



# Eagle Express

**Marumsco Hills Elementary**

14100 Page St. Woodbridge, VA 22191  
703-494-3252

Joanne Alvey, Principal  
Connie Balkcom, Assistant Principal

October 7, 2009

*Marumsco Hills Elementary School is a multicultural community of learners where the focus is on high achievement and personal success for all!*

Dear Marumsco Hills Families,

Thank you for attending Back to School Night. We know that as we work together to build student learning YOU are a key part of the team! Please contact your child's teacher if you missed Back to School Night to get the valuable information that was provided.

The students have been enjoying the autumn weather and celebrating their good manners in the Eagle Café with class picnics in our courtyard. Ask your student how they earned this special privilege!

ATTENDANCE is a critical factor in your child's school success. Children should attend school every day, except in cases of illness or emergency. It is impossible to replace the learning that happens on any school day with make-up work.

We ask that our families not take vacations when school is in session. Did you know that students who miss too many days of school risk being retained? Make school a high priority and commit to excellence in attendance.

As always, we value our partnerships with families at Marumsco Hills Elementary School. Your involvement is welcomed and encouraged!

Partners in Learning,  
Mrs. Alvey & Mrs. Balkcom

## PTA Meeting

We held our first PTA Meeting for the school year on Tuesday, September 29, and elected new officers. The new leadership team is busy planning many fun events for our students and families. Look for ways to get involved as a PTA member this year!

Co-Presidents: Elizabeth Gough-Rodriguez  
and Robin Mantari

Co-Vice Presidents: Kacey Dowling, Tanya  
Ingram, and Osiris Hernandez

Secretary: Dolores Zulian  
Treasurer: Kim Lackey

## Book Fair

The Book Fair will be held on October 19-23. We need volunteers to help in many ways. This is a great way to get involved! Please contact Mrs. Barrett, our librarian, at 703-494-3252, or send a note in with your child, if you would like to learn more about ways you can help.

## Notes from Billy the Bookworm

MHES Literacy Committee

Learning to read is not just something that happens in school. As a parent you are your child's first and most important teacher. There are many ways you can encourage your child's reading success.

1. The *most important* thing you can do to help your child's success is to read good books aloud to your child.
2. No child is too young or too old to enjoy good books.
3. Start with simple picture books and move up to storybooks and short novels.
4. Set aside a special time for reading. Some families read right after dinner or just before bed.
5. Read to older children as well. Stories build their imagination, their vocabulary and their understanding of what they read.

**Reading aloud gives children pleasure and enjoyment that reading can bring and develops a love of reading – the most important quality of a good reader.**

**Don't Forget!**

**Interim Reports**

**October 13**

**Book Fair**

**October 19 – 23**

**PTA Meeting**

**October 13 at 7 PM**

