

**March
2006**

Briar Woods High School

Home of the Falcons

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Dear Parents:

A reminder that spring break is coming up soon. Friday, April 7th is the first day of the break for students. Classes will resume on Monday, April 17th.

Daylight savings time goes into effect on Sunday, April 2nd. Turn your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed this Saturday.

Have a relaxing and safe spring break!

Sincerely,
Ed Starzenski

We will begin to send our newsletter electronically in addition to posting it on our webpage. If you would like to receive your newsletter electronically, please send your e-mail address to Mrs. Glikas. She may be contacted by phone at 703-957-4400 or by e-mail at kglikas@loudoun.k12.va.us or you may send a note to school by your student.



Attendance

Parents please help!
When your student is absent, you need to call the attendance line at (703) 957-4409 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 (703) 957-4400 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. Ms. Culbert 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.

Congratulations to the following winners at the Regional Science and Engineering Fair:

Sravya Kambalapally won the Keep Loudoun Beautiful Dr. Revis Sproul Award of \$75.00

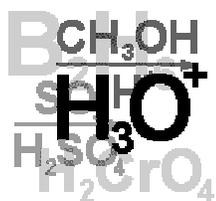
Austin Lutz won the AV-ED Flight School Award of a free discovery flight in a Diamond DA-20C1 aircraft.

Lisa Magurn has been selected to teach at the Governor's French Academy this summer from June 26th to July 16th. It is a total immersion French experience for the teachers selected and the 30 - 60 best French students in the state. (The students are selected by a test which all nominees take consisting of a composition and cassette and then their application and teacher recommendations.) Teachers are selected by interview (in French) during which they have to demonstrate native or near native ability in French. Also for this interview, candidates are asked to come prepared to explain their own, original curriculum for their classes, afternoon activities (that relate to the teacher's theme and the academy's theme for that year), and a large project (for students to accomplish that again relates) and all teaching activities and strategies he/she intends to use to accomplish/carry out the course and the other activities and projects.

Selected teachers are asked to arrive at the academy a week early in June with all of their materials ready to go. There are typically 6 teachers, each hired to teach a specialty course. Mrs. Magurn's specialty course will be Francophone/African Literature and Dance. On May 5th and 6th selected teachers will reconvene in Richmond to coordinate their activities and plans and select the theme for 2006. The main rule of the Academy is no English - ever.

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



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
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 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. 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
April 8, 2006 (at Broad Run HS)	March 3, 2006	March 17, 2006
June 10, 2006	May 5, 2006	May 19, 2006

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 4	May 18 & 19
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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.

Summer Programs

The Guidance Department continues to receive information on various summer programs for high school students. Topics, costs and application procedures vary. Please see Mrs. Develli in the Career Center for more information.

In preparation for the May SOL testing window, the Mathematics Department kicked off an SOL Test Challenge. Each week, every student in Algebra I, Algebra I Part 2, Geometry, and Algebra II classes will take a five question test patterned after the SOL test. The test takes only 5-10 minutes of class time, and the results of each class are averaged. The Algebra I or Part 2, Geometry, and Algebra II class with the highest average for the week will be treated to ice cream from the cafeteria. It's a great review and a great motivator! Winners will be announced Friday afternoons.

The Mathematics Department sponsored the First Annual Design-A-Pin Contest in conjunction with Mathematics Education Month, which is April. Students were challenged to design a pin that depicted the importance of mathematics. Judging was difficult, as many pins were received with clever and witty sayings, showing students' knowledge and love of math. Judges Mr. Starzenski, Ms. Havener, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Grondin, and Mr. Peschken were able to narrow the field of entries to three winners, and seven runners-up. First place and a \$15 gift certificate went to Rachel Macasieb, Second Place and a \$10 gift certificate went to Angel Garcia, and Third Place and a \$5 gift certificate went to Kelsey Conroy. These three students will accompany Mrs. Jones, the Math Department Chair, to the April 4 Board of Education Meeting in Ashburn to present Dr. Hatrick, Superintendent of Schools, and Board of Education members with the top ten pins. They will be present when Dr. Hatrick proclaims April as Mathematics Education Month. Runners-up include: Niklas Abi-Najm, Veronica Butler, Kelsey Conroy, Laura Gillespie, Angela Kim, Lesley Luginbill, and Jenna Quist. Congratulations to all students to entered the contest!

If you pass by Room L402 on Wednesdays between 4:00 and 5:30 p.m., you might hear a strange language. Students are working on their polynomials and on balancing chemical equations. Mr. Larry Tolson of the Math Department sponsors the Math and Science Club. Students are encouraged to stop by for help with science and math through Algebra II.

