

**October
2005**

Briar Woods High School

Home of the Falcons

Inside this Issue:

Principal's Letter	1
Attendance	2
Disability Notice	2
Student Parking	2
Early Dismissals	2
Lunch Ticket Info	2
Yearbooks	2
LCPS School Calendar	3
Guidance News	4
Guidance News	5
Governor's School	5
PTSO	6
American Education Week	6
PTSO Fundraiser	7
Textbook Adoption	8
Drama News	8
Book Fair	8
Marching Band	9
Jazz Concert	9
Winter Concert	9
Music Boosters	9
Agnes Meyer Award	9
Sample Ballot	10
Immunizations Info	11

Dear Parents:

It is hard to believe that one fourth of the year has passed and the holidays are quickly approaching.

Our dedication ceremony was a big success. Our invited guests were impressed with the building and grounds and the exemplary behavior of our students.

We will celebrate American Education Week the week of November 13 through November 19. Parents are welcome to visit the school at any time but are encouraged to visit during this special week. Feel free to join us for lunch in the cafeteria or visit the classrooms and observe your child in action.

On behalf of our staff, I would like to wish our parents and students a safe and pleasant Thanksgiving holiday. Enjoy the time that you spend with your family.

Thanks for all you do to make BWHS an exciting, vibrant place for our students, parents, and staff.

Regards,
Ed Starzenski



Attendance

Parents please help!
When your student is absent, you need to call the attendance line at (571) 252-1529 to notify the school. For your convenience, this is a 24 hour answering machine. If you forget to call on the day of the absence, you must send a note with your student on the day they return to school. Without a phone call or note, the absence will be considered unexcused and disciplinary action will be taken.

Disability Notice

If due to a disability, you need assistance to enable you to participate meaningfully in any LCPS sponsored activities, please contact Principal Starzenski at (571) 223-2344 at least five working days prior to the scheduled activity.

Student Parking

Juniors interested in a parking permit may contact Mr. DeCenzo in the main office.

**Early Dismissals**

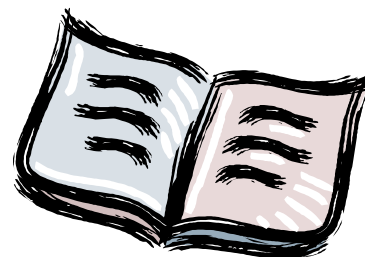
Parents: When requesting an early dismissal, please send your written request with your student that morning. I will write them a pass to excuse them at the appropriate time. This will alleviate the need to disrupt the classroom. Thank you for your cooperation.

Lunch Ticket Information

Free and reduced lunch applications are available at the school and were distributed in homeroom on the first day of school. Please complete the form promptly and return it to your homeroom teacher. The cost for a secondary student lunch will be \$1.95 and breakfast will be \$.90. Students may pay for lunch by the week or the month if desired.

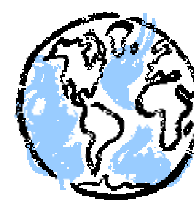
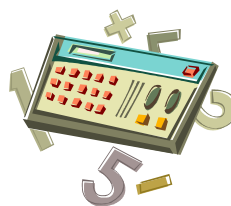
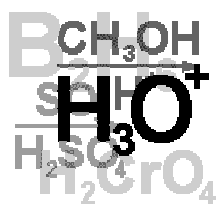
**Yearbooks On Sale**

Yearbooks are still on sale. Yearbooks with a personalized nameplate are \$65.00 and yearbooks without the plate are \$60.00. Forms are available from Jennifer Mosser in room 514 or you can purchase from home by calling 1-866-287-3096 or logging on to www.herffjones.com/theordercenter. Please reference order number 13261 when purchasing by phone or web.



Loudoun County Public Schools
2005-2006 Student Calendar

August 29	FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
September 5	Holiday (Labor Day)
October 10	Holiday (Columbus Day)
November 4	End of Grading Period
November 7-8	Student Holiday (Planning/Records/Conference Day)
November 23-25	Holiday (Thanksgiving)
December 22-30	Winter Break (Classes Resume January 3)
January 2	Holiday (New Year's)
January 16	Holiday (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)
January 20	End of Grading Period
January 23	MOVEABLE STUDENT HOLIDAY *(Planning/Records/Conference Day)
February 20	Holiday (Presidents' Day)
April 6	End of Grading Period
April 7	Student Holiday (Planning/Records/Conference Day)
April 10-14	Spring Break
May 29	Holiday (Memorial Day)
June 14	Last Day of School for Students/End of Grading Period
June 15-16	Planning/Records/Conference Day



Guidance News

2005-2006 Guidance Staff

David Royhab	Guidance Director
Susan James	Counselor for students, A – J
Michelle Hoffmann	Counselor for students, K – Z
Jan Develli	Career Resource Specialist
Stacey Oertly	Guidance Secretary

SAT Dates & Deadlines for 2005-2006

See www.collegeboard.com for more details and to register for the SAT. When you register, you will be asked for your school's CEEB code. The Briar Woods CEEB code is: 470-061.

