

# Baileywick Bylines

November 23, 2009 volume 1 number 13



## Important Dates

**Nov. 25-29:**

Thanksgiving  
Break

**Nov. 30:** School  
Store

**Dec. 1:** PTA Meeting, 9:30 cafeteria

**Dec. 2nd:** Early Wed., 1:15 dismissal

**Dec. 3:** Family Night Out, Chili's  
Brier Creek, 5-8 pm.

**Dec. 3-5:** Barnes & Noble Book Fair

**Dec. 7:** School Store

**Dec. 9:** Safety Patrol Ice Skating Party,  
Brier Creek, 5-8 pm

**Dec. 11:** Spirit Day

**Dec. 11:** Fitness Awards Assemblies:

12:30 (1st grade)

1:10-1:50 (2nd & 3rd)

2-2:40 (4th & 5th)



## Baileywick Implements 115 Actions to Meet our School Improvement Goals

Kathy Hartenstine, Principal

School improvement planning is at the heart of a thriving educational community. Baileywick teachers have been diligently working to implement action steps to meet our goals and key processes. Monthly, our leadership team meets to report our progress and to align our efforts as we focus on our five school improvement goals. Beckie Johnson is serving as the parent representative on our School Improvement Plan (SIP) committee.

Our five goals are:

- By 2011, 88% or more of K-5 students will be proficient in reading and math and 70% of the subgroups in Grades 3-5 will show high growth on the NC EOG Tests.
- By 2011, 80% or more of K-5 students will be proficient in writing as measured by K-5 assessments and the NC DPI criteria for writing.
- By 2011, 90% of the students, staff, and parents surveyed will agree that Baileywick is a safe, caring community as measured by the WCPSS annual survey of teachers, parents, and students.
- During 2009-2011, Baileywick Elementary will increase Hispanic family participation at meetings and workshops by 20% as measured by sign-in data gathered at various event sites.
- By 2011, 85% of the staff surveyed will agree that overall Baileywick Elementary is a good place to teach and learn as measured by the Teacher Working Conditions survey.

In order to reach our goals, we must all work together to ensure that increased learning and research-based teaching strategies for all students is our target. We have established three major committees to handle all the work: Academic Committee (focused on Reading, Writing, and Math), Safe and Caring Community Committee, and the School Climate and Culture Committee. Every staff member serves on a committee and 19 staff members have taken on major leadership roles within these committees. I am very proud to tell our Baileywick families that we have implemented 115 actions to support and monitor our progress towards meeting our goals.

If you would like to attend any of our SIP meetings or have suggestions for actions we could take to reach our goals, please contact our SIP Chair, Carol Chalk, at [cchalk@wcpss.net](mailto:cchalk@wcpss.net). You will find our entire SIP plan posted on our Baileywick website.

## 5th Grade T-shirt

By Jennifer Scott

THANK YOU to all the 5th graders that submitted a design for our 5th grade t-shirt contest. There were many amazing designs to choose from! We took a little from three designs for the final t-shirt logo. Those designs were submitted by: Eleanor Bothwell, Tracy Taylor, and Emily Vandersip. You will get to see the FINAL result in a couple of weeks on the t-shirt Order form. The T-shirts will be \$10 and are wonderful mementos for your student's year(s) at Baileywick! Order forms will be going home in a couple of weeks.

**Responsibility Respect Courage Kindness Self-Discipline  
Integrity Perseverance Good Judgment**

## **A Different Perspective on the Importance of Play**

Dee Bostick, Counselor

Organizing play for children seems to be so much work. But researchers Adele Diamond and Deborah Leong state that the best kind of play costs nothing and really only has one main requirement—imagination. There are some kinds of play that are more beneficial for children than others. Creative play helps children develop self-regulation, which is a critical skill for life. Unfortunately, most children today spend a lot of time doing three things: watching T.V., playing video games, and taking lessons. None of these activities promote self-regulation the way creative play does.

Howard Chudacoff, a cultural historian at Brown University, says that play took a dramatic change in the second half of the 20th century. Instead of spending their time in autonomous make-believe, children were supplied with specific toys for play, which has predetermined scripts. For example, instead of playing pirates in a tree house a child began playing Star Wars with a toy light saber. According to Chudacoff, this takes away the child's opportunity to think creatively.

Since the way children spend their time has changed, some psychologists believe that these changes in what children do has also changed their cognitive and emotional development. Such a change in what children do seems to have negatively affected their ability to self-regulate and therefore many children have more trouble controlling their emotions, behavior, resist impulses, and exert self-control and discipline.