Briar Woods High School celebrated National Pi Day with everyone having the opportunity to sample a piece of pie. Pies were donated by Harris Teeter and were served by members of the Mathematics Department, along with our honorary math teacher, Mr. Jeff Horvath. Mr. Starzenski, Mrs. Betty Thomas, Ms. Susan James, and Mrs. Janet Muller also lent a hand in serving over 500 slices of pie. National Pi Day, March 14 (3.14), celebrates Π , the relationship between the circumference and the diameter of a circle.

PTSO

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

Thank you very much to everyone who either volunteered their time or donated refreshments for the lock-in. The event was a success and the students really had a great time. Your generosity really contributed to making the lock-in as successful as it was.

I can't believe it's already spring. It seems like just last month we were just starting to organize our parent support groups for Briar Woods, now it's time again to think about our PTSO officers for next year. If you or anyone you know are interested in being on the nominating committee for next year's officers please contact Geri Powell at geri.powell@adelphia.net.

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

Geri Powell

We would like to give a special thanks to the members of the Lock-In Committee that worked so hard to plan and put on this event:

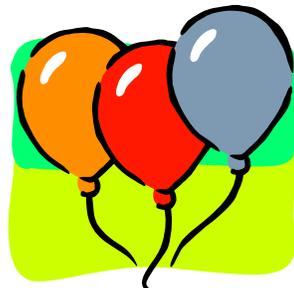
Shannon McClendon	Neluka Wigegunawardena
Neetu Dhillon	Vickie Landau
Heather Lagrosa	Josh Estrada
Carlos Reyes	Forrest Terral
Marian Kante	Jenifer Adams
Lindsey Novak	Taylor Jensen

A special thanks also to:

Mrs. Develli
Ms. Havener
Mr. Patterson

And to some of our parents:

Mrs. Powell
Mrs. Ciullo
Mrs. Mitchell



Follow the Yellow Brick Road

Briar Woods High School Drama Department is pleased to announce the spring musical, *The Wizard of Oz*. Come see the world-renowned epic tale of Dorothy and her friends as they journey through the magical Land of Oz. Performances will be in the Briar Woods Auditorium April 20-23 @ 7pm and April 24 @ 3pm. Ticket prices are Adults - \$6 and Kids under 13-\$3. If you have any questions, contact Marina Levi at Briar Woods High School.



Congratulations to the Falconaires Winterguard for placing first this past weekend in their contest in Alexandria. These ladies have finished up a season where they were undefeated in their class. This is outstanding for a first year Winterguard. They will compete once more in Orlando, Florida as they travel with the band in late April.



Congratulations to the Briar Woods Symphonic Winds on a great showing at their first Concert Band Festival. The band received an excellent rating on stage performance and a superior rating in sight reading performance. The band will now begin to prepare for their performance in Orlando, Florida, April 27th through 30th.



Key Club - The Key Club has been very busy for the last few weeks. Members helped the Hillside Elementary School with their fair as well as Eagle Ridge Middle School with their "Night at the Ridge" fair. Students worked at the booths and games and generally helped where it was needed. The club will be working on an "Adopt a Highway" program and "Support our Troops" campaign, collecting items for three soldiers stationed overseas. The club will also be holding a lollipop sale fundraiser from March 15 - 31. Help support the Briar Woods Key Club!

Congratulations to Stephen Law who was a finalist in the State DECA competitions in Norfolk, Virginia. Stephen will represent our school and our State at the national competitions in Dallas, Texas. Also, congratulations to Jason Smith, Max Rassman, Kyle Massengale and Patrick Ciullo who also competed at State competitions. The entire team represented Briar Woods High School well!

Congratulations to Julie Thill, Spanish Teacher, for being selected as the recipient of a grant from the Claude Moore teacher scholarship program. She will be honored by the School Board at its March 28th evening meeting.

Briar Woods High School
22525 Belmont Ridge Road
Ashburn, VA 20148

Administration

Mr. Starzenski	Principal
Michele Havener	Assistant Principal
Michael Byers	Assistant Principal
Joe Breinig	Athletic Director
Mark Patterson	Activity Coordinator

Main Office Staff

Mrs. Glikas	Secretary
Mrs. Cavanaugh	Secretary
Mrs. Altland	Secretary
Mrs. Smith	Bookkeeper
Ms. Culbert	Attendance Secretary

Main Office: 703-957-4400
Fax: 703-542-5923
Absentee Line: 703-957-4409