SAT Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Deadline	Loudoun Location
October 8, 2005	September 7, 2005	September 14, 2005	Stone Bridge HS
November 5, 2005	September 30, 2005	October 12, 2005	Potomac Falls HS
December 3, 2005	October 28, 2005	November 9, 2005	Loudoun County HS
January 28, 2006	December 22, 2005	January 4, 2006	Loudoun Valley HS
April 1, 2006	February 24, 2006	March 8, 2006	Loudoun County HS
May 6, 2006	April 3, 2006	April 12, 2006	Broad Run HS
June 3, 2006	April 28, 2006	May 10, 2006	Park View HS

ACT Dates & Deadlines for 2005-2006

The ACT is a bit different than the SAT in that it tests a student's educational development in four distinct areas: English, Math, Reading and Science. Some students feel that the ACT is better suited for their individual strengths than the SAT. While it is not as popular with students in this part of the country as the SAT, most colleges will accept either test. See www.act.org for more information and to register for the ACT. The Briar Woods registration code is 470-061.

ACT Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Deadline
October 22, 2005	September 16, 2005	September 30, 2005
December 10, 2005	November 4, 2005	November 17, 2005
February 11, 2006	January 6, 2006	January 20, 2006
April 8, 2006*	March 3, 2006	March 17, 2006
June 10, 2006	May 5, 2006	May 19, 2006

* The April 8th ACT administration will be held at Broad Run High School.

Interim Dates

In an effort to increase communication and to keep you informed, all of our students will receive interims from all of their teachers on the dates listed below.

Marking Period 1	Sep 29 & 30
Marking Period 2	Dec 8 & 9
Marking Period 3	Mar 2 & 3
Marking Period 4	May 18 & 19

Homework Requests

The guidance office will gather work for any student who is (or will be) out of school for three or more consecutive days due to an excused absence. Please contact guidance to make a request.

College Admissions Timeline – What Should Juniors be Doing This Month?

- If interested in the armed services, take ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) November 19th at Heritage High School (sign-up in the Career Center).
- Continue to explore post high school options (college, military, employment, etc.) using the Career Center and Family Connection.
- Continue to attend college representative visits to the Career Center.

Monroe Technical Center Shadowing Day

Any sophomore or junior who is interested in visiting the Monroe Technical Center and discovering all the excellent programs they offer, will have the chance to visit on December 8, 2005. Counselors will meet with 10th and 11th grade students this month to distribute shadowing registration/parental permission forms.

2006 Summer Residential Governor's School (SRGS)

The Summer Residential Governor's Schools Academic Programs and Mentorships are month long residential programs for tenth and eleventh grade gifted students in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The goal of each Governor's School is to provide those who attend opportunities for intellectual as well as social and emotional growth. There are four programs, (1) Agriculture, (2) Humanities, (3) Life Sciences and Medicine, and (4) Mathematics, Science, and Technology. The programs are housed on various campuses throughout the Commonwealth and are free to the student. The Mentorships are in Engineering (at NASA) and Marine Science (at Virginia Institute for Marine Science).

Students interested in these programs and mentorships should see their guidance counselor for more information. Deadlines for applications are January 9, 2006.

Report Cards will be sent home November 16, 2005

PTSO

President:	Geri Powell
Vice President of Membership:	Martha Mitchell
Vice President of Volunteers:	Martha Mitchell
Vice President of Fundraising:	Emily Cuillo
Treasurer:	Kim Klees
Secretary:	Barbara Watt

The PTSO would like to thank the Flower Gallery for their continued support of Briar Woods High School. The Flower Gallery provided many of the decorations for our school dedication. They also generously donated balloons for our dance in October. Thank you very much Flower Gallery!

The PTSO, in conjunction with the music boosters, is sponsoring a poinsettia sale. Please see the website or call Emily Cuillo for further details.

The PTSO will be sponsoring a SAT practice test in February, 2006. Look for more information on the Briar Woods website and the next issue of this newsletter.

The PTSO has monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of each month in the cafeteria. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate in these meetings. If you would like to have a say in any of our events, our monthly meetings are where we make all decisions regarding PTSO activities. If you or any of your friends ever have any questions, comments or concerns regarding PTSO activities please do not hesitate to contact Geri Powell. In order to conserve paper, our PTSO will primarily use this newsletter and the school website to communicate with our members. Please check the school website often for updates on PTSO activities.

