

from the Principal's Desk

ASK THE PRINCIPAL

Q: Sorry I missed the meeting about Safety at Ward. How did it go?

A: The meeting was great. We had a chance to talk about all the things we're doing to keep our students and staff safe. I plan on holding another general question and answer session in the Spring.

Q: Are tardies and absences counted against my child?

A: By law, we must keep track of attendance. Numerous unexcused tardies and absences can result in consequences. As you are aware, for students to be successful, they must have good attendance.

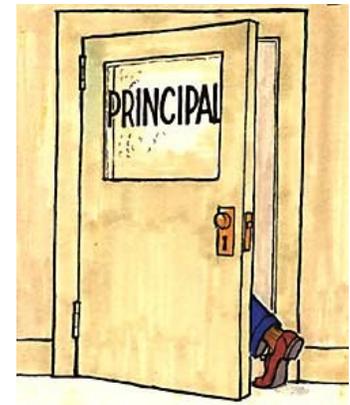
Q: Could you tell me a little bit about your background?

A: Sure. I was born and raised in upstate New York on the border with Canada. Yes, it was cold. After attending Plattsburgh State University, I moved to Williamsburg, Virginia where I taught 6th grade. I joined the Marine Corps Reserves and served with a helicopter squadron in Norfolk. I taught in Gloucester County for many years and earned my M.Ed. from the College of William and Mary. I served as an Assistant Principal in Richmond County, then as a Principal both in New York and Isle of Wight County before I became a Principal at Jackson Davis in Henrico. This is my first year as the Principal of Ward.

I have 2 daughters, 2 German Shepherds, and 3 Norwegian Forest Cats.

Bryan A. Almasian, Principal
Ward Elementary School

balmasian@henrico.k12.va.us



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from the PTA President

Welcome to February!

In my November newsletter I mentioned, we needed a little snow. Looks like that is all we received, "a little snow."

Last month, I attended our School Safety Parent Forum at Ward Elementary. I want to share with you that our school has worked very hard to ensure the safety of our children at all times. I encourage you to continue to communicate with your children. Here is also a very informative website for any questions: <http://www.henrico.k12.va.us/SafetySecurity/index.html>.

I also attended the MLK program performed at Henrico High School last month and would like to congratulate the Rising Stars Chorus on an outstanding performance. Ward was represented very well. I would like to extend a HUGE THANK YOU to Mrs. Manson for an impeccable job with our future leaders.



February

- 8 - Sharon Schroeder
- 14 - Angie Moore
- 23 - Amy Drewes

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Our February PTA meeting will be Thursday, February 21, 2013, 6 pm.



SPRING CARNIVAL

We have begun the planning for our **1st Ward PTA Carnival** to be held May 4, 2013. Mark your calendars and keep your eyes and ears open for more details. Feel free to email me (WardPTApres@gmail.com) if you are interested in participating in the planning. Let us know if you have a service or product that you would be interested in offering.

Grandparents Day will be held in April and much more to come!

With Warm Regards,

Kim Dunning
President, Ward PTA

SPELLING BEE WINNERS

The annual school Spelling Bee took place on Dec 17.
The contestants were:

- Tyleshia Rowell, 3rd grade
- Clint Parker, 3rd grade
- Mac Swineford, 4th grade
- Ethan Hall, 4th grade
- Jamie Hill, 5th grade
- Camryn Brown, 5th grade

School winner - Jamie Hill from Mrs. Sides's class.
Runner-up - Ethan Hall from Mrs. Harris's class.
Congratulations to all the grade level winners!



"Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement, nothing can be done without hope and confidence."
-- Helen Keller

PTA Officers Needed!



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Can you believe we are almost half way through this school year!! With that being said, we are in the process of forming The Nominating Committee and are beginning to seek members who would like to serve as PTA Officers for the 2013-2014 school year.

If you are interested in finding out "what it's all about", feel free to contact us via Facebook or website.
We would love to have you on board!

SWEET FROG NIGHT

THANK YOU

to all who attended the SWEETFROG Night!
We raised \$100.48 on a cold and rainy night.

More Sweet Frog dates coming up!
Come out and support Ward PTA and your sweet tooth!

Monday, March 18, 2013 from 5 to 9 pm &
Monday, May 20, 2013 from 5 to 9 pm.



from the School Counselor



IMPORTANT DATES:

2/1 - Spirit Day: Team Shirt/
Jersey

**2/1-18 Week Benchmark
Testing**

2/4-8 - National School
Counselor Week

2/5 & 7 - 5th Grade Aquatic
Field Trips

2/7 - Parent Teacher
Conferences 2:30-7:00

2/15 - 5th Grade to Highland
Springs Technical Center

2/18 - Student Holiday

2/20 - Second Grade Field
Trip to Science Museum

2/21 - PTA Program

2/21 - Exceptional Education
to the Circus

During the month of February the classroom lessons will be helping learn about being trustworthy and what that means. Students will talk about the importance of honesty and how being honest will help us at school and at home. I am also running groups for help with anger management and will soon be starting groups for students who need assistance with testing. Please contact me if your student would benefit from a group that will teach them how to reduce anxiety and using appropriate test taking strategies.

I would also like to advertise that the week of **February 4th through February 8th is National School Counselor Week!** During this week your student will be coming home with information about me and my role here at Ward Elementary. I love my job and would like to help you all understand exactly what I do to help our wonderful students. Please keep a lookout that week for more information about Ward's School Counseling Program.

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

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



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

What's GOING ON in the Library?



Mark your calendars! Book Fair will take place March 12-15 with our evening PTA event on Thursday, March 14th! Also look out for information about the opportunity to purchase Book Fair books online!



Dr. Seuss week is coming in March!

I foresee it being the first full week of March, since Seuss's birthday is March 2. We will send home fliers letting people know what events are going on and what crazy outfits we get to wear.

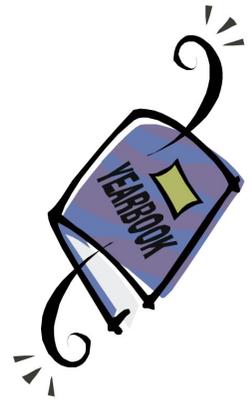
YEARBOOK NEWS

The deadline to pre-ordering the yearbooks is Monday, February 25, 2013.

Price for yearbooks is \$15.

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

SPECIAL NOTE: If anyone has pictures of the Rising Stars from The Lights of Hope Celebration on Monday, January 21st please also send them to Diane.



SAVE THE DATE!
WARD FIELD DAY

MAY 3, 2013

Field Day





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 2012-213 Yearbook, please e-mail them to Diane Barnes at keenanbarnes@comcast.net



10 February Fun Facts

1. The Violet is February's flower.
2. Amethyst is the birthstone for the month of February.
3. February was named after the Latin word *februum*, which means *purification* which is associated with the ancient Roman purification ritual Februa that was held on February 15 each year.
(Now I know why I feel compelled to do a cleanse this month!)
4. February is Black History Month in the U.S.A. and Canada serving as a remembrance of important people and events in African American history.
5. The Boy Scouts of America incorporated in February in 1910.
6. The astrological signs for February are: Aquarius, January 20–February 18 and Pisces, February 19–March 20.
7. The Supreme Court of the U.S. met for the first time on February 1, 1790.
8. Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809.
9. On February 10, 1962, Astronaut John Glen Jr. became the first American to orbit the earth
10. Princess Elizabeth became Queen Elizabeth on February 6, 1952.