

# Burrows Brief



## Math Matters



Burrows Elementary School  
[http:// www.am.dodea.edu/ny\\_va/quantico/burrows/](http://www.am.dodea.edu/ny_va/quantico/burrows/)  
William D. Ramos, Ed.D, Principal  
703-640-6118

April 2007

*Responsibility* is the word of the month.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Apr	4 – 11	Spring Break - No School
Apr	17	Writers' Tea
Apr	23 – 29	National TV Turn Off Week
Apr	23 - 24	ScienceFest
Apr	24	ScienceFest/Math Night (5 – 7:00 PM)
Apr	25 - 26	Science Assessment (Grade 5)
May	2	Early Dismissal (1:00 PM) – Staff Development
May	8	Spring Musical Program (7:00 PM) Gym
May	18	Move-Up Day (Grades 3 and 4)
May	23	Reading Counts Celebration
May	28	Memorial Day Holiday

### PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

*Since 1986, the Secretary of Defense has set aside April as the “Month of the Military Child” to recognize and honor the youngest members of the military family, the children. Sometimes we forget about the many sacrifices and adjustments children make to accommodate their military lifestyle. Many civilians are unfamiliar with the unique nature and challenges of the military. The distinct history and traditions of the military; the dress, language, rank structure, and mobile lifestyle may seem foreign to those who have not experienced military service.*



*We take great pride in setting aside this month to recognize the contributions and personal sacrifices our children make for the military. In celebration, special events and activities are being planned across the nation during April. At Burrows, a variety of activities are being planned including special art work, writing, posters, goodies, and a few other surprises. Please join us in honoring our students this month, and feel free to visit us at Burrows for lunch and/or to volunteer. Together we make a difference!*

# Burrows' Bonanza



On behalf of the entire staff of Burrows ES, we want to extend our appreciation to you for supporting our first Burrows' Bonanza this year. The event would not have been possible without many long hours of hard work by many Burrows' parents. Many thanks to everyone who volunteered your time and energy to make the PEA Bonanza very successful BES event. Thanks especially to Mrs. Simpson, Mrs. Tooze, Mrs. Steele, Mrs. Stophel, and Mrs. Morris for their hard work. Thanks for a job well done!

## RE-REGISTRATION

The end of the school year is fast approaching. Time flies... It seems only yesterday that we had BES Open House for the students. However, the end of the school year means PCS season for many of our military families. If you are moving this summer, it will help us tremendously if you let us know at least one week in advance when your child's last day of school will be. Also, we will be sending a Re-registration form home on week of 23<sup>rd</sup> of April. Please make any changes necessary and return it to your child's teacher by May 4<sup>th</sup>. We thank you in advance and appreciate your cooperation in this matter.



**Nurse's Corner:** Spring is finally here and with it comes warm weather. We all love the sunshine, but that makes it doubly important for your children to stay hydrated. They should be eating breakfast and drinking plenty of fluids before coming to school in the morning. You get a large percentage of your fluid intake from the foods that you eat, which means that lunch is also important. One study, by the Journal of the American Dietetic Association, noted that twenty percent of fourth-grade students reported skipping breakfast and/or lunch at least three times per week. Your children are burning lots of calories during their day. They are running laps around the school, playing team sports, and just being kids. They need to eat their lunches, or they will "crash and burn" in class. You can help by talking to your children about what they are eating and drinking during the school day. Are they eating most, if not all, of their lunch? Are they drinking the drink that was packed in their lunch, or the milk that came with the cafeteria lunch? Something to keep in mind as you pack their lunch — Kids will often eat just the sweets and highly processed foods in their lunch, leaving behind healthier foods that will give them sustained energy throughout the day.

## National TV Turnoff Week

April 23 - April 29 is National TV Turnoff Week. We are encouraging all Burrows students to try the challenge of being TV free for one week. Those children who are successful and return their log, which will be given out in guidance classes, will be invited to an ice cream sundae party after lunch.



