

Seven Hills Chronicles

&

Beacon Prep News

September 11, 2009

Welcome back Seven Hills Classical Academy and Beacon Preparatory School families!☺

Congratulations!! What an incredible week we have had! If the first week is any indication of how much we are going to accomplish this year...WHOA! Even our kindergartners were hard at work 10 minutes into their very first day of school. Ask your child(ren) to share with you what they have learned☺!

We started this morning with a citizenship assembly, as we will start every Friday, where the students learned about good citizenship recognition and every Friday's assembly routine. The Parent Connection, our fantabulous parent organization, launched its first fundraiser at this morning's brief assembly. Every child should be bringing home a lot of information about that! While we understand the concerns related to fundraising opportunities, we are ever mindful and appreciative of the incredible library and media center in which the children's and your efforts have resulted. We are lucky to have such a supportive and generous community.

Next Friday morning, we will be recognizing all students who have worked so hard over the summer completing their Summer Bridge activities. Miss O'Brien is really looking forward to honoring the children on their efforts and the pride that they have clearly taken in the work that they have submitted.

While seemingly chaotic, we wish that you all could have been here to observe how orderly and well mannered the children were as they made their way to their classrooms every morning this week. All we hear is an endless stream of compliments about the discipline and behaviors of the Seven Hills and Beacon Prep students from teachers, lunch and recess monitors, parents and visitors to the building.

Here are a few things that we'd like to highlight for you as we look to the second full week of school:

HOT LUNCH & MILK: If your child is not eating a hot lunch with us, but you would like for her or him to have milk for lunch, please send your child with fifty cents (.50) for the day. If you want to send in funds for more than one day, please feel free to do so and we will keep track of it in the office. If your child has been taking milk, and you realize that you haven't sent \$.50 for each day that she/he had milk but not the hot lunch, please forward the funds to school at your earliest convenience. We hope to send October lunch menus home (and posted to the webpage) by Monday, September 14th. October menus must be returned no later than Monday, September 21, 2009. *Please be advised that the school is unable to provide children with*

a lunch if they show up to school without one and have not submitted a menu in a timely manner. Students who forget to bring their lunch will be sent to the office and a call home will be made to ensure that every child is eating a lunch. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions, comments or concerns that you might have regarding the lunch program.

BUSING: From what we have seen and heard, Thursday and this morning's bus routes were more on track. We are working closely with the bus company, ironing out the last few glitches, and trust that the buses will be running smoothly next week. As with all things, we cannot express how much we appreciate your support, understanding and patience with regard to the busing. Additionally, we would like to applaud the parents who have undertaken the huge responsibility of riding/following buses and making suggestions to streamline routes. A few points to mention: if you have a general/overall not 'during route time' question, please call the office and let us know. If you have immediate concerns—e.g. the bus just drove by your stop and you're quite positive you saw your child sitting in the third seat waving at you as it drove by, please contact Monarch Bus Company directly at 612-238-8080.

NWEA tests: Due to technology and imaging processes, we are a few days behind with anticipated testing dates. Uploading rosters must occur within a certain time frame for us to administer the tests. Please keep your eyes posted for notes on the revised schedule—we hope to start them NO LATER THAN September 28, 2009. We encourage you to speak with your child about the importance of taking these tests seriously. They will serve as a benchmark for assessment in Reading, Math and Language Arts. These tests will be administered two more times this year, after the first of the year to assess growth, strengths and challenges. We will send home a parent guide that will outline more details about this testing for you.

MCAs: Last year's MCA scores are being sent home next week with our Fourth, Fifth and Beacon Prep Sixth and Seventh graders (the Kindergartners through Second graders did not take these tests last year). Explanatory materials are coming home with the scores. Please know that we are using this information, along with the NWEA test scores to drive the instruction in the classrooms.

CLUB CLASSICS: We are getting ready to launch our Club Classics and look forward to offering a variety of engaging and age-appropriate activities. Please watch for the brochure which will be sent home next week. You will note that for certain age groups, Mrs. Wood will be offering choir and band. We are thrilled with the growth of our Fine Arts program!

