



Colin Powell Elementary School

The Puma Post

Learning Today...Leading Tomorrow



Hull's Highlights

February 2010

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Dear Colin Powell ES Community,

It is hard to believe that we are now a little over half-way through the 2009-2010 school year! We continue to be so impressed with the quality of learning and instruction that is taking place throughout our school building. The assessments that our teachers are using to measure and monitor growth in student achievement give evidence that our young learners are engaged in their studies and as a result, doing well. It is without a doubt, the partnership between home and school that truly makes a difference in supporting student learning. Once again we thank you for joining us in making that possible!

Our morning Kiss and Ride arrival procedures have improved tremendously since we implemented a new procedure back in January. The flow of traffic seems to move much better each morning and afternoon. Our bigger concern now is the amount of children who are arriving late to school. There were several days in late January when we had over 40 students coming into the office for tardy notes (each day). Due to our very tight schedules in the classrooms, students who arrive after 9:15 am are actually missing direct instruction. This impacts not only the child who is late, but the whole class since the teacher must then stop the presentation he or she is making to review the comments that were missed. Even with a ten minute later schedule this year we seem to have an increase in the amount of late arrivals. Parents, we ask that you please make sure that your children arrive to school no later than 9:10 each and every day. What would be even better is to have your child(ren) ride the bus to and from school each day (if they are eligible to do so). That way, they would be arriving to school on time and ready for the instructional day.

On a more positive note, we are thrilled to see our school-wide behavior expectations being followed with greater consistency this year. Our school-wide focus on "*Respecting yourself, Respecting others, and Respecting property*" have served to align the expectations of every child and classroom. Visitors to our building often share that they are so impressed with the behavior of our students. When the Children's

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This Month...

- Feb. 18: Rising 7th Grade Parent Night, Lanier MS, 7 pm
- Feb. 19: Bingo Night, 7 - 9 pm (Snow date, Feb. 12th)
- Feb. 22-26: Book Fair
- Feb. 24: Spaghetti Dinner, Late Shopping Evening for Book Fair
- Feb. 26: Multicultural Night, 6:30 - 9:00 pm

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Julia Conti,
Newsletter
Editor



Hull's Highlights (Cont'd)

Theatre program was recently invited to our school by the PTA for a performance, the participating actors made a point of approaching me with the comment that "we have never been to a school with a better or more respectful audience." They wanted to know what it was that we did to make that possible. We smiled and shared that we set our expectations high and we find that our students are able to achieve (those expectations). Indeed, we are very proud of our students and our school.

I urge every member of our community to remain actively aware and involved with what is happening with the school system budget for next year. Public hearings on the budget will continue. Our School Board representatives, Kathy Smith and Liz Bradsher must hear from all of us on what we see as the real needs of our students and their learning as well as the needs of our instructional staff. Parents and community members have a powerful voice and must be heard as the budget is discussed and finalized in the months ahead. May 20th is when the final vote is made, a vote that has the potential of impacting every classroom in our school and across the school system. You can review updates on the FCPS budget by logging into the FCPS website (www.fcps.edu) and clicking on the references to budget.

I am extremely proud of what we have developed together to support our children and our vibrant teaching/learning community. Colin Powell ES is recognized for its excellence in so many ways. You, our community, have truly helped to make that possible.

Most sincerely,
Brian Hull, Principal

Save the date... Tuesday, March 2, 2010, 7:00-8:00
The PTA is sponsoring a presentation by Dr. Paula Bass on helping children deal with anxiety.

CPES Annual Carnival

Our Annual Carnival is coming up on Saturday, March 6, 2010, from 12noon - 4:00p.m. Please consider coming to this non-stop fun filled afternoon and to check out our Silent Auction! We also need you to please volunteer for an hour. If you can volunteer or have questions, please email Cindy Trinca, carnival chair, at bctrinca@verizon.net and let me know what time you can help. Remember to look for your Carnival Packet of information, including preticket sales, 50/50 raffle, and cake decorating contest, etc. in your Tuesday folder on February 16. We'll look forward to seeing you at the Carnival!



