

Burrows Brief



Burrows Elementary School
www.am.dodea.edu/ny_va/quantico/burrows/
Susan Ransom, Principal
703-630-7050



DECEMBER 2012

Monday..... No Clubs
Tuesday..... Drama Club, Homework Club, and Safety Patrol
Wednesday..... Mile Club, Spirit Club
Thursday..... Fitness through Yoga Club, Strategies Club, Art Club
Friday..... No Clubs

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec 14 4th grade Field trip DC and
Movie night at Burrows "Arthur Christmas" 4:30
Dec 18 A Choral Celebration 6:30 at Burrows
Dec 17 Quantico Marine Corps Band (Lunch presentation 11:15)
Dec 24 – Jan 4 Winter Break



Jan 7 School Reopens after Winter Break
Jan 17 End of 2nd Quarter Grading Period
Jan 18 Teacher Workday – No School for Students
Jan 21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday – No School



W.W. Burrows Elementary Continuous School Improvement Goals

GOAL 1: All students will improve **problem solving skills** across the curriculum.
GOAL 2: All students will improve **reading comprehension skills** across the curriculum

Mission Statement

Educate, Engage, and Empower each student to succeed in a dynamic world.

Vision Statement

Belief + **E**ffort = **S**uccess



PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear 4th/5th Grade BES Parents and Sponsors,

Please encourage your student/s to access IXL over the holidays to keep their math skills current!

I know you have heard of the online IXL Math program the Burrows PEA has acquired for the school and students. The primary focus of this program is to enrich, extend, and remediate grade-level math with a fun, hands-on, technology-based experience. This program is about students learning more about and practicing math in an engaging way. With IXL, students can:

- find unlimited practice problems specifically tailored to the standards and build mastery of specific standards and skills.
- record the amount of time they spend practicing so that teachers and parents can examine student progress and time spent on each skill.
- encounter enrichment activities that are engaging.

The IXL website is adaptive and will adjust to your child's demonstrated ability level. The site also records all of your child's results, so you can monitor your child's progress anytime by clicking on the *Reports* tab.

You can access this program through:

http://www.am.dodea.edu/ny_va/quantico/burrows/

Thank you,
Mrs. Ransom
Principal BES

Guidance corner...

November is the month of The Military Family. Our character trait for November is CARING: showing compassion, feeling and exhibiting concern and empathy for others, and looking after one another's general welfare.

Throughout November students have been focused on how thankful they are to be a part of a military family and how their life experiences differ from non-military children. This theme will continue into December. Students are also making "Family Appreciation" posters and will be asking their parents/guardians to write on their posters, listing a couple of reasons why you appreciate your military family. Please support your child in these efforts. Additionally, the PEA is sponsoring the annual canned food drive, and our BES Spirit Club students will assist in collecting the food items that students bring to their classrooms.



Burrows Elementary Presents:

***In the Spirit:
A choral celebration***

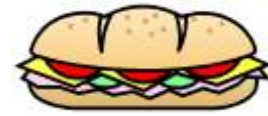
**Presented by the
4th and 5th grade classes**

**Tuesday, December 18th
6:30 pm, BES cafeteria**



The students are working hard learning their songs for our upcoming winter concert. Holiday music is playing throughout the school. The Drama Club is working on stage decorations. Everything is in full swing! We hope to see you at our winter concert, In the Spirit, Tuesday, December 18, at 6:30 pm.

*Mrs. R
Music Specialist*



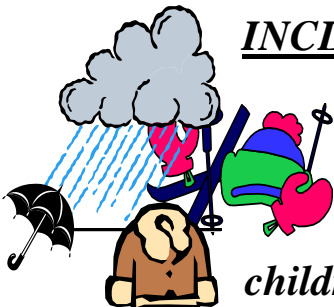
THANK YOU PEA!!

The staff of Burrows would like to extend our sincere appreciation to our amazing PEA Board and membership for all the fantastic things you do for us. The Lunch you provided the staff during American Education Week was absolutely wonderful! We can't thank our PEA enough for the many fantastic things you do for the benefit of our students. You folks are the BEST!



Our Thanksgiving luncheon was a huge success.