SPANISH and LATIN: The language program has begun and the students are really picking it up! More importantly, it appears as though they are enjoying their lessons—ask your child what she/he has learned this week in their language classes. We are excited to share that there will be a before school offering of Spanish and

Latin enrichment. These classes will be held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and will be offered to 5th through 7th graders. Please watch for more information to be sent home in a back pack and posted on our website.

UNIFORMS: Thank you parents for making such a tremendous effort to have your children here in full uniform starting on the first day—kudos to you! We are asking that the khaki pants not have side pockets, ties strings, etc. The children should be wearing long khaki pants or Bermuda shorts, only. Thank you for your ongoing support of our uniform policy. It is such a supportive factor in the culture we strive to maintain.

SEVEN HILLS BOARD OF DIRECTORS: The board of directors will be having its September meeting on Tuesday, September 15, 2009, at 6:30 p.m., here at the school (room 140). On a go forward basis, school board meetings will be held here at the school on the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. Every issue of the Chronicles will highlight the date and time of the meeting. Agendas for the meetings will be posted on the main office door approximately one week prior to each month's meeting.

BEACON PREP BOARD OF DIRECTORS: The board of directors will be having its September meeting on Tuesday, September 15, 2009, from 5:30-6:30 p.m., here at the school (room 140). On a go forward basis, school board meetings will be held on the third Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. The agenda for the meetings will be posted on the main office door approximately one week prior to each month's meeting.

These are public meetings and all are welcome and encouraged to attend.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS: Make sure to read the Parent-Student Handbook. You will note that the last page calls for your signatures indicating your agreement to promote the culture and community of the school as articulated in the School's Mission Statement. If you have not already done so, please return this document to the school as soon as possible. A Parent Volunteer Commitment form is being collected by the classroom teachers—one was sent home in the first day packets. Please return the form at your earliest convenience so that we know how you would like to help keep the success of the school rolling in the right direction. Mrs. Claire Emery (cemery@shcamn.org) is facilitating the schools' volunteer program this year. Please contact her to share your availability to come in and help out. As always, we are grateful to any help we can get during the lunch hours—come have lunch with the kids and help us ensure the safety of all students☺!

DROP OFFS & PICK-UPS: To clarify, school drop offs are at 9:00 a.m. every day and pick-ups are at 4:00 p.m. every day. (This schedule accommodates busing). **FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL THE CHILDREN, WE MUST INSIST THAT BUS RIDERS COME IN AND GO OUT OF THE BUILDING AT DOOR C—AND THAT CAR RIDERS COME IN AND GO OUT OF THE BUILDING AT DOOR F.**

Additionally, now that the first week is behind us, we would request that cars line up along the pick-up sidewalk to pick up the children. A staff member will be in the parking lot to establish a 'snake-like' line through the south-east parking lot to facilitate efficient movement of traffic through the pick-up line. We are making every effort to ensure the safety of all children and having them walk out into the parking lot prevents us from assuring complete safety. We will not allow a child to walk unattended to a parked car. Again, we appreciate your support of this procedure and, significantly, your patience when waiting in line as it moves forward.

ENROLLMENT: Please share with your family, friends, neighbors and community how happy you are with Seven Hills and Beacon Prep! Believe it or not, we have some space in Beacon Prep's 6th and 7th grades.

*****please remember that we promote a nut-free environment for our students—be sure to check granola bars, lunchables, etc., when deciding what to pack for lunch or to send for snacks*****

Seven Hills School Mission Statement

Seven Hills Classical Academy provides students with a classical education in an academically rigorous environment designed to promote strong citizenship and life-long learning.

Beacon Prep School Mission Statement

Beacon Preparatory School creates a unique community by engaging students in a rigorous, content-rich curriculum with an emphasis on Classical, liberal arts education. We promote pillars of character development including integrity, honesty, and self-confidence while embracing the individual needs and development of our students.

Effective Friday, September 14, 2009, in addition to posting the Chronicles to the webpage, they will be e-mailed to each family—Please make sure the office has an e-mail address for your family☺!

We would like to thank you for sending us children who are supported, prepared and ready to learn. Our philosophy continues to be that we are partners in your child's educational experience. Please let us know your thoughts, comments, suggestions and concerns. Miss O'Brien's office may be small, but it's welcoming and her door is always open...oops, she doesn't have a door☺!

Have a GREAT weekend!