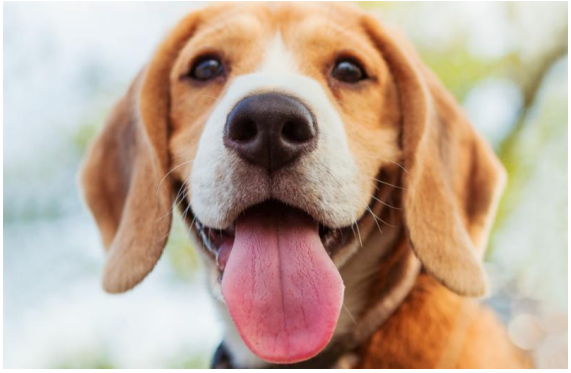
Volume 2021-2022

The BEE MAIL

NAOMI L. BROOKS ELEMENTARY PTA

February 8, 2022

Brooks Bees Puppy Bowl Chow Down
Sat. Feb 12 from 3pm-5pm



Brooks Bees -- it's time for a Puppy Bowl! Before you start prepping for the Super Bowl, come chow down at Barkhaus this Saturday from 3pm-5pm with your fellow animal-loving Bees. Dogs are welcome but they must be vaccinated and registered with Barkaus in advance. Mention that you are with Brooks and Barkhaus will waive the dog day pass fee for your furry friend.

Barkhaus has food, drinks, and a menu for kids, and pups. They also have play areas for dogs as well. You can learn more about Barkhaus here: http://www.brewskisbarkhaus.com/

Dear Parents,

It is time for Brooks' Fourth Annual Spelling Bee!

As in past years, Brooks will hold two levels of competition. For the first level, the Scripps National Spelling Bee has developed an online testing platform that will allow your students to participate in the bee remotely from their homes. For the second level, we are planning to do an in-person spelling bee.

The first step to spelling bee participation is for you to register for the Scripps National Spelling Bee's online testing platform by visiting **https://online-test.spellingbee.com**. Any student that is not registered cannot participate, so please sign up promptly!

Once at the above website, click the “Register” button and type in the Naomi Brooks zip code, 22301 to find our school and fill in the requested information. We encourage you to watch this video tutorial that will walk you through the registration process: **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=htXzjpnMijc**. In addition, for your convenience, attached is a copy of detailed instructions for you to read and review as well.

Once you have registered, we will be able to assign the appropriate grade-level test to your child. Your child must complete the test before the given deadline, and these tests can be taken on any device with a web browser,

including desktop computers, laptops, tablets, and smartphones. The window to take the test will be 2/4/2022-2/25/2022. List of study words attached. Level 1 words are geared for 2nd and 3rd grades and Level 2 words are for 4th and 5th grades.

We will select the students with the highest scores in each grade to move on to compete at the school level, our Big Bee. The full list of all 450 words (Levels 1, 2 and 3) that are used for the Big Bee is linked below. This year, our school-level competition will be administered via Zoom in an online Bee. Our school champion will then move on to represent Naomi L. Brooks Elementary School in the Northern Virginia regional spelling bee program, which also may include online tests in lieu of in-person spelling bee events.

Please register at your earliest convenience as the Bee Coordinators will begin assigning tests to students soon. If you have already registered in the online testing platform for another child, you can log in to your account and add an additional child to that same parent account. There is no need to register a different email address for each child in your household.

Here is a quick list of how all of this will work with prizes and acknowledgments all along the way:

1. Register your student
2. Check your email for notifications regarding the test
3. Administer the test for your scholar – **remember, no helping allowed!**
4. View results
5. If your student advances to the Big Bee, they and you will receive additional information
6. Compete in the Naomi L. Brooks School Championship Bee on March 5, 2022
7. Finalist will advance to the Regional Bee in Fairfax County on March 20, 2022

Study Guides Available Here:

2022 Level One Study Guide

2022 Level Two Study Guide

2022 Level Three Study Guide

Please reach out to the Bee Coordinators at spellingbee@brookspta.org if you have any questions about our school spelling bee program. We look forward to having your child compete to represent our school!

Sincerely,

Naomi L. Brooks Spelling Bee Coordinators

Teacher Appreciation 2022

Hello Brooks Community!! The feedback from the teachers is that they LOVE the break room snacks we have provided!! We would like to start 2022, by filling them with coffee, snacks and treats to keep them going. **All items must be store-bought, due to ACPS COVID rules.** You can send in any items to be dropped by the main office or ship from Amazon directly to the school. Note on the package "TEACHER BREAK ROOM APPRECIATION". Drop off or have packages sent to the front office between now and February 14th.