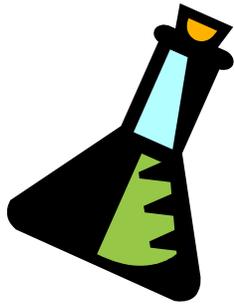
## Cafeteria News

*The last day for tickets sale:*

*20 day tickets - May 9<sup>th</sup>  
10 day tickets - May 23<sup>rd</sup>*

*We don't refund tickets, so please use all your tickets up before the last day of school.*



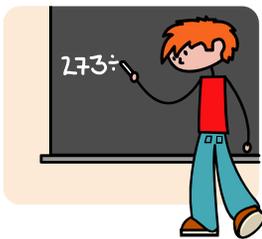


**ScienceFest 2007  
And  
Math Night  
April 24<sup>th</sup>  
5:00 PM-7:00 PM**



*Please come to Burrows Elementary on April 24<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-7:00 p.m. for a night of Math and Science. We are holding our first Math Night and our second annual ScienceFest for Burrow's students!*

*A ScienceFest is not a competition, but an opportunity to celebrate science. It is a time for students to learn by studying and doing, a time to learn to think like a scientist – and communicate their thinking. Students have selected, and are currently working on, an invention, experiment, or display.*



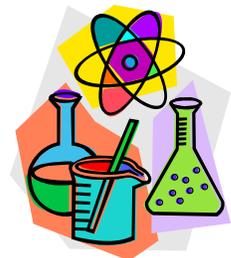
*Regardless of student selection, each project will have its own background that can stand up by itself on a table. **THESE BACKGROUNDS WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE PEA this year.***



*Bring your appetites! The PEA will provide hot dogs, snacks, and a drink at no cost to you as way to support this very important event for our students.*



**Students/parents may drop off projects from 3:00 to 5:30 on Friday, the 20<sup>th</sup> of April. Parent Night is on 24 April 2007 from 5:00-7:00 p.m.**



## **School Improvement Corner**

### What is School Improvement?

***DoDEA is proud of the fact that all of our schools have systems and structures in place that promote continuous program improvement. Our school staff and community members work together to evaluate student learning, instructional techniques, school climate, and many other areas that have an impact on your child's education. The school then enlists a third party agency to visit and evaluate the school and its use of the school improvement process. These agencies grant an accreditation status to the school while providing valuable recommendations, observations, and outside perspective.***

### **How is Burrows Improving?**

Our official visit took place last year. We received some very high marks from the team for the plan we have in place to address our school's current goal: ***All students will improve written communication skills across the curriculum.*** How does a school go about meeting a goal like this? We started with research and discovered two instructional methods/practices that tend improve writing abilities in school age children; adopting and following a universal, five step writing process, and a writing model called "6+1 Traits." Teachers at Burrows have been trained on these practices and continue to reinforce this model in the classroom.

### A Two Pronged Approach

We are using two methods to check student progress. The first method involves giving the students a quarterly writing prompt, or story starter, which we collect and evaluate as a staff. The writing is judged using the same criteria we encourage and use in the 6+1 Trait writing model. The data is compiled and we modify our writing instruction based on these results.

Our second method involves students practicing editing skills daily during their language arts class. These daily activities reinforce the basic rules of writing and help students learn to write grammatically correct sentences. Once per month students complete an editing activity by correcting a paragraph with several mistakes. These editing samples are evaluated, and the data collected helps us determine what we need to focus instruction on from month to month.

These activities can be challenging and we think you will be very pleased to know that your children are rising to the challenges. We continue to see writing improvement in the students each month. The efforts exerted, habits learned, and skills achieved will show us further growth in the years to come.

***Chad Ankersen***  
***School Improvement Chairperson***

# 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE NEWS

## Science

**S6 Life Science:** Students are learning about adaptations found in both plants and animals. We will finish Chapter 3 prior to spring break. Recent activities include surveying inherited traits and the “waste water” presentation from the base environmental office. Our 4<sup>th</sup> quarter project is participation in the school wide Sciencefest. Display boards along with ideas and instructions will be sent home prior to spring break. Projects are due April 20. Parents will be able to view projects the evening of April 24. All students are expected to follow their Sciencefest Timeline. Students have placed additional Sciencefest information in their binder’s science folder.

## Language Arts

**E4 Conventions, Grammar, and Usage of the English Language:** All writing is taught using the 6 + 1 Trait Writing Model. Current emphasis is on short stories and memoirs. The teaching of writing conventions is ongoing.

**E5 Literature:** The fourth quarter focus is on having students make, confirm and revise predictions, identify theme, and complete word analogies. \*Please remember that all students must read at least 25 books prior to June!!!

## Social Studies

**SS6c:** The students will be able to identify how reform movement affects existing values to all members of society through institutions and practices.

We are approaching Chapter 11 which is focused on the colonists rebelling in North America and moving towards independence from Great Britain. The students began to understand why the colonists were angry with the British and King George III. This brings us to the American Revolution. Students will create a timeline to compare the date the Declaration was signed with the date the British finally surrendered. The timeline must start with 1774 and end with 1782.

