

November 2008



BRICE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

# The Beacon

*A Light into Life at Brice Christian Academy!!!*

## A note from the Administrator...

As many of you may have noticed, I have been away from my morning post in the front parking lot these last few weeks as the result of ankle surgery. I am now on the mend, and have begun walking more and more. I thank those of you who have extended to me kind thoughts and words of encouragement and concern.

I must tell you that I have truly *missed* my parking lot duty! It is such a treat to see our students' faces each and every morning. Have you ever seen a kindergartner arrive at school? More often than not they *bounce* out of the car and *run* toward the building with a big smile on their face! And it seems that even if they've had a less than stellar day the day before, they are always eager to tackle the new day with the energy and enthusiasm that always makes me smile!

What I see on the faces of our energetic students is excitement, and the hope that lies in the still unknown adventures of

the new day. Lamantations 3:23 reminds us that "...His mercies are new each day...". His blessings are offered every day.

As a school we are truly blessed. Aside from joyful students and an awesome staff, we are blessed with wonderful families. So many of you are well on your way to earning all of your 13 volunteer hours. Financially, you have kept your lunch accounts and tuition payments current. As a result, the BCA is in its best financial position in years. Because we chose to keep tuition rates low, we're not rollin' in dough, but all our bills are paid, and we are meeting payroll consistently. How great is our God!



*Lamantations 3:23 reminds us that "...His mercies are new each day...". His blessings are offered every day.*

During this season of counting our blessings we need to carry on like Kindergarteners. Each morning we get up is a new opportunity, a new gift from God. It doesn't matter to Him what happened the day before. It doesn't matter to Him whether you are driving to work as a CEO or a ditch digger. It doesn't matter to Him how much money is in your checking account or what kind of car you're driving through our drop off. He just wants us to greet each day as a gift from Him, and to go running toward Him each morning like a Kindergartner running in to school. It is never too late – God doesn't give out tardy slips, and like your children's administrator, he wants you to know that what happened yesterday doesn't matter – today is a new day, and He's happy to go with you and share it with you.

Cathy Wells  
Administrator



## The Book Fair is Coming... November 17th—25th

Please join us for a week of fun at the BCA Book Fair! There will be events and contests! Most importantly, we will be raising money for the school Library!!

## From the desk of Carolyn Johnson, Special Services Director

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What is IAT??

In my new role as Special Services Director, I have been given the charge to coordinate personnel, resources and services to assist teachers in meeting the needs of all BCA students. Much of this work is channeled through an outstanding support group called the Intervention Assistance Team. IAT is a problem solving, school-based group whose purpose is to assist teachers with intervention strategies for dealing with learning and behavioral needs of students.



### **Intervention Assistance Team Members: School Year 2008-2009**

- Carolyn Johnson, Special Services Director, IAT Coordinator
- Marlene Carney, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher
- Beth Duffield, Art Teacher
- Tina Gowins, School Counselor
- Kelly Hood, Literacy Coordinator
- Jennifer Leistikow, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher
- Robbin Smith, Kindergarten Teacher
- Dave Steger, 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher
- Lynn Vottero, Speech/Language Pathologist

When a student is referred to IAT, a team member is assigned to the student and serves as the contact between IAT and the classroom teacher. After reviewing thorough documentation of the student's performance and classroom support, the team makes recommendation on the type of

intervention services BCA may offer. Services may include, small group or one-on-one tutoring, classroom inclusion services, counseling, and speech/language therapy.

One of the goals for IAT is to develop a policy for identifying gifted and talented students and

to bring about a greater awareness and sensitivity towards students' strengths, talents and socio-emotional needs. As we progress towards the fulfillment of this task, we expect to put programs and services in place, designed to support the intellectually-talented student.

What is the driving factor behind IAT? It is the Philosophy of Education at BCA:

“In the Christ-centered learning environment at Brice Christian Academy, each child is recognized as a unique creation of God.