Thank you for your contributions!

Sign-Up Genius

Brooks Dine Out at Del Ray Café!
February 9

Please join us for the Brooks Dine-Out on **February 9** where 10% of ALL sales will go to support Naomi L. Brooks Elementary.

Thank you to the very generous team at Del Ray Café for hosting our Brooks families!

Brooks Yearbook Information

BROOKS YEARBOOK BEEBOX

We're pleased to announce you can now purchase a “BeeBox” (formerly Mariner Messages) for the 2021-2022 Brooks Yearbook.

Family members or friends can purchase space for a personal message to a student, a group of students, or even an entire class. Kids love them!

For the past few years the PTA has been able to give a yearbook to EVERY student for FREE — largely due to your purchases of these personalized messages.

The deadline to purchase a BeeBox ad for the 2022 Yearbook is March 31

Visit the BeeBox page for more information

Work is underway on the Brooks 2021-2022 Yearbook but we can't collect all of this year's great memories without your help!

Thank you to the parents that have already submitted photos.

Please send us photos of your student - at play, at work, enjoying Brooks, or other activities! You can submit them via the Dropbox link here.

SHOPKEEPERS FOR SCHOOLS

FEBRUARY 9-16

SUPPORT NAOMI L. BROOKS ELEMENTARY!

From February 9 to 16, **Red Barn Mercantile**, **Penny Post**, **The Hive**, and **The Shoe Hive** will be donating 10 percent of your sale to your favorite local Alexandria school - we hope you choose Naomi L. Brooks Elementary!

The school that raises the most money will receive an additional 10 percent! Red Barn Mercantile will also be making a matching donation of the winning school's totals to The Scholarship Fund of Alexandria to support high school seniors who need extra help going on to higher education.

Please join us on Monday, February 7 at 6pm, for our monthly Brooks PTA Meeting. Our special guests Ms. Riley and Ms. Calhoun will be presenting on the ACPS academic curriculum and how they relate to SOL standards. In addition we'll be discussing other events and goings-on in and around Brooks! You can join the meeting on Feb. 7 at 6pm via this link.

Rising 6th Grader Information

In preparation for our rising 6th graders to transition to George Washington Middle School, GW is hosting a variety of orientation and informational events. Events are virtual and help prepare families and caregivers for what to expect, more about curriculum and elective options, and a glimpse of what middle school life is like. If you missed one - there are multiple events; check out dates and zoom information on this document.

PTAC Summer Camp Directory

It may be winter now, but many camps are already opening up for summer registration! PTAC is again hosting a Camp Directory on our website. New camps are being listed regularly.

http://alexvaptac.org/summer-camp-directory-2022/

PTA Leaders Needed for 2022-2023 School Year

Brooks PTA is led by an Executive Committee (EC) consisting of volunteer Elected Officers and the school principal. Officers serve a one-year term and are elected each year at our May meeting. They can serve up to two consecutive terms. We are currently seeking nominations for all officer positions. Together, the Executive Committee EC sets the budget for the upcoming fiscal year and meets monthly just prior to the general membership meetings to discuss ongoing issues and upcoming plans. Serving on the EC is a great leadership development opportunity!

Basic position descriptions are listed below. For more details, see page 9 of our bylaws.

President - The President presides at all meetings, coordinates the work of the officers and committees, submits officer contact information and verification of our employer identification number (EIN) to the Virginia PTA state office, serves as an ex-officio member

of all committees except the nominating committee. In addition, the Brooks PTA president sets the agenda for all meetings including inviting any guest speakers, and currently works closely with volunteers on diversity and inclusion and the room parent program. The President may serve on the Alexandria Council of PTAs (PTAC) or designate a representative.

President-Elect - The President-Elect position is being phased in the election year 2023 but we may elect a President-Elect for one more year if we have a candidate for it. The President-Elect acts as an aide to the president and performs the duties of the president in the absence or inability of that officer to act. This position automatically succeeds to the office of president at the end of their term.

Vice President of Programs - The VP of Programs currently has a number of items under their jurisdiction, including after school programming, Watch D.O.G.S., holiday singing event, back-to-school picnic, multicultural night, field day, outdoor/classroom garden, playground, Reflections art competition, and the spelling bee. Many of these programs and events have been on hold or adjusted during the pandemic. IMPORTANT NOTE: Most programs/events have a lead volunteer, requiring little oversight by the VP of Programs.

