**Bull Run Principal's Press #14
December 4, 2015**

Dear Bull Run Families,

When you think back to when you were in elementary school, what do you remember most? Was it your teacher? Perhaps it was playing and learning with your best friend.  Maybe you treasure a time when someone reached out to you on your first day at a new school and asked you to sit with them at lunch.  You could ask any of our students here at Bull Run these questions, and I’m sure they would have similar answers – playing with my friends at recess, doing the science project with my friend, sitting next to my buddy during circle.Without a doubt, your answer and the answers of our children are centered on a common theme – feeling welcome, feeling accepted, and feeling successful!

Next week is National Inclusive Schools Week.  Inclusive Schools Week (ISW) highlights and celebrates our nation’s schools in providing a supportive and quality education to a diverse student population, including students with disabilities and those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.  An inclusive school makes everyone feel like they belong.  It doesn’t matter where you come from, what language you speak, what your talents are, or what you might need help doing. Each person is important, and it’s our differences that make us the very special individuals who make up our school community, our larger community, and our world.

This annual ISW event gives us a chance to celebrate the opportunities we provide for students to learn alongside their peers and to develop friendships with everyone, regardless of their differences. It allows us focused time to recognize the progress we have made in ensuring a supportive and high quality education to our diverse student population regardless of differences in ability, gender, ethnicity, language, and/or health status. Inclusive Schools Week is about celebrating the importance of including all students in all learning environments and activities in our mission to meet the needs of all learners. Bull Run does this by promoting, encouraging, and fostering student success through positive peer relationships, inclusive classroom environments, and an overall safe, inviting environment centered on students and learning.

Inclusive Schools like Bull Run Elementary:

-make sure each and every student feels welcome and is learning.

-embrace the understanding that every student is unique, and therefore, learns differently.

-understand that all children – students with disabilities, English language learners, those with special talents – learn better if teaching is tailored to their abilities and interests.

-collaborate with families.

-hold high expectations for ALL students’ success.

-keep improving.

What will we be doing next week to celebrate Inclusive Schools Week here at Bull Run?

Monday: I am Beautiful!

This week, create a “Miraculous Me” mind map and share it with your classmates.  Create “special snowflakes” to share with friends – what makes someone in your class unique?  Display the mind maps & snowflakes on the walls of the hallways.

Today is the first day of Inclusive Schools Week. Bull Run knows that everyone is beautiful in their own, miraculous way.  We try to learn about each other so that we can build a strong school community where everyone belongs and feels good about coming to school each day.

Tuesday: We Are All Unique!

Wear crazy socks to express yourself!
Today is the second day of Inclusive Schools Week. Bull Run knows that every child is unique, special, and one-of-a-kind. We know that every child in our school learns differently. We try to make sure that you know how special you are. Today, think about when you feel special and treat someone else in that special way.

Wednesday: Mix It Up at Lunch

Wear your bright smile! (Wear yellow.)
Today is the third day of Inclusive Schools Week. Bull Run believes that every child can make new friends. Sit with a new friend at lunch, learn something about them, and remember to smile at them the next time you see them in the hall or at recess. Today, sit with a new friend at lunch.

Thursday:  Be a Friend!

Find a new friend and wear a matching outfit!
Today is the fourth day of Inclusive Schools Week. Bull Run knows that everyone needs a friend.  At our school, we try to make sure that everyone feels accepted and respected. Today, do your best to be accepting of others and set a goal to make a new friend.

Friday:  Unity Day

Wear your school spirit shirt or our school colors!
Today is the last day of Inclusive Schools Week. Bull Run makes sure that every child in our school feels welcome and is learning. Every child needs to be loved, accepted, and respected. Every child wants to belong. Today and every day, do your best to make other children in our school feel safe and welcome.

Celebrating is important because it creates an awareness of the benefits and challenges inclusive schools face.  It brings our school community together for a common purpose in realizing the potential and promise of inclusive education.  The week is a wonderful opportunity for families and the school to discuss the importance of diversity and respect for differences.

Warm regards,

Patti Brown

**NEWS AND INFORMATION**

**Mind in the Making –Parent Workshop**

The second session of our Mind in the Making course for parents will focus on the executive functioning skill of Perspective-Taking.  Perspective-taking involves the ability to understand how another person might think or feel, which requires cognitive flexibility and reflection.  When children develop this skill, they are able to develop more positive and productive relationships, and research shows that this skill also increases reading comprehension.  All are welcome to attend this informative and interactive learning opportunity – we hope to see you there!

Module 2 – Perspective Taking

Thursday, Dec. 10;*6:30-7:30 PM*(BRES Library)

**Music News**

Chorus and Strings Winter Concert

Tuesday, December 8

9:45 AM, BRES Gym

Centreville Pyramid Chorus Concert

Monday, January 11

7:00 PM, CVHS Gym

**Family Life Education (FLE) Lessons**

FLE lessons will be taught to 6th graders on December 11, 14, 15, 16, and 17.  FLE lessons for 4th and 5th graders will be presented during the week prior to Spring Break (March 14-18).

**Weather-Related School Closing Decisions**

Ever wonder how FCPS administrators decide to close or delay school due to inclement weather? Watch this video for an explanation and answers to some common questions. ([**watch video**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JHvcdK7YET0&index=6&list=PLSz76NCRDYQEz16wBTMq1yg84SXEeP88t)).

**New Visitor Log-in System**

We are expecting installation of a new Visitor Management System (VMS) in about a week.  As we prepare for this change, please be aware that all visitors will be required to register in this system.  Bull Run staff will be available to assist you with this.  Once registered, you will be able to log-in to the VMS with a valid ID.  It is important to remember to carry your ID with you whenever you visit the school, as we will not be able to allow you access without such.  We will keep you updated on the progress of this installation.

**Lost and Found**

The arrival of cold weather brings additional jackets, gloves, scarves, and hats.  Please check the lost and found area (in the cafeteria) to reclaim any lost items.  All items remaining at the end of the school day on December 18th will be donated to a local charity.

**Bull Run PTA Theatre Club Presents …**

Registration has begun for Bull Run Theatre Club’s spring play, Twinderella-The Musical.  Rehearsals will be held on Fridays, beginning Jan. 15from 4:00-6:15 PM.  Performances will be on May 12-13, 2016. Registrations will be accepted on a FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED basis, and is limited to the first 35 students.  The cost to participate is $155 (checks payable to Bull Run PTA).  Registration forms must be returned to the front office by **December 17, 2015**. Detailed information will be coming soon in Tuesday folders.  For additional information, please email Kristen Wilkinson at **kriket@me.com**.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**December 7 - 11**

Inclusive Schools Week

**December 8**

Chorus & Strings Concert, 9:30 AM (gym)

**December 10**

Mind in the Making – Parent Workshop

Session #2: Perspective Taking,6:30-7:30 PM (library)

**December 14**

Chipotle Night (PTA-sponsored event)

**December 17**

Winter Band Mini-Concert, lobby

PTA General Meeting, 6:30-7:30 PM (library)

**December 18**

Holiday Sing-along, 9:45 AM (gym)

2-Hour Early Release (Dismissal at 2:00 PM)

**December 21 – January 1**

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

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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.