Thank you for your attendance and support!



INCLEMENT WEATHER: *Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather conditions. We strive to teach children healthy habits in school--one that includes wearing long sleeves, jackets, sweaters and/or coats on cold weather days. We appreciate your support for the benefit of your children.*



4TH GRADE NEWS

Science

Far out, dude! The classes have begun to study how the movement of our planet and the moon affects us each and every day.

We will continue our study of the final frontier by exploring the planets in our solar system. Before we break for Christmas, we plan on completing our studies of the stars 'way out there'. Have a wonderful Winter Break!

Language Arts

*What are some patterns in nature? This is the topic question we will address with the stories in the 3rd Reading Street Unit. We'll read *The Stranger*, *Adelina's Whales*, *How Night came from the Sea*, *Eye of the Storm*, and *The Great Kapok Tree*. Hopefully the students will learn about natural patterns in other parts of the world as we move through the unit.*

The students continue to work on all grammar skills however, there will be a focus on verbs, verb tenses, and irregular/linking verbs during unit 3.

Social Studies

December is a short month for us due to the holiday break. Nonetheless, we will continue our study in Unit 2 The Northeast Region. In addition to learning the concepts explored in each region, the students also need to have a solid foundation in map skills and time lines. One way to reinforce this at home would be to give your child a map of any trips you may be taking over the break. Discuss the map key and legend. You could integrate math into this as well by tracking the number of miles to your destination. Children are often caught off guard when discussing what a round trip is verses a one way trip. Additionally, being able to understand and discuss the amount of time that has passed when looking at a timeline is another opportunity for growth for our 4th graders. We hope you have a fabulous break and we will see you in January.

Math

Fourth grade mathematicians have been working on Topic 5, which is multiplication. Students are multiplying 2 and 3 digit numbers by 1 digit, drawing arrays, and finding partial products. We are noticing that the issue of not having multiplication facts memorized is interfering with some students' success in this topic. Please take one fact nightly and quiz your student. For example, tonight study the 8's. Write a list of the 8's and read it over many times. Then quiz your child to see if they have them memorized. We will move on to Topic 6, Patterns and Expressions sometime next week. Here students will understand variables and write algebraic expressions.

Grade Level Notes

This is the season of giving and we'd like to ask that you find it in your heart to donate canned/nonperishable food for those in financial need this year. Local food banks are having a very tough time meeting the need of the community this year. Our school is collecting food to be donated to the local food bank for the Holiday season. We appreciate your support. Have a wonderful holiday!

5TH GRADE NEWS

Science

Students are able to explain the effects that natural causes have had on landforms. As the quarter progresses, students will compare continental and oceanic landforms. 5th graders will also learn how waves, currents, tides, and storms affect the ocean shore zone.

In addition, students are learning how to protect Earth's natural resources which have been negatively affected by human activity.

Inquiry is fun and ongoing!

Language Arts

We have begun Unit 3 in our Reading Streets series. The theme in this unit shows what people gain from the work of inventors and artists.

In class, students read a variety of genres to further understanding of vocabulary and comprehension. Each class has students meeting and working in small groups during "centers." This facilitates the learning of core skills and reading strategies. Student groups are regrouped as needed.

Social Studies

We are starting Chapter 3 and we will work on Lessons 1 and 3. The students will be able to understand the desire for trade which led the people of Asia and Europe to travel and build stronger ties to people of other continents. Also they will be able to explain how Zheng He of China sent ships out to trade with India, Southeast Asia, the Persian Gulf, and the eastern coast of Africa. The students will create parallel time lines which can be used to study events that happen in different places at the same time

Math

What's new in math? Division! The children have been learning long division and how it applies to life situations. In general this is a difficult concept to learn as they have to divide, multiply, subtract and bring down. Any extra practice you give them is always appreciated and helpful. The best help you can give is to review the basic multiplication facts with your child. Also we have been analyzing test scores and looking for areas of weakness as a grade. We will be giving extra instruction in these areas to make their weakest point their strongest point.

Grade Level Notes

Ms. L's Language Arts class has a mystery book report and related project due Dec. 17.

