



# Colin Powell Elementary School

# The Puma Post

Learning Today...Leading Tomorrow



January 2010

Puma\_post@yahoo.com

## Hull's Highlights

Dear Colin Powell ES Community,

On behalf of our entire instructional, support, and administrative staff, I want to extend to each of you a happy and healthy new year. The holiday break was surprisingly extended a few days by the record-breaking snow accumulations that we received on December 19th. I am not quite sure whether the ice that has formed on the snow mounds in many parking areas and on street curbs will melt much before we celebrate the July 4th holiday this year. It looks like this will certainly be a winter to remember!

The winter months are a time when our fine arts programs enjoy the opportunity to showcase the incredible talents of our students. Just before the holiday break, our community took great pleasure in hearing the songs and sharing of traditions from several of the cultures represented in our school as they witnessed the wonderful talents of our fifth and sixth grade chorus. In January, our instrumental music program offers grateful audiences with the outstanding work that our students have accomplished. Many of our students' artwork was recently showcased in a special edition of the Centre View publication. We are proud of all our students who have shared their incredible talents with us. Indeed, the fine arts program at Colin Powell ES is one that we all can be proud of supporting.

As positive and uplifting that these programs are to our school and community, we are all concerned with the possible impact that the 2010-2011 school system budget will have on many of the programs that are currently offered at the elementary, middle and high school levels. Our PTA organization has invited Kathy Smith (School Board Chairperson and representative of the Sully District) and Liz Bradsher (School Board representative from the Springfield District) to attend our February 2, 2010 PTA meeting. That evening, both Kathy Smith and Liz Bradsher will highlight the impact of the proposed school system budget. This will be an important meeting for our community members to attend and to ask questions. Programs such as the full-day kindergarten, band and strings, and increases in class size are all being considered as the School Board proceeds with making some very difficult decisions that will truly affect students and our instructional program for this coming school year. It has

## This Month...

- Jan 5 PTA Meeting, 7 pm
- Jan 13 Winter Band Concert, 7 pm
- Jan 20 Strings Concert, 6:30 pm—4th grade ; 7:30 pm- 5th & 6th grade
- Jan 18 Holiday—MLK, Jr.
- Jan 29 & Feb 1 Holiday—Teacher Workday

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Julia Conti,  
Newsletter  
Editor



## Hull's Highlights (Cont'd)

been reported that only 30% of the households in Fairfax County have children attending schools. We encourage you to invite neighbors who may not have children yet attending our school so that they can learn about the budget process and its implications.

Since the day that our school opened in the fall of 2003, we have worked collaboratively to develop and become a strong community that values the importance of student achievement and family involvement. While 2010 will undoubtedly present us with many challenges, we will continue to work together to do what is necessary in supporting and advocating for the needs of our most important community members - our students.

Most sincerely,  
**Brian Hull**  
Principal

## Bingo Night

Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup>

6pm - 9pm!

Bring the family out for a night of Bingo, prizes, pizza and fun for all!! Please check your Tuesday folder or ask your teacher for order forms for Bingo game cards and Pizza orders. You can also email Brenda Hinkle at [iceskater@hinkle.com](mailto:iceskater@hinkle.com) or Sherri Burton at [SBurton@spa.com](mailto:SBurton@spa.com) for order forms or with questions.

We hope to see everyone on Feb 5<sup>th</sup>!! (snow date Feb 12<sup>th</sup>)



## ART Room News . . . . .

We are in need of 6 oz. yogurt cups for painting lessons. If you eat yogurt by Giant, Lucerne, Kirkland, Silk, Dannon, or Stonyfield Farms, please rinse out the cup and send them to Art.

We would be happy to recycle them for you!

--Mrs. Kodsi & Ms. Hilton

# Yearbook Cover Art Contest

Thank you to all students who submitted artwork for our Yearbook Cover Contest this year! All of your entries were absolutely wonderful. It was such a hard decision making process. If we had room for them all, we would put them all on the cover! The Yearbook Staff would like to wish a big PUMA congratulations to the winners of the contest at this time....

Congratulations to the winner of the **FRONT** cover of this year's yearbook.....