Because the basis for teaching and learning at aBCA is founded upon the principle, the school culture and practice reflects the school motto, Educating Mind Body and Soul.

Intentional efforts are made to recognize individual needs and implement approaches designed to meet the holistic needs of each

## Meet Barbara Pettit, Our Title One Reading Tutor

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BCA is fortunate this year to be assigned a Title One Reading Tutor from Columbus Public Schools. Mrs. Pettit will provide remedial services for students attending Brice who lives in the Columbus district. She earned a master's degree in reading from Ohio State University and received additional training in developmental, remedial and clinical reading problems. She taught for many

years in Columbus and after retirement as a classroom teacher, she now serves as a Title One Tutor.

You may be interested in knowing that Mrs. Pettit designed and helped to build her dream log home. She enjoys gardening, travel, knitting, and relaxing on her 10 acres home. Please help me welcome Barbara Pettit to our school.



***Mark your calendars for the BCA Book Fair, November 17th - 25th!!***

# Fall Fundraiser Begins November 17th!!

BCA needs YOUR support!

Monday, November 17th BCA students will begin a BRAND NEW FUNDRAISER.

Every Fall and Spring we have a school-wide fundraiser, and this year we are trying something totally different than ever before. ...

## ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS



\$20.00 each

&

## BCA VALUE CARDS



For \$10.00 each

*Entertainment books* have been saving family's money for over 44 years! Often just one coupon pays for the book! The Entertainment book makes a

great Christmas gift for families, employees and friends. You can even sell to family and friends from out of town and the book will be made exclusively for their area!

Books will be sold as pre-orders. Each student will be given one Entertainment book to show when taking orders. (Student's families are responsible for the cost of this book if it is not sold or returned to the BCA office).

Prizes will be available to students who sell this book!!!

**BCA Value Cards** are reusable discount cards for restaurants and vendors in our area. Buy one card for \$10 and reuse it all year long. Often, just two uses pays for the card!

Some of the local vendors on our BCA value card are: Minuteman Pizza, Wendys, McDonalds, O'Charley's, Marcus Theatres, etc.

Value cards can be given to customers as they are sold. Each student will be given 5 value cards. Additional value cards will be available at the school

office. (Student's families are responsible for the cost of all cards not returned).

The Fall Fundraiser will run from Monday, November 17th through Monday, December 1st. Please turn all money and unsold books/cards in on Monday, December 1st!

Stay tuned for more information regarding prizes and contests for high sales!!

Thank you in advance for supporting YOUR BCA!

### Mark your Calendars...

Thursday, December 18th

@ 1:00 PM

**Signs of Praise** and the  
**5th & 6th Grade Classes**

will be performing at

**Easton Towne  
Center!**

Please join us if you  
are in the area!

## School Closing Information

It's Never too Early to think about school closing information!! The windstorm following Hurricane Ike reminded us all that calamity school closings are not just for winter time!

Remember, BCA school closings will be called into the Columbus news stations - NBC, ABC, CBS and Fox.

In addition, our BCA website [www.bricechristianacademy.com](http://www.bricechristianacademy.com)

will be updated as soon as a decision to close or delay is made.

The other lesson learned from this recent storm is that without electricity, it is difficult to learn of our school closings to begin with. To help remedy this, NBC has come up with a unique program. Parents can log on to [www.nbc4i.com](http://www.nbc4i.com) and use the keyword "school clos-

ings". Here you can sign up to have a text message directly to your cell phone when the BCA is delayed or closed.



BCA Closings will appear on channels 4, 6 10 and Fox 28!!

It is our prayer that we do not have to use any more of our calamity days this year, but if we do, it helps to have the systems in place to make it more manageable for us all!

## Grandparents Day is Tuesday, November 25th!

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**Grandparents Day for 1st through 6th graders will be held on Tuesday, November 25th.**

Please mark your calendars now and make sure to invite your grandparent or special someone to this day.