Mr. S's class is finishing up the novel Holes. We have been analyzing character traits and the author's style of writing.

Ms. W's – Realistic Fiction Book Report and project is due on December 14th, 2012.



Family Movie Night

Come to Burrows and enjoy a free showing of the movie Arthur's Christmas, brought to you by Burrows PEA!!

Friday December 14th from 4:30-??



SCHOOL BOARD VACANCY

The Quantico School Board has announced that an election will be held on December 19, 2012 to fill one vacancy on the Board. School Board members are actively involved military community members who demonstrate interest in one of the most vital aspects of our American way of life - the education of our young people.

Any adult living on Quantico Marine Base can enter the election. To be a candidate, each person seeking office must pick up the official "School Board Candidate Petition" from the office of the Superintendent of Schools at Burrows Elementary School, 3308 John Quick Road, Quantico or in any school office. The completed petition, with the signature of one eligible voter, must be returned to the Superintendent's office by December 11, 2012 for names to be placed on the official ballot.

School Board members are elected by parents of children attending school at Quantico and serve for a three-year term of office, but a three-year commitment is NOT required.

Get involved and support your community and school. Run for election as a school board member. Pick up a "Candidate Petition" package at the Superintendent's office or your child's school, complete the petition, and return it before the suspense date.

Please call the Superintendent's office at 630-7012 if there are any questions.

Quantico Family Fitness Challenge₂₀₁₃

Take the challenge
to help yourself and the family get healthy
Through increased physical activity and improved eating
habits.

Sign-up for one, 8-week session

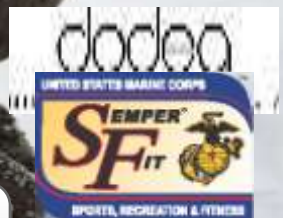
Session 1: 14 Jan - 8 Mar

Session 2: 11 Feb - 5 Apr

To register, pick-up a family challenge packet at one of the following registration locations: Quantico DoD Schools, Youth Center, Barber Physical Activity Center.
Fun incentives for all participants



For details-703-784-2869/3780
www.quantico.usmc-mccs.org



Home & School

Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION®

Burrows Elementary School

SHORT NOTES

Learn spelling words

When your child gets her weekly spelling list, suggest that she design "logos" for each word. Maybe she'll make polka-dotted bubble letters or write in fancy cursive. During quizzes, she can picture her creations to remember how the words are spelled. *Tip:* To give her ideas, point out product names on packages.

Tell the truth

Show your youngster that being truthful matters—even in situations where no one would know the difference. For example, if you leave a store without noticing an item at the bottom of your cart, let your child see you return to pay for it. Explain that being honest is the right thing to do and it makes you feel good.

Snow plans

Does your family have a plan for early school dismissals? When the forecast calls for snow or another weather emergency, check the radio, TV, or Internet throughout the day. That way, you'll know to pick up your child or meet her bus. Choose a backup person (neighbor, relative) who will help if you can't leave work.

Worth quoting

"The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you." B. B. King

JUST FOR FUN

Q: How do you fit four elephants in a car?

A: Two in the front, two in the back.



Family fun on a budget

How much does it cost to entertain your family? With a little planning, you can have fun together—and build in some learning—for almost nothing. Here are three ideas.

Go on outings

Help your youngster look in the newspaper or on your town's Web site. Together, read about free or low-cost family activities (parades, high school plays, kids-eat-free nights at restaurants). Encourage your child to print or cut out her favorites and post them on the refrigerator. She can highlight ones you plan to attend.

Join with friends

Start a ritual with another family that has children around the same age as yours. You might have make-your-own-pizza parties on Friday evenings. Ask your youngster to look in a cookbook for a recipe and help read the directions and gather the ingredients. Also, consider

swapping books, games, and DVDs so you can enjoy new entertainment for free.