Multicultural Night

Mark your calendars now for the annual PTA sponsored Multicultural Night to be held on Friday, February 26th from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

You can prepare food from your culture/country, participate by wearing traditional clothing and being in the Fashion Show (you and/or your child), make a Cultural Exhibit depicting traditions, or maybe you want to be there to help set-up and organize the event. We need your help!

Please contact our co-chairs Narmatha Arichandran at narichandran@yahoo.com, Padmaja Bevara at bevara17@yahoo.com, or Saritha Mankala at saritham@yahoo.com and let them know what talents you have and how you want to help out. Thank you.

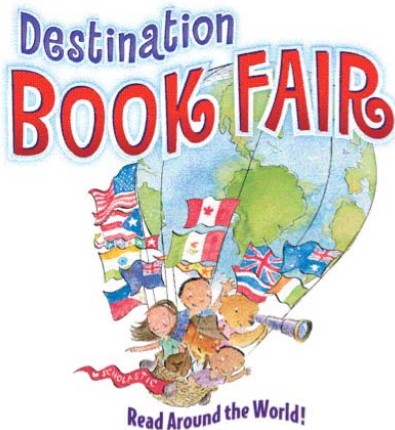
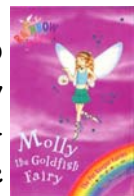
Library News

February will be a busy place in the library. Many of the students will be working on researching skills. Fifth grade continues to work on preparing for the Global Awareness Technology Project. They are researching and creating a travel brochure. Third grade will be working on researching animals and second grade will begin researching famous Americans.



The kids have been enjoying even more new books we received in the library. Bone has been a really popular series with the students and they are hardly ever on the shelves. The younger readers are enjoying all the new Katie Kazoo and Rainbow Fairies books. In addition, we had a wonderful set of graphic biographies. The students can learn about famous people in a cartoon format.

Our school Book Fair will be held the week of February 22. We would love to recruit a lot of volunteers to help out with browsing on Monday and Tuesday February 22-23 and volunteers to help with sales on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday February 24-26. The fair will be open late on Wednesday if you are only able to help in the evening. If you are able to help at any of those times, please email Patty Smith (pjsmith2@fcps.edu) or Tricia Lude (pklude@fcps.edu) and let us know the days and times that work best for you.



Looking ahead, our school reading incentive program will kick off on March 5 and begin March 6. Our theme this year is "Destination Nome". The program will be closely linked to The Iditarod race in Alaska. Students will be reading to gain miles to keep up with the Mushers. To learn more about the Iditarod, check out the official website at www.iditarod.com.

Thank you so much and have a great February!



The Family Fun Committee of the Powell PTA invites you to join us for Mad Science "Up, Up and Away" on Wednesday, February 10th at 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. Mad Science events are spectacular science-themed shows designed to amaze and entertain you. Come experience cool sound effects, amazing vibrations, colorful chemistry and radical reactions. The science show is for ages 5-12. No drop offs please! Any questions, please contact Jacque Whang at 703-266-7269.



Yearbook orders are coming soon in your Tuesday folders.

Don't miss out on ordering your 2009-2010 Colin Powell Yearbook

Colin Powell PTA Spaghetti Dinner

Wednesday, February 24, 2010 – 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Take a break from the exciting Colin Powell Book Fair to enjoy a fun meal with your family and friends!

Please join us on Wednesday, February 24th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the cafeteria. There will be two seating times to accommodate everyone. There will be a dinner served at 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. You can choose whichever best fits your schedule.



The cost of the 2010 Spaghetti Dinner is \$7.00 per person. You will have a choice of spaghetti with Marinara Sauce or Meat Sauce. To attend the Spaghetti Dinner, you need to pre-purchase dinner tickets. Tickets may be purchased by filling out the form, which will be included in your next Tuesday Folder, and return it to your teacher by Friday, February 19th with payment in an envelope marked "Spaghetti Dinner". Your name will then be placed on a dinner list and you can simply check in at the school entryway table when you arrive at your requested seating time.

****Please note:** Tickets must be purchased in advance. There will be no sales at the door. There will also be no refunds. We will need some parents, staff and/or teachers to help us with set-up, serving and clean up for the event as well. If you can help with any of these areas, please contact Jacque Whang at jacquewhang@gmail.com, or Donna O'Brien at obrien101@cox.net to sign up and help out.

