



from the Principal's Desk

Ask the Principal:

Q: What happened to Mrs. Heath and Ms. Romers?

A: Mrs. Heath is now the Resource Teacher at Highland Springs and Ms. Romers is a Title I Reading Specialist at Laburnum Elementary School.

Q: Are there new 4th Grade Teachers?

A: Yes. We have two. Mr. Ernst comes to us from Sandston and Ms. Bower taught in Virginia Beach last year.

Q: How many Pre K classes does Ward have?

A: We have two this year.

Q: Who is Mrs. Roper?

A: Mrs. Roper is our Associate Principal. She comes to us from Hanover County where she was an Assistant Principal.

Q: Does Ward have a Family Advocate?

A: Yes, her name is Ellen Vaughan.

Q: Is it too late to join the PTA?

A: It's never too late. Please join.

Q: How many fire drills does a school have to do?

A: We are required to do one a week the first month of school and then one a month for the rest of the year.

Bryan Almasian - Principal

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from the PTA President

Happy Fall Everyone from your PTA!

My name is Sue Reynolds, President of Ward Elementary PTA this year. I had the pleasure to meet a lot of you at the Open House and Back to School Night. I hope you and all of your children have gotten off to a great start this school year. It seems to have crept up on a lot of us way too fast!

I just wanted to let you know that you have an AMAZING group of folks working behind the scenes planning all kinds of wonderful events for the kids as well as the staff. This is my 7th year with Ward and I really love this school. All of us on the PTA want only the best for our school, kids and teachers. Stay tuned for more announcements! So far things have started off with a bang with our Fall Fundraiser. Everyone enjoy the cool weather and we will see you soon. Don't forget October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month! Wear your pink!

Thank you,
Your Ward Elementary PTA!





**Welcome Parents, Teachers, Students and Administrators
to the 2013-2014 PTA School Year!!!**

I am so excited about all of the many possibilities that this school year and PTA membership year has in store for us! As this year's membership chairperson, I have been charged to increase OUR school's PTA membership which will enable OUR school to be recognized on a **STATE** level!! Therefore, our membership drive has begun and together WE will create the best school year possible. The membership dues are **\$5 per** member. We have lots of new ideas in store this year and your participation is greatly needed. Please accept this invitation to join the Ward PTA!!

Why should I become a member of the PTA? The most important reason is to support your child, their education and the total school experience. In addition to that, you're also supporting the local state and national PTA and the legislation they do on behalf of children and families.

Who should join the PTA? Both parents and extended family are strongly encouraged to join. Show even more support by asking a grandparent, relative, friends, neighbor or employer to join.

What is the membership money used for? Your PTA dues pay for a portion of the A/R reading program, the 4-Ward Program, classroom supplies, Promethean boards just to name a few. Parts of the monies go to the National and State PTA to be sure our voices are heard in legislation on issues such as kids and education, drugs and violence.

Do I have to attend meeting or take time off to volunteer? No! Although you are warmly invited to all PTA General Meetings, we understand that you are busy. Joining simply means your believe in and support the PTA's goals and voice.

Also, your PTA membership card enables you many exclusive benefits. Follow the instructions next to your card to get discounts at MetLife Auto & Home, OfficeMax, Sharp Electronics and T-Mobile, just to name a few!

AND as an added BONUS . . . If you join the PTA by October 15th, your name will be entered in our grand-prize drawing for a BELLA Ice Cream Maker!!!

The drawing will take place at our October PTA night.

I look forward to working with you on behalf of our children throughout the year. Checks should be made payable to Ward Elementary PTA.

Thanks for your support.

Angela Greene



October

10 - Charlene Saferight
13 - Bobbi Lou Long
17 - Pete Phillips
18 - Anna Korman
19 - Therese Silberman
22 - Maripat Hyatt

Meet Your 2013—2014 PTA Board Members



President	Sue Reynolds	WardPTApres@gmail.com
VP Fundraiser	Janet Slater	WardPTAvpf@gmail.com
Secretary	Mary Estes	WardPTAsecretary@gmail.com
Membership	Angela Greene	WardPTAvpm@gmail.com
Treasurer	Lisa Brooks	WardPTAtreasurer@gmail.com

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

Art Room News



If you have given Mrs. Hyatt an email address, you will be getting an email from Artsonia to set up your parent account. She has a lot of pending accounts because people haven't set up their accounts. When you set up your account, every time she uploads your child's artwork you will get an email. You can approve fans and comments left for their child.

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?

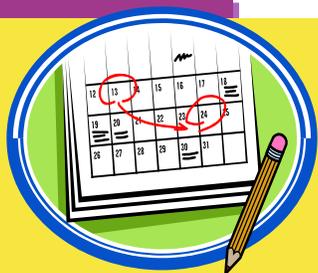
When something tickles his funny bone.