Try new hobbies

Find an activity everyone likes, and look for budget-friendly ways to do it. Try scrapbooking, for example. Use construction paper and leftover wrapping paper for borders and backgrounds, and let each family member fill a few pages with photos. Have your child add captions. Or call your parks and recreation department to learn about nearby hiking trails. Wear sneakers, pack lunches, and enjoy free workouts together.♥



Think hard

Sharpen your youngster's thinking skills by encouraging him to think about everyday objects in different ways. Try questions like these:

- "Which household items would work just as well upside down?" *Ideas:* mirror, drinking straw. Your child will need to consider different objects, think about how they are used, and imagine them turned upside down.
- "How else could we use this?" Pick out some things around the house and challenge your youngster to find new ways to use them. He can think about their size, shape, and weight, and what they're made of. For instance, a stapler might serve as a paperweight, or a pillowcase could be used to store small toys.♥



Story starters

Plant an idea in your child's mind, and a story can bloom. Share these tips when he has a writing assignment for school.

Follow the alphabet. Suggest that your youngster write each sentence of his tale so that it begins with a different letter of the alphabet. He can write the letters down the left side of a page and then fill in the lines. *Examples:* An ant went to a picnic. "Boy, am I hungry!" it said. Or he could think of words starting with each letter and write a story that uses all 26—in any order.



Conduct an interview. An interesting conversation can provide story ideas. Your child might ask a grandparent about his most prized possession or find out how his music teacher chose her job. Then, he can create characters and make up a story based on his interview.

Start in the middle.

Have your youngster think of an event in his life (camping trip) and tell you about it.

Encourage him to pick an unusual or exciting part (a downpour in the middle of the night) and begin his story there. He'll see that starting in the middle can be more interesting than simply telling the story from beginning to end. ♥

ACTIVITY CORNER

Feed the birds

Have your youngster make an unusual birdfeeder this winter. She'll help her feathered friends—and get a chance to observe them coming and going.

Materials: birdseed or corn kernels, sunflower seeds, nuts

Go outside to help your child collect natural items on the ground (twigs, leaves, evergreen needles.) *Note:* Remind her not to pick anything that is still growing.

Then, have her use a stick to draw a picture, such as a bird, house, or snowman, in the dirt or snow. Let her "color in" her design by filling it with the birdseed or nuts and seeds. Finally, your youngster can decorate the picture with the items she gathered—the colors will attract birds.

Together, check back frequently to see birds feasting on her artwork. Suggest that she sketch the birds she sees and notice which food disappears first. ♥



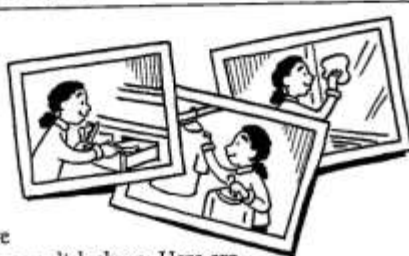
Q & A

My chores

Q: My daughter won't do her chores unless I remind her over and over. How can I get her to do them without nagging her?

A: If you make your child responsible for her own chores, she'll feel more grown up and will be more likely to accomplish them. Here are two suggestions. First, you could have her create her own chore kits. She might put window cleaner and paper towels in a plastic container, or furniture polish and a cloth in a bucket. In the mornings, set out the kit for each chore she needs to do. As she completes a job, she can put its kit away.

Another idea is to snap a photo of your youngster as she does each chore (putting away silverware, hanging up clothes). Keep the pictures in a small bag. Each morning, lay the photos of that day's chores on the kitchen table. When she finishes a chore, she can put the picture back in the bag. ♥



PARENT TO PARENT

Talking about drugs

I've heard it's never too soon to talk to children about drugs. But I didn't know that my first grader's scraped knee would lead to that conversation. Ryan asked for a "pill" because his knee hurt. He had watched me take allergy and headache medicine, and he said, "You take pills to feel better."

I explained that my pills are medicines, and my doctor advised me to take them. And I told him that he isn't allowed to take a pill unless

his doctor, his father, or I give it to him. I said that he didn't need medicine for his knee—just soap, water, and a bandage.

Finally, I asked Ryan what he'd do if a friend offered him some of his medicine. My son said he'd tell his friend he isn't allowed to take someone else's medicine. I'm glad Ryan knows how I feel about drugs, and I'll keep reminding him as he gets older. ♥



OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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From all of us at Burrows,
We wish you a wonderful and safe
Holiday season!

