHILLIPS Holiday Program: "Are You Smarter than a Reindeer?"

FAMILY SERVICES CORNER

As we are now well into the new school year, it remains extremely important for everyone to work as a team to promote all students' progress. One of the first steps is to ensure children arrive at school every single day. When we look at success rates, we know that attendance is crucial to a child's ability to use education. Obviously, some absences are necessary, but when they are not, let's all commit to trying to encourage the children to come and be a part of this school community on a consistent basis.

What can parents do to help this process? Regular routines help keep kids on track. You can work to establish an evening routine. With your child's participation, organize lunch, backpack, and clothes for the next day. Try to have a consistent bedtime. Also work toward a morning routine that includes a regular time to get up. Allow adequate time for hygiene schedules and most of all, eating a good breakfast. Having to rush around in the morning can cause tension and upset for parents and children.

Getting off to a positive start in the morning can make a difference. Don't forget to praise when things are working well.

NOTES FROM THE BEHAVIOR DEPARTMENT...

Barbara McCollett, Behavior Department Supervisor

PHILLIPS Programs as an organization has at its core a belief in the potential of our children and their families. Currently, PHILLIPS is proud to share with its families



The Parent Advisory Group (PAG) wishes the entire PHILLIPS Community a safe and Happy Thanksgiving!

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how the Resiliency Model of intervention is being implemented throughout our program.

What is Resiliency? Simply stated, Resiliency is the ability to bounce back, withstand hardship, and successfully adapt in the face of adversity.

Why is Resiliency important? Students and families come to PHILLIPS with a variety of different challenges. Some of these challenges are biological, some environmental or situational, some neurological or developmental. But all are faced with difficulties that can present roadblocks to success. Resiliency is important in order that individuals are able to face and overcome challenges and go on to reach success.

Through decades of research, the Resiliency Model of intervention was developed by Nan Henderson and Emmy Werner. This model teaches that assisting children and families in developing internal and environmental protective factors greatly increases the likelihood of overcoming adversity.

Internal Protective Factors are individual characteristics that foster resiliency. They include: sociability, life skills, independence and self-advocacy, positive view of self, motivation, humor, and competency.

Environmental Protective Factors are characteristics within an individual's environment (family, school, social group, community) that foster resiliency. They include: resources for meeting basic needs, values education, promotes close bonds, high expectations, leadership opportunities, clear boundaries, encourages goal setting.

As PHILLIPS embraces the belief that our children and families already possess many of the Protective Factors that will assist in meeting the challenges that they face, the

Resiliency Model demonstrates that increased support leads to increased likelihood of success.

How does PHILLIPS use the Resiliency Model? By integrating the Six Elements of the Resiliency Wheel into our daily interaction and programming. 1. Increase bonding ~ facilitate strengthened relationships with families, school staff and others. 2. Set clear, consistent boundaries ~ make sure all know and are expected to follow rules that show respect for self and others. 3. Teach life skills ~ offer opportunities to learn skills needed to be as independent as possible. 4. Provide caring and support ~ communicate understanding and willingness to assist. 5. Set and communicate high expectations ~ demonstrate confidence in ability to achieve. 6. Provide opportunities for meaningful participation ~ allow individuals opportunities to demonstrate their skills and talents.

How does Resiliency at PHILLIPS impact your child or family? Using the concepts of the Resiliency Model, the staff at PHILLIPS seek to assist children and families in identifying the strengths within themselves and their environment that will help them become resilient. Developing opportunities for student to use positive social skills such as giving compliments to peers, leading a classroom discussion, or practicing job skills is part of daily programming. Working with families to enhance communication, understanding, and connection with community resources is also a priority.

The Resiliency Model focuses on recognizing and strengthening the skills and resources that each child and family possesses. PHILLIPS Programs fully believes that working together with each child and family to build on these strengths is the key to success for all of us.

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CALENDAR CHANGE

PHILLIPS has decided to change its school calendar in January to allow families to mark the Presidential Inauguration which has special historic significance this year. January 20th will now be an in-service day. The change means that May 6th, which was originally scheduled to be an in-service day will not be a regular school day.

SNOW DAY PROCEDURES

Despite our warm weather of late, winter weather could be around the corner, so please review PHILLIPS' snow day procedures! This is copied from the Parent Handbook:



From time to time school may either open late, close early, or be canceled for the day due to snow, ice or other extreme weather conditions. Although PHILLIPS will not be specifically mentioned, announcements of late openings, early closings and cancellations will be made on you local TV stations. Guidelines for the decisions are as follows:

1. If Fairfax County Public Schools open late, close early or cancel school for the day, PHILLIPS will do the same.

2. PHILLIPS or other jurisdictions transporting students to PHILLIPS may consider specific bus routes to be hazardous enough to delay, leave early, or cancel on a particular day. When these decisions are made, they will supersede whatever decisions have been made by Fairfax County Public Schools. Other school jurisdictions transporting students to PHILLIPS will transport students according to the worst case scenario of the counties in which the students will travel (e.g., Fairfax County Public Schools open on time but Montgomery County Public Schools close, then Montgomery County Public Schools will not run their buses).

3. If it begins to snow during the day, please try to be available at home or work for staff members to call parents to notify you of any early closing.

4. If necessary, snow days will be made up at the end of the school year.

PARENT ADVISORY GROUP NEWS

The first meeting of the PHILLIPS-Annandale Parent Advisory Group was held on October 3. Trudy Bell gave a brief presentation about recent developments at PHILLIPS, including information about the composition of the student body, the geographic distribution of PHILLIPS students, and other information about the school related to the start of the new academic year.