Using the 6 + 1 Trait Writing, the students will write a newspaper article to describe one of the major battles of the war.



## Math

Fifth graders applied their understanding of geometry concepts, as well as creativity, in their math projects. As we finish our unit on geometry, students will be exploring spatial visualization. We will visualize and draw two-dimensional views of three-dimensional objects made from rectangular solids and compare and analyze their attributes. Students will learn to identify faces, edges, vertices and bases of three-dimensional shapes. In addition, they will develop strategies to determine the surface areas and volumes of rectangular solids.

## Grade Level Notes

April 4th  
April 16<sup>th</sup>  
April 20<sup>th</sup>  
April 24<sup>th</sup>

Spring Break Starts  
Nonfiction Book Reports (Lange)  
Sciencefest Projects Due  
ScienceFest/Math Night (5-7PM)

# 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE NEWS

## *Science*

Spring is here and I can not imagine a better time to explore the living world around us. During this last quarter, your child will develop an understanding of the functions and structures of living things such as plants and animals. We will compare and contrast different types of plants and explore the many ways animals and plants rely on each other in various ecosystems.

REMINDER: Science Fest is on April 24th.

## *Language Arts*

*Congratulations to the many fourth grade students who earned an invitation to the latest Reading Counts party! A big Thank You to our wonderful PEA for making these events so special! Most of the students have completed the required 25 books for the year. If your son or daughter has not, they may need your assistance with this. Keep reading! Your teachers are very proud of you! Students will share their writing at the upcoming writers' celebration on April 17<sup>th</sup>.*

## *Social Studies*

*In Social Studies, we have completed the unit on the Middle West region and are beginning our final region, the West. We will study the geography, history, economy, and culture of Washington, California, Oregon, Hawaii, and the other western states. The students will also complete a special individual project about the states.*

*This is always a busy time of year. I think we are all ready for Spring Break! ☺*

## *Math*

*Math students completed their study of elapsed time and are now busy with multiplication. They are creating arrays of all the facts from one through twelve. Look for our large, colorful posters of these arrays soon. They will be studying these arrays and looking for patterns, factors, multiples, square numbers, and prime numbers. Students are also working on invented strategies for multiplication. Most students did well on their fact test, but a few still need to study their multiplication facts.*

## *Grade Level Notes*

### *Upcoming Events:*

- ❖ *Spring Break.....April 4th-April 11th*
- ❖ *Writers' Celebration....April 17<sup>th</sup>*
- ❖ *Science Fest.....April 24th*

# BURROWSBURROWS ART NEWS

**FOURTH GRADE**  
Fourth Quarter - Spring 2007



*Welcome Spring! We have some exciting activities for the fourth quarter in art! We will be exploring many artistic concepts and techniques including artistic style, pottery, and weaving.*

*Our new art vocabulary words include variety, unity, balance, loom, warp, weft, and artistic styles. How many of these do you already know? We will continue to learn about the elements of art (particularly form and texture) and the principles of design (with emphasis on variety, unity, and balance) and how to use them in our own art work.*

*Don't forget to bring an old shirt or smock to cover up your clothes on days we use paint or clay.*

*The art room rules are:*

- 1. Participate with enthusiasm.*
- 2. Show respect for everyone and everything.*
- 3. Follow directions.*

*The following are the DoDEA Standards we will be covering this quarter:*

*Demonstrates understanding and can apply media, techniques, and processes.*

*Demonstrates knowledge of structures and functions.*

*Chooses and evaluates a range of subject matter, symbols, and ideas.*

*Demonstrates understanding of the visual arts in relation to history and culture.*

*Reflects upon and assesses the characteristics and merits of their work and the work of others.*

*Makes connections between the visual arts and the other disciplines.*

*Wishing you continued success in the fourth grade!*

*Sincerely,*

*Peg Waters, Art Teacher*



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY

**PRESS RELEASE**

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 15, 2007

**Contact: DoDEA Communications Office**

**Frank X. O’Gara or Elaine Kanellis**

**Voice: (703) 588-3260/3265**

**Email: [Frank.Ogara@hq.dodea.edu](mailto:Frank.Ogara@hq.dodea.edu)**

**[Elaine.Kanellis@hq.dodea.edu](mailto:Elaine.Kanellis@hq.dodea.edu)**

**DODEA PARENTS, STUDENTS AND TEACHERS GIVE HIGH RATINGS TO SCHOOLS**

**2006-2007 Customer Satisfaction Survey Results Released**

**ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA – The Department of Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) announced today the results of its 2006-2007 Customer Satisfaction Survey (CSS).**

