



from the Principal's Desk

We are off to an excellent start to the 2012-2013 school year. As the new principal of Ward, I have been very impressed with how well mannered and friendly the students are. In addition, the quality and dedication of our staff is exceptional. The school facility and resources are also outstanding. Although we have just started, teachers have wasted no time in teaching the curriculum and the students have responded with hard work and effort.



I encourage you to be active partners with us. Please consider joining the PTA, volunteering, and attending school related functions. We also ask for your help with monitoring your child's homework and nightly reading. Your support does make a difference in the lives of your children as well as the overall success of our school.

Please contact me if I can be of any assistance. I look forward to working with you this year.

Bryan Almasian
 Principal

from the PTA President

Dear Parents,

On Behalf of Ward PTA, I would like to thank everyone that came out to share our awesome Back to School night and first PTA meeting. The energy from everyone was electrifying.

The summer has come to a close. The leaves are beginning to change and you can feel fall in the air. Our PTA is working hard to continue building a strong partnership with teachers, principal, members and the community. We have so many ideas that we would like to accomplish this year. We can only accomplish this goal with your input. We invite you to join our PTA meetings and offer your input.

We have established a website to better communicate with everyone in these busy times. Please visit our website and join us on Facebook to stay connected with all the great happenings. Feel free to email me WardPTApres@gmail.com or anyone on our board with your great ideas.

I hope to see everyone at the next meeting

With Warm Regards,

Kim Dunning
 President, Ward PTA



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Art Room News



Welcome to Ms. Miri Yim, VCU student teacher. Ms. Yim will be at Ward Elementary through October 12th. She will work with all of the students at Ward. Be looking for some wonderful artwork on Artsonia!

I also want to encourage all parents to turn in your student's art release form (salmon in color). All Ward Students are Artists! We display artwork in the halls of our school as well as outside the building. We are signed up to have displays at the Varina Library in January and April. I also have been using an on line gallery called Artsonia for about 5 years. Only students who have parent permission will have work displayed outside the building.

On the art release form you have the opportunity to supply me with an email address. I then enter these into the information for your child on Artsonia. You will get an email asking you to complete the registration as a parent. Then every time I put new artwork on line for your young artist you get an email with a link so you can go right to Artsonia to see it. You can share this link with family and friends. These folks can become fans of your young artist and leave comments for them to read. You must approve the fans and comments before they can be seen by anyone. You must be a registered parent to approve comments and fans and receive the emails when I put new work up. If you do not have an email and would like assistance in setting up a free account, please come by and see me in the art room. I would be happy to help you.

Finally, I would love to share the happy news that the Ward Elementary Art Program has received a grant from the Henrico Education Foundation. I wrote the grant to request money to purchase digital drawing tablets. HEF gave the school \$2500 to purchase 35 tablets. They have arrived and students in 5th grade will soon be using them. All students in all grades will receive training on how to use them. This digital tool is a simple version of what artists in many art fields are using to create their work,



like advertising, design work, and animation. Thank you to HEF for the grant, now students are using 21st century tools in the art room!

Artfully yours, Mrs. Hyatt



September

- 9 – Zynora Manson
- 10 – Charlene Saferight
- 10 – Jan Chandler
- 13 – Erin Riffe

October

- 13 – Bobbie Lou Long
- 17 – Pete Phillips
- 18 – Anna Korman
- 19 – Therese Silberman
- 22 – Maripat Hyatt
- 25 – Phaedra Crisman

Meet Your 2012—2103 PTA Board Members



President	Kim Dunning	WardPTApres@gmail.com
VP Fundraiser	Lori Hudgins	WardPTAvpf@gmail.com
Secretary	Mary Estes	WardPTAsecretary@gmail.com
Membership	Donna Lanno	WardPTAvpm@gmail.com
Treasurer	Lynn McClure	WardPTAtreasurer@gmail.com

"You can never
be overdressed
or overeducated."
— Oscar Wilde

New Epipen Policy

Beginning with the 2012-13 school year, all public schools in Virginia are required to stock epinephrine injectors in every school in case a student has a life-threatening allergic reaction. This medication is only available during the regularly scheduled school day, on school grounds, and must be administered by trained personnel. At least two staff members at every school are trained to administer the emergency medication in the event of a life-threatening allergic reaction.

Parents, if your child has been diagnosed with a life-threatening allergy or any health condition that may require school staff action, please notify your school nurse as soon as possible. As usual, parents are expected to provide their child's Epipen or other prescribed medication to the school annually, along with physician signed health information and forms.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and we wish you and your family a safe and healthy school year.