Those in attendance discussed a series of activities for the year which we'll be announcing soon.

Please remember that the PAG looks forward to hearing from any parent that wishes to participate and contribute. Please contact Paul Fekete or Randi Bane if you have any comments or suggestions.

PAG YAHOO GROUP

Everyone in the PHILLIPS Community is invited to join the Yahoo Group called **PhillipsPAG**. group which will be utilized to supplement the distribution of information related to PHILLIPS. It can also be used to post messages, ask questions, share files and photos, create group polls, and more. Anyone can access the group by using the links below or from the Yahoo! Groups "My Groups" page.

Just go to the group home page now:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PhillipsPAG>

For further information, please contact Paul Fekete at pfekete@nova.umuc.edu

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CLASSROOM NEWS

Room 204's Fieldtrip to Cox's Farm



We went to Cox's Farm on Oct. 9, 2008. We saw a pig, and her piglets, a hen and her chicks, bunnies and a horse. We slid down a big slide made of metal and hay. We sat and ate lunch at the picnic tables. We drank cold apple cider and it was good. We went on a bumpy hayride. We walked through a corn maze. We picked out a medium sized pumpkin and painted it for Halloween.

STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS

Movie Review

By Bobby and Jonathan
Room 101

The Express is about a true story . Rob Brown plays Davis as a focused young man with a strong family behind him, confident, not intimidated or obsessed by racism, open to everyone (he became the star wide receiver on an all white college football team). He made many touch downs and also he brought the team to the Rose Bowl. "The movie is so cool," says Jonathan. He gives it 5 stars.

New York City Trip

Alexander F.

I went to New York City on a Saturday this past summer. We took the Vamoose bus from Bethesda to New York City's Penn Station. We got off the bus and went to the hotel it was called the Hotel Metro. It was a pretty hotel with marble floors in the lobby. Our hotel room had a good view from the bay window. After we got our stuff in the room we went out. We took the subway, which is old, noisy, dirty, and shabby. To ride the subway you pay by using Metro card, which you swipe through the turnstile and you're in the station. The stations are hot. We first went to J&R music store and electronics, after that we went to South Street Seaport. Next we

went to dinner in Little Italy followed by a walk along Broadway all the way up to Times Square. We went to the biggest toy store in the world, after that we went back to our hotel room. Boy, was I tired!

Sports News

by Bobby W.

The 2008-2009 volleyball season, from Mr. Phillip's view, is that the season has been going great. The players have put a lot of effort into the games and practices. The Cougar's record so far has been four wins and one loss. Mr. Marvin said, "the season has gone by quickly and it is going great so far every player has put very good effort in every game". As a team we're doing great! PHILLIPS Cougar's have won three games so far and only lost one game. A few players such as Damany, Lance, and Travis play a great game along with their other teammates since the beginning of the season and will continue their effort until the end of the season. So give the Cougars your cheer, because once again we're on a roll. GO COUGARS!!

Brandon's Poetry Corner

by Brandon S.
Room 101

Great outdoors of color

Fall is a time when leaves fall off
the trees

A time when you feel a
slight breeze

A time when we all
feel at ease

And kind of
feel like
working
bees.

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STUDENTS OF THE MONTH (SEPTEMBER)



Please congratulate September's Students of the Month.

101 Chris G.
102 Iman
103 Sean D.
104 Jannell
105 Makaela
106 Akeem C.
107 Vanesa
108 Carlos M.
109 Ryan H.
110 Ian M.
111 Anthony D.
112 Ryan K.
113 Denise T.
114 Donnell R.
201 Joseph
202 Catherine P.
203 Mark J.
204 Eric M.
205 Carville
206 Corey L.
207 Dominic
208 Kenneth W.

202 Tevin B.
203 Evonte W.
204 Marvin B.
205 Rasheed T.
206 Brittany B.
207 Mary C.
208 Eric H.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH (OCTOBER)



Please congratulate October's Students of the Month.

101 Bobby W.
102 Darwin G.
103 Danny F.
104 Ashley G.
105 Charlie K.
106 Jemel B.
107 Michael M.
108 Matthew W.
109 Laura L.
110 Joshua D.
111 Crystal W.
112 Kevin W.
113 Michael J.
114 Latonia J.
201 Darlene C.

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Published by the Annandale Parents Advisory Group (PAG)

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The PHILLIPS Parent Advisory Group (PAG) consists of parents and school staff who are interested in providing parent leadership to support the school by advising on problems and concerns, sharing ideas and coordinating activities that are beneficial to both parents and children.

Please become a part of this group! If you have any questions, ideas, or concerns, please give us a call or send us an email.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 26	Early dismissal of students 1:04pm
November 26-27	Holiday - Thanksgiving - School Closed
December 23	Early dismissal of students 1:04pm
December 24-31	Holiday - Winter Break - School Closed
January 1-2	Holiday - New Year's Day - School Closed
January 13	Early dismissal of students 1:04pm
January 19	Holiday - Martin Luther King Birthday - School Closed
January 20	Staff work day—no students (Inauguration Day)
January 23	End of Second Quarter
January 26	Staff work day—no students
February 11	Early dismissal of students 1:04pm
February 16	Holiday - President's Day - School Closed
February 25	Staff work day—no students
March 5	Early dismissal of students 1:04pm
March 19	Staff work day—no students
April 3	End of Third Quarter
April 6-10	Holiday - Spring Break - School Closed
April 27	Staff work day—no students
May 19	Early dismissal of students 1:04pm
May 25	Holiday - Memorial Day - School Closed
June 4	Staff work day—no students
June 19	Last Day of School - Early dismissal of students 1:04 pm

The Phillips School~Annandale
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