Vice President of Communications - The VP of Communications drafts and distributes weekly emails and manages the PTA's social media accounts and text reminders. The parent directory and yearbook also fall under communications, although we typically have separate lead volunteers for these.

Vice President of Fundraising - The VP of Fundraising oversees the spring festival team and manages book fairs, campus survival kits, community partners, dine-outs, spirit wear, and any other fundraising efforts. As with Programs and Communications, many of these duties are delegated to other point persons.

Secretary - The Secretary records the minutes of all meetings, keeps the official copy of the bylaws in their files, and maintains the membership list as required by Virginia PTA.

Treasurer - The Treasurer keeps account of receipts and expenditures, makes disbursements as authorized in accordance with the budget, has checks signed by two officers, presents financial statements at every meeting, prepares an annual financial report at the close of the fiscal year, handles the annual audit, remits membership dues to the Virginia PTA, and submits all required documents to the Virginia PTA and the IRS.

If you are interested in serving in one of these positions, please reach out to any member of the Nominations Committee to discuss: Kelly Burnell (kyankowski@gmail.com), Erin Krinovich (erin.kriynovich@gmail.com) or Carrie Zager (clhami78@gmail.com).

Brooks Multicultural Cookbook

Last year, our school community came together to create a wonderful slide show that represented our different cultures and backgrounds in place of our annual Multicultural Night Event. While we still cannot gather in person, we want to share with our community the things that bring us all together...food! We have decided to compile a cookbook of all the delicious recipes from around the world that we typically enjoy at Multicultural Night. Students, families, and staff are all invited to participate.

You may want to represent the country your family is from, a country where you've lived, or even a country you've visited. Feel free to highlight a culture found within the United States as well (e.g., Hawaii, Puerto Rico, indigenous American cultures).

Click on this link for more directions and to create your submission. If you prefer to submit your recipe on paper, a template will be coming home in Thursday folders. Photos are encouraged, but no links or videos, please. This book will be printed.
Recipes should be shared with Katie Knowles (kathleen.knowles@acps.k12.va.us).

Please submit your recipes no later than February 25th.

ASA Rec League Soccer Registration

It's time to sign up for spring soccer! The ASA Rec League is an inclusive soccer program for kids of all abilities and experience levels, ages 4-19. The league is all about fun,

fitness, and friendships! Teams practice once a week (near Naomi Brooks!) and play games on Saturdays in Alexandria. Teams are based on grade level and friends are encouraged to sign up and request to play together. **Registration closes on March 7**. Learn more at alexandria-soccer.org or give them a call at 703-684-5425.

We are very grateful to have the support of ASA for Brooks outdoor and athletic programs.

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When you shop at Amazon a portion of your purchase can benefit Naomi L. Brooks Elementary!

https://smile.amazon.com/ch/54-1991273

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Brooks Spirit Wear, now with the official Naomi L. Brooks Elementary logo is on sale at SquadLocker.

10% Of Your Purchase Supports the PTA!

Upcoming Dates

- **February 9: GW Electives Fair & Curriculum Night for Rising 6th Grade Families @ 5:30pm**
- **February 9: Brooks Dine-Out at Del Ray Café**
- **February 16: GW Virtual Open House for Rising 6th Grade Families @ 9am (Zoom link)**
- **March 2: GW Virtual Open House for Rising 6th Grade Families (for Spanish Speaking Parents / Caregivers)**
- **March 5: Brooks Spelling Bee Championship**

Frequently Requested Links

- Make sure you've subscribed to Ms. Hess' weekly emails and ACPS updates.
- Get PTA updates: Just text the message "@nlbrooks" to the number 81010 to sign up for this service provided by the PTA. Email brooks-bees+subscribe@googlegroups.com to receive emails. Like our Facebook page and follow Brooks PTA on Twitter.
- Miss an email? Looking for PTA meeting minutes? Catch up on our website at brookspta.org

- Need internet access? Submit an Internet Access request.
- Need to add school closings to your calendar? Import the Brooks PTA calendar!

Why am I getting this e-mail?

You are receiving this because you are either a member of the Brooks Bees Listserv or signed up on our website - to remove yourself from this e-mail list, click unsubscribe at the bottom of this email.

Thank you for supporting the Brooks PTA!