A message from BULL RUN ES

**Bull Run Principal's Press #3
September 18, 2015**

Dear Bull Run Families,

Sitting in the lobby of the dental office the other day, I observed a young child, maybe 3 years old, contemplating the items that were neatly arranged on the coffee table in the center of the room - magazines, a few *Highlights* books, a decorative bowl … and a smartphone.  After a few seconds, she reached for the smartphone and deftly swiped it with her finger and began to press the numbers that lit up.  She gave her mom a perplexed look when the numbers didn’t disappear from the screen.

I’m sure we can agree that media and technology are at the center of our children’s lives today. They truly are digital natives; and chances are, you’ve been impressed with some of the skills they possess.  You may also have some worries about this new digital culture. The media content our children consume and create has a significant impact on their social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development.  So, learning how to use media and technology wisely is an essential 21st century life skill that requires our attention in ensuring that every child has the opportunity to be successful.

*Common Sense* is a website you might find useful in helping your children navigate the world of technology. This independent non-profit organization is dedicated to empowering families in the digital age.  *Common Sense Media* helps families make smart media choices, with a large library of independent, age-based reviews for books, games, apps, websites, etc.  This resource offers guidance in understanding and navigating the challenges and possibilities of raising children in the digital age.  This link takes you to their [advice](https://www.commonsensemedia.org/video/advice) webpage with information about topics such as Internet safety, social media, and *Smart Screen* tips.  This link,[Essential School Tools](https://www.commonsensemedia.org/guide/essential-school-tools/s/related-info/How%20to%20Choose%20Educational%20Apps%2C%20Games%2C%20and%20Websites%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank), offers advice on how to choose educational apps, games, and websites.

Please follow us on Twitter [@BullRunES](https://twitter.com/BullRunES)!

Warm regards,

Patti Brown

**NEWS AND INFORMATION**

**Back-to-School Night**

Our Back to School Night will be held on Thursday, September 24, from 6:30-8:00 PM.  This event is for parents only.  For your convenience, teachers will present two sessions to accommodate families with more than one Bull Run student.  To alleviate parking overflow, shuttle bus service will be available at Centreville Baptist Church, 15100 Lee Highway.  Please park in the lower parking lot of the church, and a Fairfax County School Bus will shuttle you to and from the school.  Please do not park behind the school building.

6:00-6:30 : PTA Meeting (cafeteria – enter through Door #6)

6:30 :   Doors open for Back to School Night – parents/guardians go to classrooms for Session 1

6:35 :   Principal’s Welcome; Session 1 begins

7:20 :   Transition

7:25 :   Session 2 begins (in classrooms) – for parents/guardians who have another classroom to visit

Art, Music, PE, Library, AART teachers available in cafeteria

            Computer Lab open for *SIS Parent Accounts* registration

8:00 :   BTSN concludes

**PTA General Meeting – Sept. 24th**

PTA will hold their first general meeting of the 2015-2016 school year on September 24, from 6:00-6:30 PM (please note the time change from earlier communication), immediately preceding Back to School Night.  This meeting is open to all and is an opportunity for you to meet our new PTA Board and to hear a short overview of upcoming events.  Shuttle bus service will begin at 5:45 PM from Centreville Baptist Church for those who wish to attend.  *Enter the school in Door #6 (cafeteria door at front of building).*

**Food Services**

Eating a healthy breakfast is the best way to kick-start your day!  FCPS Food Services will promote this lifelong healthy habit next week to all students who purchase school breakfasts on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.  Each of these days, one lucky winner will find a special sticker inside their breakfast bag.  This sticker can be presented to the food services manager for a special prize.

**Adult English Lessons**

Classes will again be held this year at Bull Run ES for Adult learners of English as a second language.  The fall session will begin on Wednesday, September 30, and will be held each Wednesday evening through December 9.  The classes will meet in the Bull Run Theatre from 6:30-8:00 PM.  Please contact our parent liaisons for registration information:  Maria Lara (Spanish) and Sook Smith (Korean): 703-227-1447.