**6th Grade: Rebecca Yoo, Ms. Martin's class**

The **BACK** cover of the yearbook will show 6 winning entries...one winner per grade level. Congratulations to these winners:

5th Grade: Tommy Bradley, Mrs. Abt's class

2nd Grade: Juliann Cha, Mrs. Steinberg's class

4th Grade: Hannah Kim, Mrs. Majkowski's class

1st Grade: Thomas SoH, Mrs. Brown's class

3rd Grade: Christine Jung, Mrs. Keleher's class

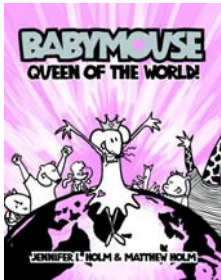
Kindergarten: Emilie Kim, Mrs. Conrad's class

**Look for 2009-2010 Colin Powell Yearbook Sales coming in February 2010!**

## Library News

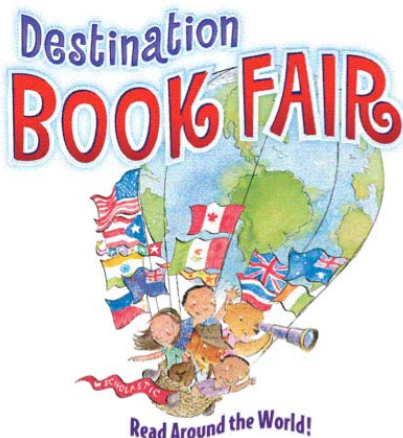
Dear Families,

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a wonderful break and survived the big snow. Wow! What a way to start our winter!



We were excited to receive a few boxes of new books before our break. The children are enjoying some wonderful graphic biography and history books as well as a lot of new fiction books for our collection. We also received two sets of graphic novels, Baby Mouse and Bone.

In addition, we are introducing the children, one grade level at a time, to Playaways. Playaways are recorded books set up MP3 style with a set of earbuds in a plastic carrying case. The children will check them out like a regular book from the library. They are a wonderful addition to our library.



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 people for 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](mailto:pjsmith2@fcps.edu)) or Tricia Lude ([pklude@fcps.edu](mailto:pklude@fcps.edu)) and let us know on the days and times that work best for you.

**Thank you so much!**



## Spelling Bee Champions Announced

On Tuesday evening, December 1st, our PTA sponsored our second annual spelling bee with 15 fifth and sixth grade students participating. These are students who qualified to be in the competition based on a written test they had taken in November. This year's runner up in the oral round (finals) was Rishab Iyer from Ms. Martin's 6th grade class.

The winner was Jagan Doodala from Ms. Martin's 6th grade class. Jagan will represent our school by competing in the Fairfax County Spelling Bee on March 13, 2010 and we wish him luck there.

We are very proud of everyone who challenged themselves and participated in the spelling bee. We would like to thank Jamie Penney, Estavia Rowe, Sara Kodsi, Chara Lyndon, Glen Dumblauskas, Christine Abt, Adam Erbrecht, Lalitha Iyer and Srinu Doodala for helping to make the spelling bee a success!

## Puma Pounce

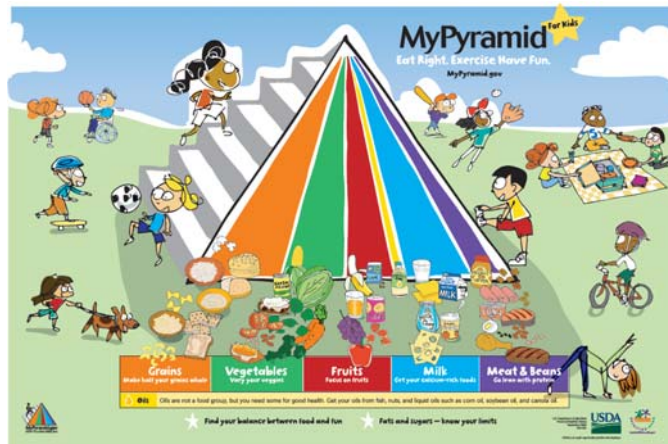
The 3rd Annual Puma Pounce 5K and 1.5 Mile Fun(d) Run is scheduled for Saturday, May 8, 2010 at 8:30 a.m. This is a fun family event and proceeds from the race will benefit the Playground Fund as well as the Teacher Grant Program. Registration Forms will be available in the Tuesday Folders and online on the Colin Powell PTA website by early March.

Please save the date to join us for a morning of fun exercise, food and prizes! If you have any questions or would like to be part of the PTA Puma Pounce Race Committee, please contact Michele Mezher at [mmezher@juno.com](mailto:mmezher@juno.com). We need lots of volunteers before and during the race to make it a success!

## Energy Zone

### EAT RIGHT – EXERCISE – HAVE FUN

The United States Department of Agriculture's release of MyKids Pyramid for kids recognizes the importance of childhood nutrition and provides families with tools to make healthy choices. For more information and activities visit [MyPyramid.gov](http://MyPyramid.gov).



#### TIPS FOR FAMILIES:

##### EAT RIGHT

- Choose healthy foods from each group.
- Increase whole-grain foods.
- Eat fruits and vegetables especially dark green and orange.
- Include calcium-rich foods such as lowfat dairy products.
- Select lowfat meat, chicken, turkey and fish.
- Avoid foods and beverages with sugar as the first ingredient.

##### EXERCISE

- Be an active family.
- Exercise 60 minutes per day.
- Include physical activities at family celebrations.
- Limit TV and computer time.