Poor self-regulation is associated with high dropout rates, drug use and crime. Children who are able to manage their feelings and pay attention are better able to learn according to researcher Laura Berk. She also says that make-believe is such a powerful tool for building self-discipline because during make believe, children engage in what is called private speech. They talk to themselves about what they are going to do and how they will do it. Such self-talk fosters concentration on the task at hand, encourages effort, develops problem solving, and insures task success.

Unfortunately, the more structured the play, the more children's self talk declines. Because children's play may be focused on lessons and leagues and because many toys are stereotyped, children do not get many opportunities to practice policing themselves. When they have that opportunity, says Berk, the results are clear: Self-regulation improves.

So what are some ways to foster creative play:

1. Don't fill a child's schedule with structured activities. Allow for regular unstructured playtime. Sustained play that last for hours is best, according to Elena Bodrova, senior researcher with Mid-Continent Research.
2. Joint storybook reading because many books are filled with characters that model effective self-regulation strategies. An example is *THE LITTLE ENGINE THAT COULD* by Piper.
3. Role model spontaneously talking to yourself to monitor your choices. Children often use self-guiding comments recently picked up from their interactions with adults, signaling they are beginning to apply strategies without being told to.

In conclusion it seems that in the rush to give children every advantage—to protect them, to stimulate them, to enrich them—our culture may have compromised one of the activities that helps children most: time for free, creative play. What a simple gift to give to our children! Over the Thanksgiving Holiday, encourage your children to PLAY!

If you want more information on promoting creative play or using play therapy techniques with your children, please contact me at 518-0078 or email me at [abostick@wcpss.net](mailto:abostick@wcpss.net).

**Counselor Tip:** Don't try to talk your child out of his or her feelings. Try to understand them.

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## Help Wanted - Art Room

Ms. Bailey

I'm looking for someone-maybe a dad-to cut holes in donated tennis balls, which will be used to cover the feet of the stools in the art room. The scrape of the stools along the floor is very disruptive, and the tennis ball solution has worked well in other classrooms as a sound buffer! If you can help, please contact me at lbailey@wcpss.net. Thank you!

## Movie Night

Amy Wilson, PTA President

Movie Night on the 13th was a huge success! Our feature film was "Up" and we had over 150 parents, teachers and students munching popcorn and enjoying the film. We'll do it again in the spring. Hope to see you then!

## Cheesecake Orders

Amy Wilson, PTA President

Cheesecake Factory Cheesecake order forms went home last week. This is a great deal! You can buy a 10" cheesecake for \$35.79 and pick it up at the in store café on Dec. 3, 4, or 5. Choose from Original, Pumpkin, Godiva Chocolate, or Carrot Cheesecake.

Baileywick's PTA will also benefit from your purchase. Order forms need to be returned by Monday, Nov. 30th. You pay for your cheesecakes at pickup.

## News from Coach Norkus:

Many thanks to all the parents who helped with physical education fitness testing this fall. I would especially like to thank Ann Willard for all the time she spent organizing volunteers and recording fitness data. Your child will be bringing home his/her fitness scores in the near future. Look for them in the Monday folder. There will be a Physical Education Fitness Assembly on December 11th to celebrate the Presidential and National levels achieved from the fitness testing. If your child is earning an award you will receive notification of this achievement by letter.

Becky Norkus, Physical Education Specialist

National Board Certified Teacher

Baileywick Elementary School

bnorkus@wcpss.net

Stay Fit for Life!

## Early Dismissal Activity - Dec. 2nd

Jill Keller

For our early dismissal on Dec. 2nd, the Cultural Arts Committee has scheduled an outing to Cathy's Paint Your Own at 2 pm, located at 8111 Creedmoor Rd., near Brig's restaurant. For \$3, you can paint holiday ornaments or for \$5, you can choose a larger project like a piggy bank or a picture frame. Come out and do some art!



## What's For Lunch?

Mon. 11/23: Stuffed crust pizza, Mac & cheese w/roll, seasoned peas, 100% fruit juice, glazed carrots, fresh fruit.

Tues., 11/24: Vegetarian Hot Pocket w/marinara, Hamburger on bun, chilled pineapple, steamed broccoli, corn on the cob, fresh fruit.

Mon. 11/30: Cheese Pizza, Manager's Choice, seasoned peas & carrots, chilled mixed fruit, seasoned green beans, and fresh fruit.

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