Transition to Middle School Liberty/Lanier Parent Meetings

Feb. 17	Liberty and Lanier will send representatives to CPES to talk to 6th graders and distribute course selection materials
Feb. 18 (snow date Feb. 25)	6:00-7:00 pm Meeting Regarding the Honors Program - Lanier Middle School 6:30 pm Meeting with ESOL and Special Education Students' Parents (Media Center) - Lanier Middle School 7:00-8:30 pm Rising 7th Grade Parent Night - Lanier Middle School
Feb. 25	7:00 pm Rising 7th Grade Parent Orientation - Liberty Middle School
April 9	6th Graders visit Lanier Middle
April 14	6th Graders visit Liberty Middle

PTA Board Nominations for 2010-2011 School Year

It is hard to imagine warm weather and the end of the school year but soon they will be upon us. The PTA has started planning for the 2010/11 school year. If you are interested in filling a position on the PTA board, we would love to hear from you. We have five positions to fill: PTA President, VP Programs and Activities, VP Ways and Means, Treasurer, and Secretary. If you are interested in learning more contact please contact me, michelle.trainor@gmail.com

2010 Census Jobs

The U.S. Census Bureau is recruiting temporary, part-time and full-time census takers for the 2010 Census. These short-term jobs offer good pay, flexible hours, paid training, and reimbursement for authorized work-related expenses, such as mileage incurred while conducting census work. Best of all, census takers work right in their own communities.

Census taker jobs are excellent for people who want to work part-time, those who are between jobs, or just about anyone who wants to earn extra money while performing an important service for their community. Apply Now! 1-866-861-2010

Puma Pounce

Save the Date!

The 3rd Annual Puma Pounce 5K/1.5 mile Fun Run will be held **Saturday, May 8, 2010 at 8:30 a.m.** Join us for a morning of fun, food and prizes. Students, teachers, parents, friends and family can participate! Entry forms will be sent home in the Tuesday Folders in early March and will also be available on the www.cpespta.org website in early March. We need many runners and volunteers to make this fundraising event a success. We are continuing to raise money for the Playground Fund. Please contact Michele Mezher at mmezher@juno.com if you can volunteer to help prepare for the race or help on race day.

Giant A+ Bonus Bucks Update

The PTA would like to thank our school community for supporting the A+ BONUS BUCKS Program by shopping at Giant and designating Colin Powell Elementary to receive credit for your purchases. Your designations are already making a difference - in three months we have earned \$854.20 for our school!

WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP! Although we have over 900 students in our school, only 99 Bonus Cards have been registered for our school to receive credit for your purchases. We know we can do better! PLEASE take a few moments TODAY to support the wonderful programs the PTA provides for our children by designating Colin Powell to receive credit for your purchases whenever you shop at Giant and use your Bonus Card.

It's simple: Just call 1-877-366-2668 to designate over the phone OR log on to www.giantfood.com/aplus to designate on line. Our school ID is #04508.

Our children and the PTA THANK YOU!

Energy Zone

NUTRIFAX

CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

The two major oral health diseases are tooth decay (dental caries) and gum (periodontal) disease. Both diseases are influenced by nutrition and diet. Nutrition plays an important role in the development of teeth and oral tissue. Dental caries result from the interaction between the tooth, oral bacteria, and dietary carbohydrates (sugar and starch).

Plaque is a sticky film of bacteria that forms on our teeth and turns the sugars and starches in our food into acids. These acids act on the tooth enamel and cause tooth decay. If high-acid producing or sugar foods (raisins, cookies, cakes, potato chips) are consumed, they should be eaten with meals, not as snacks. Cheeses, popcorn, raw fruits and vegetables are low-acid producing food and make healthy snacks.

To prevent dental disease, remember to:

1. Brush teeth after every meal with fluoridated toothpaste.
2. Floss teeth daily.
3. Visit the dentist and dental hygienist regularly.
4. Eat a nutritionally balanced diet.
5. Avoid foods that stay in the mouth a long time and stick to teeth (raisins, hard candies, and caramels).