



Tuesday Topics Newsletter

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November 17, 2009



Mark Your Calendar!

Wednesday, Nov. 18
Spanish t-shirt day

Friday, Nov. 20
Bright School t-shirt day
Lost & Found on concourse

Tuesday, Nov. 24
9 a.m. Volunteer Appreciation
Breakfast in Library
10 a.m. Thanksgiving
Program, Auditorium
11:30 a.m. dismissal

Tuesday, Dec. 1
School Resumes

Just Imagine!



Rocket Launch 2009



Thanksgiving - a Time for Everyone

Just recently, I asked one of our new foreign students if he knew about America's celebration of Thanksgiving. He had only a vague understanding, and once I started talking about turkeys, Pilgrims, sweet potatoes, and the Native Americans, I think I only made matters worse. No telling what he was thinking as he walked back to class, and I'm wondering what he'll tell his parents after he sees our pre-k parents decked out in the obligatory Pilgrim hats and wide, white collars!

Actually, people all over the world have been giving thanks during harvest time for thousands of years. The Chinese "Moon Festival" is one of the oldest. Folks in India celebrate Pongal in January, and the British have observed Harvest Festival or Harvest Home or Harvest Thanksgiving for centuries. The word *harvest* comes from the old Anglo-Saxon word for autumn and thus has been a part of the English language since its beginning. Each country and each culture gives thanks in its own way, but the important point is that we all give thanks for the bounty of the earth.

America has seen its share of thanksgiving feasts, beginning with the first settlers. As a matter of fact, the first recorded thanksgiving celebration pre-dates the familiar Pilgrim and Native American meal we all learn about in school. In 1564, the first French settlers gave thanks along with the native inhabitants in the area that is now St. Augustine. The Spanish quickly took over and had their own harvest festival on September 8, 1865. The Pilgrims soon followed with the harvest meal we know best in the fall of 1621 at Plymouth. As in Britain and countries around the world, America's thanksgiving feast dates to our earliest days. In 1789, George Washington declared the first national Thanksgiving Day, and in 1941 Congress and President Roosevelt established the official Thanksgiving we know on the fourth Thursday of every November.

My point with this brief history is that all of us at Bright School—no matter our country of origin or language or religious belief—can share in the celebration of Thanksgiving with equal reverence and fervor. As I often tell our students, 99% of the children around the world can't even begin to conceive of a school like Bright School and all it has to offer. Most children around the world don't know or experience learning in a safe place, where adults live in peace, where they have plenty to eat, or where books, paper, pens, pencils, computers, and other instructional materials are in abundance. They don't have a multitude of teachers who care or facilities that warm them in the winter and keep them cool during the spring and summer. Most children don't have the opportunity to express themselves with joy through their song, their art, their play, their sport, and their drama. Our children are fortunate, and one of the greatest lessons we can teach them is to be grateful for their many blessings.

As adults, of course, we count our blessings every day, welcoming the sacred opportunity we have to give our children nurture and guidance, enabling them to grow into happy, successful, skillful, accomplished, and compassionate human beings. This is our mission at Bright School, as it has been for almost one hundred years.

I want to wish everyone a happy, safe, fun and meaningful Thanksgiving with friends and family.

09 Morgan

Find Your Lost Items on Friday



Lost and found, but mostly just lost.....we have LOTS of sweatshirts, hoodies, jackets and other items that have accumulated around the school.

Now is your chance to find that favorite lost item! On Friday, lost items will be on tables on the concourse. Please stop by and reclaim yours. Unclaimed items will be donated to an organization for underprivileged children on Monday.

Sibling Admissions for 2010-2011

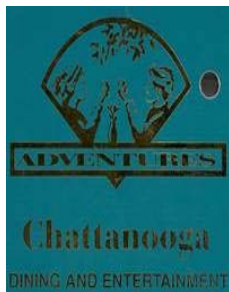
If you have a child who will be eligible for admission next year to prekindergarten, kindergarten, the Bright Start program or grades 1-5, please contact Mary Telford Williams at mtwilliams@brightschool.com or Kim Price at kprice@brightschool.com right away. You will then receive information about upcoming admissions events.

The Bookfair was a Success!

Thanks to all volunteers who worked and families who shopped at Barnes & Noble during the bookfair. We exceeded our goal with sales in excess of \$11,100.



Chattanooga Dining Adventure Guides



\$30

Shop early for holiday gifts! The Bright School Bookstore is selling Chattanooga Adventure Dining Guides for \$30. The book is full of 1/2 price dining options all around town. Books are available in the office - see Kim Brown or Sabrina McAllister.