Halloween Giggles

What do you get when you divide the circumference of a jack-o-lantern by its diameter?

Pumpkin Pi.

How do you mend a broken Jack-o-lantern?

With a pumpkin patch.

When does a skeleton laugh?

When something tickles his funny bone.



**HAPPY
HALLOWEEN!**

Meet Your School Counselor

Welcome to the 2012-2013 school year!
I am Mrs. Rice, Ward Elementary School's Counselor.



IMPORTANT DATES:

10/8 - Student Holiday

10/18 - PTA Meeting
(1st Grade Performs!

They will be singing songs about community and citizenship. Please join us for the first student performance of the year!)

10/26 - Fall Picture Day

10/30 - Career & College Night at Glen Allen High School from 6:30-7:30 pm

10/31 - Halloween

What does a school counselor do?

I promote the academic, personal/social, and career growth of all students. My focus is to create the most efficient learning environment and teach students 21st Century skills: problem-solving, communication, and decision making.

Services Offered:

Individual Counseling- Individual counseling provides students with the opportunity to express their feelings and concerns in a confidential setting.

Small Group Counseling- Group counseling allows students to come together to work through an issue that is preventing them from doing their best at school. They have the opportunity to interact and connect with peers, practice new skills, and provide and receive feedback. Group topics may include: friendship, anger management, self-esteem, anxiety, changing families/divorce, and study skills. If your student needs assistance with any of these things please contact me so I can help them join group.

Classroom Guidance- I will visit each classroom about seven times throughout the year to conduct whole class lessons. The goal of classroom lessons is to address developmental issues common to all students.

Additional Services:

Consultation- I am available to meet with parents and teachers to discuss issues that might be interfering with student academic, emotional, or social success.

School Test Coordinator- I am responsible for the administration of annual state and county mandated assessments.

Child Study/Eligibility- I serve on the Child Study Committee and I am the Eligibility chairperson.

I am looking forward to helping students enjoy a successful school year!

Contact Information: 795-7030 or
larice@henrico.k12.va.us

You can also visit my website at:
<http://blogs.henrico.k12.va.us/layates/>



PTA Membership

Questions about the newsletter?
Please e-mail us at WardnewsPTA@gmail.com

Why join PTA?

Get Connected – there’s no better way to know what’s happening in your school.

Tap into a Network – PTA functions are opportunities to meet other parents and teacher, build a rapport and discuss issues that are on your mind. You can share ideas, concerns and experiences.

Watch Yourself Grow – By volunteering with your PTA, you put your skills and hobbies to use for a noble cause and your child.

Be a Role Model – By becoming a PTA member, you’ll be demonstrating to your child that importance you place on education.

Involved parents lead to successful schools. Become involved and join the Parent Teacher Association. PTA is a voice at school board meetings and in your community for quality education. Please show your support and join the PTA today. Memberships are available on an individual basis for **\$5.00 per person**.



DID YOU KNOW?

These are some examples of events/support made possible because of the behind the scene efforts of the PTA. We want you to know everything that the PTA does, so that you understand why it is so important to become involved with this program.

- Field Day
- 5th grade Legacy Tiles
- Grandparents Day
- Yearbooks
- Promethean Board
- A/R Program
- Teacher Appreciation
- Scholarships

“There is a brilliant child locked inside every student.”
- Marva Collins

Fundraising Info - Great American Opportunities

Monday, September 17th 1:00 PM - Kickoff Assembly
Tuesday, October 2nd - End Date
Monday, November 5th - Delivery Date

Parents will be notified of exact pick up details closer to the delivery date.

Collect orders using the fundraising packet your child received or go to www.gaschoolstore.com to order online. E-mail or Facebook the link to your family & friends for help in our fundraiser!



Box Tops for Education

Box Tops are an easy way to raise money for our schools!

Our school participates in the Box Tops for Education Program. This program is an easy way for our school to raise money. Simply cut the box top logo off of participating products and send them in to school. We also have a box in the office.



This year the PTA will again offer a scholarship to 3 selected students. Applicants must be graduating seniors who attended Ward Elementary school and have applied for post secondary higher education or training. The scholarship application will be available prior to Winter break at all Henrico county high schools and at Ward Elementary school.

If you know a Ward Alumni graduating this year please encourage them to apply.

If you have any questions please contact E'Beth Watts (lambertwatts@comcast.net).



