A message from BULL RUN ES

**Bull Run Principal's Press #10
November 5, 2015**

Dear Bull Run Parents/Guardians,

Thank you to everyone who contributed their time and energy to making our Fall Ball a success.  So many families came out last Friday evening to enjoy this annual PTA event, which was only possible because of the efforts of our amazing BRES volunteers!

We’ve had a very busy week here at Bull Run, with parent-teacher conferences, Election Day, and another School Planning Day.  During our School Planning Day, in addition to mapping out the curriculum and unpacking learning standards, our School Improvement Plan (SIP) committees met to review our vision and mission and our academic goals for the year. Our school improvement goals are directly aligned with the FCPS Strategic Goals and Portrait of a Graduate, and our teachers collaborate daily to ensure implementation of the actions and strategies we’ve committed to as a staff.

We know that our children must be able to collaborate, communicate, and think critically and creatively.  And, we know that there’s more to it.  We must also encourage our students to be curious, persistent, inquisitive, reflective, empathetic, and courageous.  We do this every day by engaging them in authentic, purposeful learning opportunities.  Reading and writing are at the center of all of this, of course; and as a staff, we are examining our balanced literacy practices to ensure that all students are reading and writing in meaningful ways each day in every content area.  We approach each day with promise and purpose, and we’re so proud of the growth we’re seeing in our students.  This is the learning community that we value and the one we will continue to create at Bull Run ES.

You can review our School Improvement Plan for the 2015-16 school year by clicking the following link:

[Bull Run School Improvement Plan](http://www.fcps.edu/BullRunES/docs/15-16/BRES%202015-16%20SIP%20at%20a%20Glance.pdf).

What can you do at home to enhance what we’re doing here at school?  Here are eight exciting ideas to keep your child engaged in meaningful, enriching activities.

* Engage your child(ren) in conversations about their day and their learning.  Ask questions and encourage them to ask questions and to be curious about the world around them.
* Visit a local museum. Help your child make connections to the past, present, and future.
* Create a special place in the home to *“fall into a good book  . . . and read.”*
* Cook a meal together and create math word problems in the process.
* Find objects around the house to build something new or create an art project.
* Volunteer to help a family member, friend, or neighbor.  Volunteering is great for building responsibility and character.
* Limit TV/gaming time and visit the library instead. With all the technology at our fingertips, we sometimes forget about simple pleasures like going to the library and checking out books.
* Write letters to each other or to someone far away.

As our teachers help their students set rigorous goals for the second quarter, please know that we are dedicated to helping your children continue to grow and blossom into of the 21st century citizens.  Thank you for partnering with us in this very rewarding endeavor!

Kind regards,

Patti Brown

**NEWS AND INFORMATION**

**Mind in the Making – The Seven Essential Life Skills Every Child Needs**

In this course, parents will learn about the essential “executive functioning” skills that all children need to be successful in school and in life, based on the work of researcher and author Ellen Galinsky.  This FREE course will take place here at Bull Run, once a month, and will be taught by our own certified Mind in the Making Community Institute facilitators - Bull Run teachers Ms. Gregory, Ms. Taylor, Ms. Van Dyke, and Assistant Principal Bruno. In each session, parents will discover one of the seven essential life skills; learn strategies for improving the skill, the importance of it in children’s lives, and easy-to-implement activities to promote the skill at home.  Interested parents are encouraged to attend all of the modules if possible.  All sessions will take place on Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:30 PM in the Bull Run Library.  And, as promised, our first session is coming up next week on November 12th.  Hope to see you there!

***Session 1 – Introduction and Module #1: Focus and Self Control***

***Thursday, November 12***

***6:30-8:00 PM (extended time for first session only)***

Register online by clicking this link:  <http://goo.gl/forms/kjIwoCpkca>

**Veterans Day – November 11, 2015**

We salute all veterans who have served and continue to serve our country in war time and in peace, both home and abroad.  On behalf of the Bull Run Elementary family, happy Veterans Day!

As mentioned in Principal Press #7, we will be hosting our annual Veterans Day assembly for our student body on Wednesday, November 11.  This very special event honors our school community’s American military veterans.  We have received a wonderful response from many veterans with ties to our Bull Run family.  We would like to extend one last invitation to any American veteran with ties to our community to take part in this tribute.  Distinguished guests will have an opportunity to share their name and branch of service, and will enjoy a memorable program put on by all of our Bull Run students.  If you or someone you know is an American veteran and would like to join us for this ceremony, please RSVP to our main office at 703-227-1400 or MMObarowski@fcps.edu by Friday, November 6, 2015.

**Yearbook Cover Contest**

The deadline for submitting artwork for the 2015-2016 Bull Run ES yearbook cover is **Friday, November 13, 2015**.  For full contest rules, please click [here](http://www.fcps.edu/BullRunES/docs/Yearbook_Cover_Contest_Flyer.pdf).  Questions should be directed to Dani LeKuch at dmlekuch@me.com.

**Technology Tools to Support Executive Functioning**

Many students struggle with planning, organizing and managing tasks, which impacts their academic achievement. This workshop will focus on strategies and technology tools that can help support students with executive function deficits.

**November 12, 2015
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services
2334 Gallows Road
Entrance 1 - Room 100
Dunn Loring, VA 22027

[**Register online now!**](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1-gZJ7YKYzc4RSta24yn-gwr1JMn_ojPgR8IkPe4YP_U/viewform)  [**Download the flyer**](http://www.fcps.edu/dss/osp/prc/resources/events/documents/TechThursdayEFFlyer.pdf)

 **Bull Run Book Fair Coming Soon**

Save the Date:  The Bull Run Book Fair is on the way!  It will be held in the school library from November 16th - 20th.  Hours are Monday,Wednesday, and Thursday 9:30 - 3:30.  On Tuesday, the 17th we will be open at 9:30 and have extended hours for family shopping until 6:30pm.  On Friday we will open at 9:30 and close at 11:30am.  I hope you will have an opportunity to stop in and shop!  It is always an enjoyable event for our students.  Look for the flyer to come home in next week's Tuesday folder. Volunteer opportunities are available!  Contact Susan Wrona, Bull Run School Librarian.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**November 6**

Federal Impact Aid Student-Parent Surveys due

**November 12**

Mind in the Making-The Seven Essential Life Skills Every Child Needs, BRES, 6:30-8:00 PM

Session:  Introduction and Module #1 – ***Focus and Self Control***

Register online:  <http://goo.gl/forms/kjIwoCpkca>

**November 13-20**

Fall Book Fair, BRES library

**November 21**

Centreville Baptist Church Clothing Give-Away, 8:30 AM (703-830-3333)

**November 24**

BRES Thanksgiving Luncheon, cafeteria

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.

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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.