**RSVP's for this day are REQUIRED so that classrooms can prepare a continental breakfast for their visitors.**

**RSVP's are due by Monday,  
November 20th.**

Parent Volunteers are needed desperately to help make this day a success. Please contact the Academy office if you are able to help.

Thank you!!

## Operation Christmas Child

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Once again BCA will be participating with the Samaritan's Purse "Operation Christmas Child". This is a joint effort between the BCA, Brice Church and Brice Church Preschool.

Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world through gift-filled shoe boxes and the Good News of God's love. Since 1993, more

than 61 million shoe boxes have been packed, shipped, and delivered across the globe. People of all ages can be involved in this simple, hands-on missions project while focusing on the true meaning of Christmas—Jesus Christ.

Please watch your child's backpack for a pamphlet and information on how your child's class will be participating.



## Music Notes from Mrs. Cain

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Blessings and greetings! The excitement is mounting in anticipation of our Christmas Musical celebration, "*Yo, Christmas Tree.*"

**Mark your calendars for Friday, December 12 at 7:00 PM. The entire school will be involved in this production with leads performed by our own second graders.** There will be specially featured performances by 4th graders,

5th graders, 6th graders and our fabulous "Signs of Praise." We are still looking for a police officer uniform for one of the characters, so if you have a child-size costume, please let me know. Full rehearsals for this production will be held at 1 PM on Tuesday December 2, Thursday December 4, Friday December 5, Tuesday December 9, Thursday December 11 and Friday December 12. All students are asked to

be at the school at 6:15 on Friday December 12. Admission is free, but a an offering will be taken to benefit our students. I thank you for your prayers, your participation and in advance for your attendance at this joyous celebration of the Savior's birth. Don't miss it! Our students have worked extremely hard on this project.

Yours in Christ, Mrs. Cain



#### **BRICE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY**

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***Educating Mind, Body and Soul!***

**We're on the web!**

**[www.BriceChristianAcademy.com](http://www.BriceChristianAcademy.com)**

## **Philosophy of Education**

In the Christ-centered learning environment at Brice Christian Academy, each child is recognized as a unique creation of God. Because the basis for teaching and learning at BCA is founded upon that principle, the school culture and practice reflects the school motto, *Educating Mind, Body & Soul*. Intentional efforts are made to recognize individual needs and implement approaches designed to meet the holistic needs of each student. The cognitive, social, physical, emotional and spiritual aspects of a BCA student are supported and nurtured through innovative and research-based teaching methods and curriculum. The heart of BCA's mission is to partner with each family to help train students to be Christian leaders who are creative, compassionate, and capable.

## **A Special "Thank You" ...**

We would like to thank EVERYONE who came out to Minute Man Pizza in Pickerington on Friday Oct. 24th in support of our "Night out for Ellisynd". It was a fun time and we raised over \$1500 with the Silent Auction, Buckeye Tree and Donation from Minute Man Pizza.

As most of you know, Ellisynd Marshall, the younger sister of BCA 2nd Grader Emily Marshall, has been battling a rare disease called Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis (LCH). On Thursday, November 6, 2008 Ellisynd lost this battle and went to be with Jesus.

Visitation with the family will be on Monday, November 10th

at Spence Funeral Home in Pickerington from 2pm-4pm and 6pm-8pm. The Funeral service will be held at Reynoldsburg United Methodist Church on Tuesday, November 11th @ 10:30 a.m.

We would like to take a moment to pray corporately as a school, for the Marshall family on Monday, November 10th at 11:00am in the Chapel. We invite you to attend this time of prayer with your child if you are available.

Please encourage your student to continue to pray for Emily and her entire family during this very difficult time. If your student is having any difficulty

understanding this situation, our school counselor will be available to speak with them upon your request.

Once again, thank you for helping to show God's love to another BCA family.

If you like to leave condolences, cards can be left at the Academy office and we will be sure to forward them on to the family

In Him,

Betty Stewart  
Administrative Assistant