



# Colin Powell Elementary School

# The Puma Post



Learning Today...Leading Tomorrow

## Hull's Highlights

October 2009

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Dear Colin Powell ES Community,

The opening of school each fall is an exciting time for our students, staff, and administrators. It amazes me each year that in a very short period of time the slower pace of the summer months quickly turn into the presence of excitement for learning in each of our classrooms. Clearly, new grade level routines are now in place and the instructional program is well under way. This has been an exciting opening as our school has now grown to over 1000 students, a milestone that was never expected just a few years ago. Despite the appearance of this daunting number, we are operating in a highly effective manner. I want to thank you, our community, for your tremendous support in helping us launch yet another successful school year at CPES.

As most of you know, one of the greatest challenges that face public education today is the requirement that all students meet learning benchmarks established by each state. In Virginia, these benchmarks are referred to as the Standards of Learning, or the "SOL". By the year 2014, it is expected that every child attending a public school in the United States must pass the grade level assessments which start at third grade and continue through most of the high school years. The Commonwealth of Virginia requires that these assessments take place close to the end of the school year (or end of course at middle and high school). This critical timing allows the teaching/learning environment to cover the required curriculum so that assessments can determine if students effectively learned the skills and content material.

This past spring, CPES had the largest number of students participating in the SOL assessments that we have ever had in our school history. While we were confident that our students would do well with the assessments, we were thrilled to see the final reports indicating student scores. Ninety-four percent of our students passed the assessments in mathematics and ninety-five percent passed in the area of reading. What is even more outstanding is that over fifty percent of our students passed at an advanced level of proficiency in each of these subtests. Community members, this news is spectacular! I am tremendously proud of our students and of each member of our instructional team who diligently worked

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## This Month....

- Oct 6 PTA Meeting, 7 pm
- 12 Columbus Day—No School
- 18 Cox Farm Family Day
- 23 Mini-Walk for the Homeless
- 30 End of First Quarter

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Julia Conti,  
Newsletter  
Editor



## Hull's Highlights (Cont'd)

to prepare them for such success. Perhaps the greatest pride that I have is that our student scores indicate that for the second year in a row, these high achievement results cross each of the six subgroups measured by the "No Child Left Behind" regulation. In the CPES community, we set our expectations high and our students undoubtedly respond!

While we certainly want to celebrate these great successes from last year, we fully recognize that a great deal of work must be done to support our students this year. Our dedicated instructional team needs the support of a strong home/school connection and partnership with parents and guardians. As you have heard me say time and time again, we cannot do what is necessary to support your student success without direct parent involvement in your child's educational program. I invite and encourage you to be actively and consistently involved throughout the school year. Together, we can and will make a difference in your student's learning!

Once again, thank you for your tremendous support. I am truly blessed to work with such a tremendous school community!

Most sincerely,

**Brian Hull**  
Principal



## Mini-Walk for the Homeless



### **Colin Powell Elementary Walks for the Homeless - October 23, 2009**

#### Did you know?

There are over 2,00 homeless individuals in Fairfax County – over half are children.

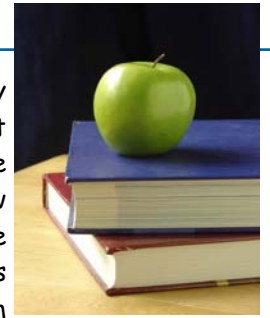
The average age of a homeless person is just 9 years old.

We have more than 300 homeless families in our area and most have to wait 3 months for space at a shelter.

A typical homeless family consists of a single mother with young children

On October 23, 2009, students in grades K-6 will participate in a Mini-Walk to Help the Homeless. The Mini-Walk is a fun and educational event intended to promote awareness of homelessness in our community and provide the opportunity to raise funds to support organizations that assist homeless families. Parents are invited to join their students for the walk. Look for more information and registration forms in your child's Tuesday folder. Questions? Contact Renee Orlosky (571)522-6000.

## Librarian's Corner



Mrs. Tricia Lude and Mrs. Patty Smith welcome you to a new year at Powell Elementary! As librarians, we are both very excited to be a new part of the CPES family! Mrs. Lude came from Providence where she was the librarian. Mrs. Smith came from Deer Park where she was a second grade teacher.

Be sure to visit the library's website. It is linked from the CPES homepage. The library also has a Blackboard course and your children will find it listed as one of their courses when logged on to Blackboard! They can do research using our online databases as well as look for books using the library's online catalog.

Stop by the library and say hello. We are always looking for volunteers in the library, so if you have some time to spare we would love to have your help. We look forward to working with your children!