**Family Life Education (FLE)**

On June 25, 2015, the FCPS School Board voted to approve updates to the Family Life Education (FLE) program related to new state health standards and recommendations from the Family Life Education Curriculum Advisory Committee. These updates will not be implemented until the 2016-2017 school year. For school year 2015-2016, the Family Life Education program will remain unchanged from school year 2014-2015. Parents/guardians will continue to be able to opt their child out of any or all Family Life Education instruction. The family life education lessons for school year 2015-2016 will be available to view on FCPS 24-7 Learning (Blackboard) through Parent View beginning in September 2015. For more information, and to access program descriptions and opt-out forms, please visit the website at <http://www.fcps.edu/is/hpe/fle.shtml>.

**Advanced Academics Information**

Screening for Level 4 services occurs in the fall for students who are new to FCPS and in the spring for all other students. The referral deadline is October 9, 2015 for students who are new to FCPS and January 15, 2016 for spring screening.  Additional information is available in the Parent Information Packet, which can be found on the AAP website at [http://www.fcps.edu/is/aap.](http://www.fcps.edu/is/aap)

**Budget Proposal Tool and Budget Communication Resources**

The Budget Proposal Tool has just gone live via [www.FCPS.edu/savefcps](http://www.fcps.edu/savefcps).  The tool is an online way for stakeholders to provide their recommendations for how to address the projected deficit that FCPS is facing in FY 2017.  FCPS is gathering proposals for two different deficit amounts:  $50 million and $75 million.  The shortfall contains uncertainty because there are costs and funding that are not determined until later in the budget process.  Additional information about the two primary budgets, how FCPS receives its funding, and why cuts are needed can be found on the following links: [Video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yiPyj62qKUY)     [Fact Sheet](http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2017/Budget-Overview.pdf) .

**Centreville Baptist Church Clothing Give-Away**

Centreville Baptist Church will be holding a Community Clothing Give-Away on Saturday, October 3, from 8:30 AM until supplies run out.  The church is located at 15100 Lee Highway.  If you’d like to donate gently used clothing items, collections bins are located on the west side of the church.  Please direct questions to the Church at 703-830-3333.

**Community Flyer Distribution**

Non-profit organizations who wish to distribute program information may do so via our September 29 Tuesday Folders.  Materials to be distributed must be pre-approved by Bull Run Administration no later than September 22.   Organizations will be responsible for collating and counting packets for individual classrooms.  Please call the main office for details.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**September 24**

PTA General Meeting, Cafeteria, 6:00-6:30 PM

Back to School Night, 6:30-8:00 PM (shuttle bus from Centreville Baptist Church begins at 5:45)

**September 30**

Adult English classes begin, BRES Theatre, 6:30-8:00 PM

**October 9**

School Planning Day (NO SCHOOL)

**October 12**

Columbus Day Holiday (NO SCHOOL)

If you have a question about these or any other events at Bull Run Elementary School, please check our [BRES website](http://www.fcps.edu/BullRunES/) or call the main office at 703-227-1400.

The Keep in Touch subscription service (KIT Plus) is a self-subscribing, self-updating, and self-unsubscribing service. To update your contact information and/or topic selections, or to unsubscribe, go to: <http://www.fcps.edu/kit/index.shtml#update> for instructions. Schools and offices cannot update or delete subscribers.

Parents of FCPS students may update contact information online through weCare@School <http://www.fcps.edu/news/wecare.shtml>, a feature of FCPS 24/7 Learning (Blackboard) or by contacting the student information officer at their child(ren)'s school to have the contact information updated in the student information system.

FCPS employees may update (KIT Basic) contact information through UConnect <http://www.fcps.edu/hr/technology/uconnect.shtml>.

If you are not a parent or guardian of a child who attends an FCPS school please reply to this message with the words “ERROR –NOT MY CHILD” in the subject line.