Halloween Treats



N	U	O	I	N	T	A	R	I	N
E	O	T	G	C	A	Z	A	R	E
B	O	S	U	S	W	E	E	T	S
A	P	U	M	P	K	I	N	I	S
D	T	R	E	A	T	S	N	R	M
E	E	C	C	E	R	Y	F	O	I
B	N	P	A	O	I	K	O	Y	R
R	U	F	N	I	C	J	I	Y	N
C	D	L	D	L	K	L	I	E	E
W	A	T	Y	U	M	G	A	T	A

Find the following hidden words:

- candy
- cupcake
- pumpkin
- sweets
- treat
- trick
- yum
- gum
- boo



tricia-rennea© 2008

What's GOING ON in the Library?

Wow! I just love when the students come back to school! I see many, many familiar faces with lots of new faces, too! Here's some information to help you out during the school year.

General Library Information

- Students are allowed to loan a book for one week at a time
- Books may be renewed one week at a time
- Students will receive notices for lost, damaged, or overdue books
- There are fines for overdue books.
- If a book is lost or damaged beyond repair, the following replacement costs will be billed to the student's account – Hardcover book, \$16; Paperback book, \$5
- Once a student receives a bill, he may not check out any more books until the book is returned in good condition or is paid for

No one likes to get a bill for a book, so please help your child show proper book care by

- Helping them find a safe place at home to keep their books
- Reminding them to have clean hands when looking at their books
- Turn the pages carefully
- Avoiding having food or drinks while reading
- Encouraging them to return their books on time

Ward's Library is GREAT! Our goal is to empower students and staff to become critical thinkers, enthusiastic readers, skillful researchers, and ethical users of information.

Grades K-2 will follow a FIXED schedule – scheduled weekly 30 minute sessions with storytime, skills lessons, activities, and checkout.

Grades 3-5 will follow the FLEXIBLE schedule – classes or small groups are scheduled for instructional time in the library as instructional goals are identified. Students in grades 3-5 will be taught to use the online catalog. This skill is necessary to search for titles, subjects, and/or authors of material in our library. Since our library's holdings may be searched using the Internet, patrons have the capability to access Ward's library catalog from home: <http://hcps.sirsi.net/>

Individuals and small groups may independently use the library as often as necessary. All students are permitted to use the library to do research, complete assignments, browse, listen to or view AV materials, and to share books, book reports, etc., as their needs dictate.

Open Access

All students may check out and return books every day 7:30 a.m.-2:10 p.m.

If you have questions, please contact me, Andrea Velle 795-7030 or email acvelle@henrico.k12.va.us





There are many ways to stay connected with your PTA this school year.

- Follow our blog to keep informed with the latest Ward PTA updates!
- From the blog, click on the Newsletter tab and sign up to receive our PTA monthly newsletter via e-mail!
- Facebook fans can also follow our *Henry Ward Elementary PTA* Facebook group.

Ward Parents if you would like to submit pictures for the 2012-2013 Yearbook, please e-mail them to Diane Barnes at keenanbarnes@comcast.net

We're on the web!
<http://henrywardpta.wordpress.com/>

Trouble-Free Trick-or-Treating

- Accompany young children (under age 10) on their rounds. But make sure they know their home phone number, the cell phone numbers of parents and any other trusted adult who's supervising, and how to call 911 in case they get lost.
- For older kids who are trick-or-treating on their own, make sure you approve of the route they'll be taking and know when they'll be coming home. Also be sure that they:
 - *carry a cell phone, if possible*
 - *go in a group and stay together*
 - *only go to houses with porch lights on and walk on sidewalks on lit streets (never walk through alleys or across lawns)*
 - *know to never go into strangers' homes or cars*
 - *cross the street at crosswalks and never assume that vehicles will stop*
- Give kids flashlights with new batteries.
- Limit trick-or-treating to your neighborhood and the homes of people you and your children know.
- When your kids get home, check all treats to make sure they're safely sealed and there are no signs of tampering, such as small pinholes, loose or torn packages, and packages that appear to have been taped or glued back together. Throw out loose candy, spoiled items, and any home-made treats that haven't been made by someone you know.
- Don't allow young children to have hard candy or gum that could cause choking.
- Make sure trick-or-treaters will be safe when visiting your home, too. Remove lawn decorations, sprinklers, toys, bicycles, wet leaves, or anything that might obstruct your walkway. Provide a well-lit outside entrance to your home. Keep family pets away from trick-or-treaters, even if they seem harmless to you.

(resource: http://kidshealth.org/parent/firstaid_safe/home/halloween.html#)