**HAPPY
HALLOWEEN!**

Meet Your School Counselor

Welcome to the 2013-2014 school year!
I am Mrs. Rice, Ward Elementary School's Counselor.



IMPORTANT DATES:

10/11 - SCA Backwards Day

10/14 - No school for students

10/17 - PTA & 1st grade performance

10/22 - Pre-K "Dad & Me" coffee break

10/25 - SCA Spirit Shirt Day

10/31 - SCA Dress like a character from a book Day

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/>



Family Advocate

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



Welcome to all Ward parents: With beginning the new school year Family involvement has become a larger focus in Henrico Schools. There are now Family Advocates in each Title I school in Henrico County. What is a Family Advocate?

My role as your Family Advocate is to assist our parents and guardians in being a positive part in bridging the gap between school, home and the community. My focus with the parents is to work closely with parents in encouragement in participation with parent meetings, workshops, serving on various committee's and meeting one on one to discuss resources as needed, to assist with family concerns. I am excited about working with the Families at Ward Elementary to help our children achieve and succeed.

If you have any questions or feel you need to schedule a meeting with your Family Advocate to discuss resources or parent meetings, please free to contact me at Ward at 795-7030.

*Ellen Vaughan
Family Advocate*

Upcoming Parent Events

October 3rd, 2013 8:00-8:30:

First Parent SFEC-School Family Engagement Committee: Parents will elect a president and secretary, also representatives for the Pre-K Sub Committee: and Representatives for the HFPAC Committee.

October 22nd:

Coffee Break-"Dads and Me" -This will be a time for all dads to share information of Fatherhood involvement at home and school. A male advocate from Fair Oaks who is a representative on the county wide "Man Up" Committee will come and share information and encouragement for father involvement at Ward in beginning the "Man Up" Fatherhood program here at Ward Elementary.

*Please see your Family Advocate if you are interested in checking out books to read with your children at home.

*Information is available in the school office and from your Family Advocate for anyone who may need Utility assistance or Christmas Assistance.

**"There is a brilliant child locked inside every student."
- Marva Collins**

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.



What's GOING ON in the Library?

It's a new school year and things are busy at the library!

Many new faces are mixed in with familiar faces – and they're all coming to check out books!

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

No one likes to read a worn-out, stained, or damaged 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 story time, 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.-2:00 p.m.

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

Don't miss Big Nate at the Varina Public Library!

Do you have fans of the Big Nate series at home? Then join the Varina Public Library for a Big Nate Party with games, art, and other fun stuff for ages 5-11. Mark your calendars – Wednesday, October 16, 7:00 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

- 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 2013-2014 Yearbook, please e-mail them to Diane Barnes at keenanbarnes@comcast.net



Safety Tips for Trick or Treating

Trick or Treating should be one of the great adventures of Halloween for kids! They can get dressed in scary costumes and go door to door, begging "Tricks or Treats!" from neighbors or at the local mall. Lots of small towns have a Halloween Safe Night at the community center or school so kids can Trick-or-Treat safely but going door to door is the stuff of childhood memories! It should be a fun time, without trouble and pain, so following some easy tips can keep your child safe every Halloween.

- Children should always go out trick or treating accompanied by a responsible adult. If you have a group of kids going, the parents should choose two or three of them to go along and keep an eye on things.
- Some towns set a curfew for trick or treating which makes it easier for townfolk to know who's coming to their door. Make sure and stick to the curfew times and stick to subdivisions and areas with a lot of homes so your kids can get in as much trick or treating as possible in a few hours time.
- Plan a safe route so parents know where their older kids will be at all times. Set a time for their return home. Make sure that your child is old enough and responsible enough to go out by themselves. Make sure that they have a cell phone.
- Let your children know not to cut through back alleys and fields if they are out alone. Make sure they know to stay in populated areas and not to go off the beaten track. Let them know to stay in well lit areas with lots of people around. Explain to them why it can be dangerous for kids not to do this. If they are going out alone, they are old enough to know what can happen to them in a bad situation and how to stop it from happening.
- Instruct your children not to eat any treats until they bring them home to be examined by you. This way you can check for any problem candy and get the pick of the best stuff!
- Instruct your child to never go into the home of a stranger or get into their car. Explain why this is not a good idea and what to do if someone approaches them and tries to talk to them.
- Make sure your child carries a flashlight, glow stick or has reflective tape on their costume to make them more visible to cars. Let them know that they should stay together as a group if going out to trick or treat without an adult.



(resource: <http://bstgfiredistrict.org/bstg/news/safety-tips-for-trick-or-treating/>)