**The survey, administered every other year to parents, students in grades 4 -12 and teachers, provides DoDEA with valuable information about the quality of education it provides and areas needing improvement. More than 63,000 people responded to the survey from November 1, 2006 through February 28, 2007.**

**Total overall response rates for the 2006-2007 CSS were 40% higher than when the survey was last administered in 2004-2005. Teachers account for the most significant rise in response rates, with 93% of DoDEA teachers responding to the current survey as opposed to a 58% response rate during the last survey administration. A similar increase occurred in the student population, with nearly 75% of DoDEA students in grades 4 through 12 responding to the 2006-2007 survey as opposed to 53% in 2004-2005.**

**“We are extremely pleased with the increased response rate across the respondent categories,” said Dr. Janet Rope, DoDEA’s Administrator, System Accountability and Research. “The high response rate will provide our schools with valuable information about their programs and will be critical to us in improving the quality of education we provide to students of Department of Defense families.”**

**Questions posed in the survey related to school issues such as curriculum, instruction, standards, assessment, technology, partnerships and student support. They were developed through a review process of various groups, including Department of Defense Dependent Schools (DoDDS) and Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools (DDESS) teachers’ unions, DoDEA Teachers of the year, superintendents, principals, students and DoDEA Headquarters Education Directorate staff members. Some questions were adapted from the Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public’s Attitudes Toward the Public Schools with additional DoDEA-specific questions. The survey was available to respondents online and where internet access was not available, electronic versions of the surveys were available for printing and submission.**

**Selected survey questions were rated on a “letter grade” scale, with “A” being the highest rating on the scale and “Fail” being the lowest rating on the scale.**

***In general, 74% of DoDEA parents rated their schools quite favorably, compared to the 2006 Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll (2006 PDK/Gallup) in which 56% of parents responded in a similar fashion. DoDEA parents rated public schools in general more favorably than parents who responded to the (2006 PDK/Gallup).***

***Two of DoDEA's main goals outlined in its 2006-2011 Community Strategic Plan (CSP) are for all students to meet or exceed challenging standards as well as form stronger partnerships between parents, the schools and communities. In this regard, 75% of DoDEA parents gave the school system an "A" or "B" rating in meeting or exceeding challenging standards while 68% of DoDEA parents felt partnerships are strong.***

***DoDEA faces unique circumstances that many of its counterparts in civilian communities do not face. One of these circumstances is the transitory nature of its population, with many students transitioning between schools every two to three years due to the mobility of their military sponsors. Parents, teachers and students rated DoDEA schools high on their ability to welcome new students into the schools, with 70-80% of responses falling into the favorable rating continuum.***

***Student achievement and achievement testing are topics on the minds of parents, students and teachers everywhere, and DoDEA is no exception. In the 2006 PDK/Gallup survey, 37% of parents reported there was about the right amount of achievement testing in their school. In response to a similar question, 59% of DoDEA parents felt there was about the right amount of testing in DoDEA schools. DoDEA teachers were split on whether there is too much emphasis (42%) or about the right amount of emphasis (50%) on achievement testing in DoDEA schools.***

***The survey indicated a need for improvement in the area of high school counseling services. Only 58% of students in grades 9-12 gave their high school counseling services an "A" or "B." Parent response was exactly the same for this area, with 58% rating high school counseling services with an "A" or "B."***

***Survey results will help DoDEA plan for the future. In the opinion of respondents, DoDEA should continue to focus on capital and fixed resources, continue to attract high quality educators and continue the high level of parental involvement in its schools.***

***A complete wrap-up of the CSS results is available on the DoDEA website, [www.dodea.edu](http://www.dodea.edu). DoDEA will use the information derived from the surveys to improve planning efforts at all levels throughout the organization. Schools, districts and areas will use the survey results to gain insight into the satisfaction levels of sponsors and students, which is one of many measures used for planning future student programs and services. Results will also be used to monitor the DoDEA CSP, which contains DoDEA's strategic direction for the years 2006-2011.***

***DoDEA plans, directs, coordinates, and manages the education programs for Department of Defense (DoD) dependents who would otherwise not have access to a high-quality public education. DoDEA consists of the Department of Defense Dependents Schools (DoDDS) located overseas, and the Department of Defense Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools (DDESS) located in the United States and its territories and possessions. DoDEA provides education to eligible DoD military and civilian dependents from prekindergarten through grade 12.***

***DoDEA will administer the next CSS beginning in November 2008.***