Thank you again for being so generous with your time and talents,

Geri Powell

American Education Week will be celebrated on November 13 through November 19. This is a special time at Briar Woods High School. Parents are welcome to visit the school anytime during that week.

BRIAR WOODS HIGH SCHOOL
WINTER HOLIDAY POINSETTIA FUNDRAISER

The holidays are quickly approaching! The PTSO, in conjunction with our wonderful music boosters, are pleased to offer beautiful poinsettias for your home, office, church, clients, or office workers for the holiday season. What a great way to decorate, and at the same time, have a part in helping raise funds for our student activities!

The poinsettias will be delivered from Meadows Farms to Briar Woods High School for pick up on or about December 9th. You will receive notice of the exact date.

Please make checks payable to: Briar Woods High School PTSO
22525 Belmont Ridge Rd. Ashburn, VA 20148
571-223-2344 fax # 703-542-5923

Your Name _____ Telephone (h) _____
(cell) _____

A. 6" Pot, 1 plant per pot with (4 to 6 blooms) with decorative pot cover & sleeve

Purchase Price: \$7.00

I am ordering _____ (Red) poinsettias _____ (White) poinsettias

Total # 6" pots X \$7 = _____

B. 7" Pot, 2 plants per pot with (8 to 10 blooms) with decorative pot cover & sleeve

Purchase Price: \$12.00

I am ordering _____ (Red) poinsettias _____ (White) poinsettias

Total # 7" pots X \$12 = _____

C. 10" Pot, 5 plants per pot with (20 to 25) blooms with decorative pot cover & sleeve

Purchase Price: \$18.00

I am ordering _____ (Red) poinsettias _____ (White) poinsettias

Total #10" pots X \$18 = _____

ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY NOVEMBER 18th. Thank you for your support of Briar Woods High School – Home of the Mighty Falcons!



Parent Volunteers Sought for Math Textbook Adoption Committee: Loudoun County Public Schools will begin the LCPS K-5 Math Textbook Adoption Committee process on Wednesday, November 2nd. In accordance with School Board policy, the steering committee will include teachers, parents and administrators. We will need at least one teacher from each grade level K-5. Parent representation can include any involved parent, PTA/PTO parent, member of the Minority Achievement committee or LEAP member. Any building administrator can apply to be on the committee. The committee's first meeting will be from 4:00 to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, November 2nd in Room 100A at the LCPS Administrative Offices in Ashburn. We will discuss procedures for textbook adoption, which will include developing a rubric for use in schools where staff and parents review textbooks. The committee will have four additional meetings between January and March 2004. Teachers will be paid for participation in meetings that take place after contract hours. Please submit names of interested individuals to Cheryl Wimer no later than Monday, October 24th. Miss Wimer, LCPS supervisor of mathematics K-12, may be reached at 571-252-1340 or by e-mail at cwimer@loudoun.k12.va.us.

Drama Department News

Briar Woods Winged Productions would like to announce our fall play, "Icarus All Over Again". This is a slapstick comedy with an underlying psychological theme. Jesse Baxter follows in the footsteps of the Icarus myth by not taking the advice of more knowledgeable people, and as a result, suffers the consequences. With Jesse's imaginary friend Dex, the love of his life who is the most popular girl in school, and her boyfriend who has the reputation of eating freshmen for breakfast, we have a great story that is hilarious. Performances are: November 10, 11, & 12 @ 7pm in the Briar Woods High School Auditorium. Ticket prices are \$5.00. Please Contact Marina Levi if you have any questions.

Briar Woods

1st Annual Book Fair

When:

Wednesday, November 30th: 6-9pm

Thursday, December 1st: 8:30am-4:00pm

Friday, December 2nd: 8:30am-4:00pm

Where:

Briar Woods Library

Books-Books-Books!!

Door Prizes!!

Join Us For The Party!!!

...The Book Party!!

Sponsored by the Library and Reading Departments of BWHS

Contact persons:

Janet Muller, Librarian

Betty Thomas, Reading Specialist

Briar Woods Falcon Regiment Marching Band

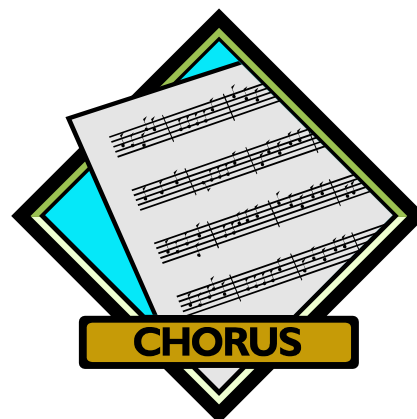
The Falcon Regiment has concluded its first season of competition with participation in the Oakton Classic Band Festival (October 1), James Madison Parade of Champions (October 22), and State Marching Band Championship (October 29). The Bands of America Regional Competition (October 8) was rained out. The Falcon Regiment scored quite well for a new band in their inaugural season, scoring higher than older, more experienced marching bands.

