**Bull Run Principal's Press #15**

**December 11, 2015**

Dear Bull Run Families,

I read an article recently called “What is Luxury?” In it, some of the rich and famous were asked to tell what luxury meant to them.  Some of their answers included yachts in the Caribbean, Egyptian cotton, and a villa in Tuscany.  Others said a home with no electronics, a typewriter, and happiness.

What would I say if someone asked me what luxury is (and I’m certainly not rich or famous)?  I would say it’s all the things money can’t buy -- although I’d never turn down a new string of pearls. I think luxury has nothing to do with what can be bought on Amazon or Niemen Marcus – “That’s just stuff,” as my Nana would say.  True luxury isn’t expensive; it’s priceless.

Walking in a field of daisies and finding the perfect spot to spread out my checkered blanket and picnic basket …that would be luxury.  Boxwoods lining the front of my house, filling the air with the safe and comfy aroma that I remember from my Nana’s front yard…pure luxury.  Time is a luxury, right?  Time to actually read that magazine cover to cover on a lazy Saturday morning…time to have long lunches with a friend or take a brisk walk with my dad when I have nowhere else to be – that trumps a rushed breakfast at Tiffany’s any day.  How luxurious is listening to the quiet rain tap on the windowpane while curled up with a good book, or a clothesline with crisp white sheets gently blowing in the breeze (mmm…that fresh linen)?   Wouldn’t you agree that luxury is a good old-fashioned snowstorm that has you stranded inside the house with a roaring fire in the fireplace, a hot cup of cocoa, and a jigsaw puzzle calling your name?  It doesn’t get much better than that.

This season, join me in finding the “luxuries” in your life.  Are they on a wish list…or are they right outside your back door? Carve out some time to talk with your children (now that’s luxury) about what luxury means to them, and make a list of all the exquisite luxuries your family has right within your grasp.  Then, make a commitment to reserve some luxurious time to enjoy those priceless indulgences with each other during the next few weeks.

Warm regards,

Patti Brown

**NEWS AND INFORMATION**

**New Visitor Log-in System**

Our new Visitor Management System has been installed, offering additional fundamental measures for ensuring a safe and secure learning and work environment.  Intruders are discouraged by sound security measures, and the identification cards will provide a means to quickly identify those who do and do not belong in our school. Sign-in procedures also allow administrators and program managers to account for all persons in the building in the event of a crisis.

On all future visits you will be required to show a valid, state-issued identification.  The office staff will assist you with log-in and log-out procedures.  We think you will find this system very easy to use and we appreciate your support and cooperation in helping us maintain a safe learning environment for your children.

**Fully Fund Fairfax County Public Schools**

Take action now to tell your elected officials you want Fairfax County Public School to be fully funded! The budget shortfall for the 2016-2017 (FY17) school year is projected to be $50-75 million, negatively impacting our children’s education and our community as a whole.  The following link provides a tool for you to let your voice be heard by our school board members and state legislators.  [Advocacy link](http://cqrcengage.com/IamFCPS/).

**Lost and Found**

The lost and found clothing racks have been reorganized and will remain in the lobby until December 18.  Please stop by the school to reclaim any missing items.  All items remaining at the end of the school day on December 18th will be donated to a local charity.

**NEWS FROM THE PTA**

**Chipotle Fundraiser**

Mark your calendars and join us at the Bull Run PTA Chipotle fundraiser on Monday, Dec. 14 from 5:00-9:00 PM at the Chipotle on Multiplex Drive in Centreville.  Proceeds will support activities being hosted this year by the PTA.  See the attached flyer.

**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**](mailto:kriket@me.com).

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**December 14**

Chipotle Night (PTA-sponsored event), 5:00-9:00 PM

**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 - 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](tel:703-227-1400).  Please follow us on Twitter [@BullRunES](https://twitter.com/BullRunES)!

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