## Back-to-School Breakfast

The Back-to-School Breakfast was a terrific success. It was a great way to welcome our wonderful teachers and staff back to a brand new school year. A good time was had by all. Thanks to all of the parents who donated the delicious food for the Breakfast and to those who helped set up and serve before and during the event. Your help was truly much appreciated!

Thanks, again.

Diana Rhodes

Hospitality Chair

\*\*\*Quiches for the breakfast were donated by Robert Nasser of Centreville's Dinner Done! around the corner located at 13860 Braddock Road.\*\*\*

## Energy Zone

### BREAKFAST - A GREAT START TO BEING SMART

October is Breakfast Month in Fairfax County Public Schools. Breakfast is the most important meal of the day. It "breaks" the "fast" by replacing the energy reserves used overnight.

School aged children especially teens are the biggest breakfast skippers. Research shows students who eat breakfast:

- Learn better
- Are more alert and attentive
- Are more likely to participate in activities
- Eating breakfast may also reduce the risk of childhood obesity

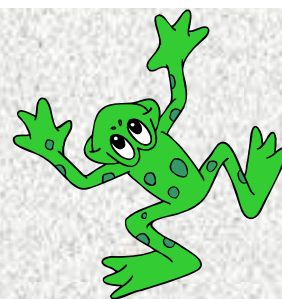


If you have a breakfast skipper in your home, plan and offer quick nutritious choices such as juice, whole grain cereal and toast, breakfast bar, or bagels and milk or yogurt. Parents don't forget your own breakfast. You are a role model for your children.

The school breakfast program helps students whose parents work, students who are late starters, as well as those who come from low-income families. Breakfast is a nutritious bargain for \$1.50.



  
*Sally Foster*<sup>®</sup>



*Just two weeks left!!*

*Sale Began: Tuesday, Sept. 29*   *Orders Due: Friday, Oct. 16*

*Pick Up: Wednesday, Nov. 18 – Friday, Nov. 20*  
*(Location & Time TBA)*

**Sally Foster is our biggest fundraiser!  
Our School earns 50% profit on all Sally Foster items sold and  
40% profit for every magazine subscription or renewal!  
All funds will go directly back to our school and to PTA sponsored activities!**

**Just browse through the catalog to make your selections and share the  
catalog with family, friends, even co-workers.**

*Look for the Parent Contest that came home in today's Tuesday Folder!  
Turn it in by Oct. 12 for a chance to win one of two \$25.00 gift cards to Alto  
Plaza!*

**Thank you so much for your support!  
With your help, this will be our most successful fundraiser!**

Questions? Please contact Judy Fanucci at [fanucci5@gmail.com](mailto:fanucci5@gmail.com) or 703.915.8572 or  
Patrice Mortson at [pmortson@gmail.com](mailto:pmortson@gmail.com) or 703.999.2340

**Students: At Sally Foster, safety comes first. Only sell to people you or your  
family know. NEVER approach strangers.**

## *Free Money and Products For Colin Powell Playground Expansion!*

Yes, you read that correctly! **Box Tops For Education and Campbell's Labels for Education** sends us money and valuable products for every label we submit.

**Box Tops:** Please save your Box Tops labels that are marked: BOX TOP-EDUCATION." You may turn them into your child's teacher or simply drop them in the collection box in the school lobby. Each Box Tops label is worth 10 cents to our school. With a student body and staff of over 1,000, that is a lot of labels!

Box Tops may be found on many products such as food, paper products, and school, and office supplies from brands such as Betty Crocker, General Mills, Ziploc, Pillsbury, and many more. Last year our school earned \$648 by sending in Box Tops Labels.

**If every Colin Powell family submits 50 Box Tops this year, we will effortlessly earn \$3,500 towards our playground fund...at absolutely no cost to you!**

Please visit the websites below to learn about monthly offers to earn bonus Box Tops at local stores such as Bloom, Safeway, BJ's Wholesale, and more. You can earn as many as 170 bonus box tops by purchasing the monthly special items.

<http://www.boxtops4education.com/>

Help us energize our Box Tops program. Remind friends and family to save labels for you. Together, we can achieve our goal of \$3,500 from Box Tops For Education—to go towards the playground expansion.

**Campbell's Labels:** Our school receives points for each Campbell's label we submit. These points can be redeemed for a variety of educational products. Campbell's labels may be found on a variety of products from Pepperidge Farm, Swanson, V8, and Prego. For a complete list of products, coupons, and recipes, please visit:

<http://www.labelsforeducation.com/>

Last year we were able to "purchase" 17 educational videos for our school library through the Campbell's Labels For Education program.

Please turn your Campbell's labels in to your child's teacher or you may put them in the Box Tops For Education box in the school lobby.

Remind friends and family to save labels for you. Colin Powell Elementary School appreciates all you do to support the school.