Jazz Concert

Jazz lovers mark your calendar for November 15, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. The Jazz Concert will feature performances from the BWHS Jazz Band, the BWHS Jazz Choir, and we will host the Eagle Ridge Middle School Jazz Band. If you haven't yet set aside some time for enjoying life's treasures, then now's the time to do it. November 15: relax, enjoy, and revive yourself with some great jazz performed by some great students!

Winter Concert

The Briar Woods Music Department is having a Winter Concert on December 13, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. The concert features performances by BW Guitar Ensemble, the BW Choir, and the BW Symphonic Winds. To make it a complete evening, join us for our fundraising Italian dinner just before the concert. Fine food, fine music, fine time. The proceeds from the dinner will go to support the music activities at Briar Woods, giving the students more opportunities to explore music.



Music Boosters

The next meeting of the BW Music Boosters is on Monday, November 21, 2005 at 7 P.M. in the band room. Every one is invited to attend. This is a recurring meeting on the third Monday of every month. And no, we don't sing the minutes of the previous meeting, no matter how lyrical they may be.



We have received information concerning the **Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award** sponsored by The Washington Post. This award, in the amount of \$3,000, will be presented to one teacher from Loudoun County at a special ceremony to be held at The Washington Post building in April, 2006. Nomination forms may be picked up in the school office. The nomination forms must be received by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, December 9, 2005. Teachers can be nominated by their colleagues, students, or parents.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA SAMPLE BALLOT

County of Loudoun
GENERAL AND SPECIAL ELECTIONS
Tuesday, November 8, 2005

TO VOTE:

1. USE ANY NO. 2 PENCIL (OR THE MARKING PEN IF PROVIDED).

2. COMPLETELY FILL IN THE OVAL TO THE LEFT OF YOUR CHOICE LIKE THIS: ●

To vote for a person not on the ballot for an office, write the name on the line provided and COMPLETELY fill in the oval to the left of that name.

Governor

(Vote for not more than one)

- ☐ Jerry W. Kilgore - R
☐ Timothy M. Kaine - D
☐ H. Russ Potts, Jr. - I

Member House of Delegates 13th District

(Vote for not more than one)

- ☐ Robert G. "Bob" Marshall - R
☐ Bruce E. Roemmel - D

Lieutenant Governor

(Vote for not more than one)

- ☐ William T. "Bill" Bolling - R
☐ Leslie L. Byrne - D

Attorney General

(Vote for not more than one)

- ☐ Robert F. "Bob" McDonnell - R
☐ R. Creigh Deeds - D

READ BOTH SIDES

<p>PURCELLVILLE FIRE AND RESCUE STATION</p> <p>QUESTION: Shall the County of Loudoun, Virginia contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum amount of \$8,030,000 to finance, in whole or in part, the cost to design, construct and equip the Purcellville Fire & Rescue Station?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO</p>	<p>ARCOLA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL</p> <p>QUESTION: Shall the County of Loudoun, Virginia contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum amount of \$19,305,000 to finance, in whole or in part, the cost to design, construct and equip the new Arcola Elementary School and demolition of the existing school?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO</p>
--	---

DULLES AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL

QUESTION: Shall the County of Loudoun, Virginia contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum amount of \$35,705,000 to finance, in whole or in part, the cost to design, construct and equip a Dulles Area Middle School (MS-5)?

- ☐ YES
☐ NO

NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

QUESTION: Shall the County of Loudoun, Virginia contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum amount of \$16,300,000 to finance, in whole or in part, the cost to design, construct and equip an Elementary School at the Harmony Intermediate School site (ES-4)?

- ☐ YES
☐ NO

HILLSBORO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

QUESTION: Shall the County of Loudoun, Virginia contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum amount of \$2,420,000 to finance, in whole or in part, the cost to design, construct and equip the renovation of the existing Hillsboro Elementary School?

- ☐ YES
☐ NO

ASHBURN AREA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

QUESTION: Shall the County of Loudoun, Virginia contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum amount of \$18,300,000 to finance, in whole or in part, the cost to design, construct and equip an Elementary School in Loudoun Valley Estates II in the Ashburn area (ES-1)?

