
WOLFTRAP

A THOUGHT-FULL
SCHOOL

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

February 23, 2010

1903 Beulah Road, Vienna VA 22182

(703) 319-7300

ANITA BLAIN, EdD, PRINCIPAL

INFO & ATTENDANCE 703-319-7373

Dates to Remember

2/25	Gr 6 students meet with Kilmer Counselor	3/4	Gr 3 to Green Spring Gardens
3/2	PTA Meeting 9AM	3/9	Edison Expo
	Read Across America Day	3/29-4/2	Spring Break
3/5-6	Gr 5 Writing SOL		

Anyone needing accommodations for a disability in order to attend or participate in these Wolftrap School activities should contact the school at 703-319-7300. Requests need to be made seven working days prior to the scheduled activity.

February 2010

Dear Community,

On the bookcase in my husband's office is a picture of a rose with the saying, "I can complain because rosebushes have thorns or rejoice because the thorn bush has a rose...It is all up to me."

As I look back on the Blizzard of 2010, I can think of so many examples where each of us probably had a time where we saw the thorns and also times when we saw the rose. I know that happened to my husband and me as we were shut in our home for the first five days. While we loved having our two grandchildren with us, there were times when their boundless energy and zest for play was a bit more than we were used to in a day. But then there were other times such as when the five year old played "King of the Mountain" on top of one of our cars which was covered in snow and he helped my husband shovel the snow off the car. Or the time when our granddaughter decided it was time for Nana to read quiet stories, that I saw the rose in full bloom.

How many of us reconnected with our families or our neighbors? Once again, I saw the rose in full bloom. Because many of our neighbors are in a similar situation to us, children grown and moved away; we do not have those neighborhood cook outs anymore or those fun times at the playgrounds that were so memorable when our children were at home. But during this time, we were all outside shoveling snow, taking turns with a snow blower, and sharing sore muscle remedies. Once again, I found myself inviting neighbors to dinner and having a terrific time eating and playing games.

I worried about Wolftrap because for the first several days I could not get out of our neighborhood and I could not check our school. Thank goodness for those of you who kept in touch with me via email. You let me know about the snow and the sidewalks and you let me know about all the community members who spent their time shoveling the areas around the school so our children could return safely. I will never know the names of each person who came and spent time at Wolftrap. I know you did it out of your love for our school and it humbles me greatly to be a part of this caring and giving community.

When we were finally able to return to school, the work was still not done and we needed to totally change some well established procedures to get our children to school safely. Once again, the call went out and more volunteers came with shovels, to make signs, to open car doors, and to walk children to and from cars. Each of you looked at what you could do. Each of you rejoiced because you saw the rose and not the thorn.

I wish I could thank each one of you personally. You saw it was up to you and you gave and gave and gave. I am indebted to you for your hard work and our staff is forever grateful because you made it possible for them to begin planning and teaching as soon as they returned on February 15.

Sincerely,
Dr. Anita Blain

Kiss and Ride Procedures Continue

ARRIVAL

We will continue with the new Kiss and Ride procedures

Enter the Kiss and Ride area at the school entrance on Beulah Rd and proceed towards the back parking area by the playground and SACC.

8:10 AM--A staff member and safety patrols will begin unloading students from cars in the new Kiss and Ride area.

Students will enter school and remain in the cafeteria until 8:30 AM

8:30 AM students are dismissed to their classrooms

8:40 AM the Kiss and Ride area closes and arriving students enter at the front entrance, Door # 1

DISMISSAL

Students will line up on the sidewalk by the SACC room

During inclement weather, we will keep students in the hallway by the cafeteria

Staff members and safety patrols will assist getting students into the appropriate cars

Please have the sign in your window showing who is riding in your car each day



Wolftrap Raises Funds for Haiti and Collects Books for South African School

Led by our SCA, Wolftrap students initiated a "Help for Haiti" collection which raised a whopping \$3,506 for the American Red Cross earthquake relief work in Haiti. Children from all grade levels brought in the contents of their piggy banks, their allowance money, donations collected from neighbors, and spare change they gathered from their parents and around their homes. The SCA representatives prepared cans and boxes for each classroom's deposits, and our office staff made many trips to the bank, heavily laden with coins! The kids were excited to hear regular updates on how their donation was growing. Thank you to everyone in the community for supporting this spontaneous and heartfelt effort.

The students are already on to their next service project. From February 22nd through March 5th, we will be collecting gently used children's books to be donated to a school in the Nomathamsanga township in South Africa. Wolftrap is one of several schools in Fairfax County involved in this effort, which was started by a former FCPS teacher. Early reader and alphabet books are especially needed, but all elementary level books will be enthusiastically accepted. Please contact PTA member and Human Relations Committee liaison Mary McIntyre if you are interested in helping to log and package the donated volumes. Once again, the Wolftrap community will be making a humanitarian impact while educating our students on the value and rewards of service.

The staff of Wolftrap ES wants to thank each and every volunteer who came out to help during the Blizzard of 2010. Moms and dads, students, and community folks, who did not even have children at Wolftrap, made it possible for us to come back on February 15. Staff had a day to prepare for our students who we missed a great deal. On Tuesday, Feb. 16 and throughout our first week back, volunteers once again made it possible to get children to and from school safely and in and out of cars quickly. All of this was done with smiles and love. Thank you to all of you who helped. Each of you made a difference for us. Dr. Anita Blain

Thank you so much for the wonderful luncheons that have been provided by parents and presented by the PTA. Please remember to pick up any dishes that you may have left behind in the teachers' lounge after the delicious staff luncheons provided by the PTA. The luncheons are much appreciated by all and we don't want anyone to miss a favorite serving dish or crock pot due to your very generous contribution to the luncheons.