- ☐ YES
☐ NO

ROLLING RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

QUESTION: Shall the County of Loudoun, Virginia contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum amount of \$12,960,000 to finance, in whole or in part, the cost to design, construct and equip the renovation of the existing Rolling Ridge Elementary School?

- ☐ YES
☐ NO

SUGARLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

QUESTION: Shall the County of Loudoun, Virginia contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum amount of \$13,950,000 to finance, in whole or in part, the cost to design, construct and equip the renovation of the existing Sugarland Elementary School?

- ☐ YES
☐ NO

WESTERN LOUDOUN AREA HIGH SCHOOL

QUESTION: Shall the County of Loudoun, Virginia contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum amount of \$63,500,000 to finance, in whole or in part, the cost to design, construct and equip a Western Loudoun Area High School (HS-3)?

- ☐ YES
☐ NO

END OF BALLOT

Authorized by
Electoral Board of the
County of Loudoun
2005-08-01
Loudoun, Virginia 20175

The authority statement printed above must be removed and replaced with the appropriate authority statement for the candidate, committee, individual or group being supported or opposed. The authority statement used for this ballot must comply with the requirements of either federal or state law, as appropriate, for the particular election. For federal requirements, call the Federal Election Commission, 1-800-424-9530.

Additional Immunizations Recommended for Adolescents

Infants are not the only ones who need immunizations. The adolescent years are a time to update some of the immunizations received as an infant and also receive other immunizations. Two vaccines that are relatively new for this age group are now recommended by the Centers for Disease Control, and the American Academy of Pediatrics. One is for meningococcal disease, and the other is for pertussis (whooping cough).

Meningococcal Disease

The Centers for Disease Control, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Academy of Family Physicians are recommending that adolescents receive the meningococcal conjugate vaccine at 11-12 years of age. In the past, this vaccine has been recommended at the time adolescents enter college. Some colleges require it for admission.

Meningococcal disease is caused by bacteria that infect the bloodstream and the linings of the brain and spinal cord. Symptoms may include high fever, severe headache, stiff neck, and vomiting. These symptoms often are mistaken as a common illness such as the flu. Once a person is infected, the disease can rapidly progress and kill within hours.

The disease is spread through respiratory secretions and through direct contact such as coughing, kissing, or sharing items that touch the mouth such as cups, food, and lip balm. In addition to the vaccine, prevention includes good hygiene practices such as hand washing and avoiding sharing of personal items that touch the mouth.

Meningococcal disease strikes up to 3,000 people a year in the United States. Approximately 30% are adolescents or young adults. Of those who become infected, about 25% will die and another 20% will suffer long-term disabilities such as brain damage, kidney disease, hearing loss, or limb amputation.

Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

Children are vaccinated against diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus (DPT) as babies. The last DPT vaccine is given to children between the ages of 4 and 6. Five to 10 years after the last vaccine, the protection against whooping cough begins to wear off. There has been a 743% increase in pertussis cases in the last 10 years with approximately 40% of these cases occurring in adolescents.

Until recently, the vaccine for pertussis was not approved for those over the age of 7. A new vaccine for pertussis (whooping cough) has now been approved for use in adolescents. This vaccine is incorporated into the vaccine that is given for diphtheria and tetanus around the age of 12.

Pertussis is spread through airborne droplets from coughing and sneezing by the infected person. Prevention includes using tissues, covering the mouth with a sleeve when coughing and sneezing, washing hands regularly, and avoiding sharing drinks.

The first symptoms often appear to be the common cold or upper respiratory infection including a low-grade fever, runny nose, and cough that progressively becomes more severe. The cough can last up to 10 weeks. The episodes of coughing can lead to vomiting, pneumonia, hernia, or even a broken rib. The disease is rarely fatal in older children and adults, but the mortality rate in unimmunized infants is high.

Other immunizations that are recommended for adolescents are:

- Hepatitis B vaccine is generally administered in 2 or 3 doses for those not previously immunized. Hepatitis B is required of all students through grade 10 this year, grade 11 in 2006, and all students through grade 12 in 2007.
- One dose of chickenpox vaccine is recommended for adolescents at age 11-12 or 2 doses for those age 13 or older, if there is no proof of prior chickenpox disease or immunization.

ATTENTION

Sophomores & Juniors

Summer Residential Programs

- Humanities
- Mathematics, Science and Technology
- Science
- Agriculture
- Medicine and Life Science
- Marine Science or Engineering

**Please see the Guidance
Department for application
details or visit**

<http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Instruction/Govschools/SRGS/>

**Completed applications
must be turned in to the
Guidance Director by**

1/09/06

