

BAS Bridges

FALL 2015



SCIENCE LAB

One year ago BAS went out on a limb and added a faculty position giving us a 4th – 8th grade math teacher and a 4th – 8th grade science teacher. After years of dreaming about separate teachers for these subjects, it became a reality.

Now, one year later, we can look back and see the return on this decision as students receive more in-depth instruction and learning experiences in their math and science classes. BAS students have caught the vision and excitement of hands-on learning and seeing these two subjects come to life. Mrs. LeBrun, science education, and Mrs. Vincent, math education, are able to develop instruction plans that foster an excitement in the students for each subject. Math classes are now able to break the students into groups based on their level of understanding, allowing for more individualized instruction. While in science class, the focus on hands on learning through labs and experiments has been a great success with our students.



The best way for students to learn science is through inquiry-based learning and labs are essential to allow this type of learning to happen.



While BAS is pleased with the changes made, BAS recognizes that its math/science classroom is due for an update. Mrs. LeBrun states, “The best way for students to learn science is through inquiry-based learning and labs are essential to allow this type of learning to happen.” In order to promote this type of learning, it has been decided that the next step is to create a *Science Lab* to provide our students with a chance to experiment in chemistry, biology and physics.

An effective *Science Lab* requires a teacher’s demonstration area with a gas burner, student work stations, cabinetry to store experiment equipment, tiled

classroom floor, and space where a complicated lab can be set-up and allowed to remain there to allow for the chemical reactions to occur. In addition to the labs, STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) activities require specialized equipment i.e. robotics.

Staff are excited about the opportunity to have the appropriate space and equipment to get the students excited about science and all the possibilities it has for them to learn through hands-on experiments. The early estimate for a *Science Lab* is \$130,000, which will be raised through fundraising campaigns and grant requests.

As science, tech, engineering and math (STEM) careers grow faster than ever; we want to be assured that our students are equipped with the knowledge and skills to be successful in these fields of study.

The *Science Lab* will allow our students to put their classroom learning into practice today and well into the future. If you are interested in supporting the *Science Lab* campaign, please send your tax-deductible donation to *BAS – Science Lab*. Thank You!

MUSIC TO OUR EARS

Inside a student's backpack a parent can typically find worksheets in math, writing, history, and social studies, but there is much more happening during a student's school day than can be found in a backpack! BAS students are learning about the diverse and exciting world of music! Their ears have heard music from around the world, as well as our local orchestras and symphonies.

Mrs. Thevenin, BAS Music Teacher, uses a program called, "Spotlight on Music Curriculum," which focuses on age appropriate music that inspires students to learn about music in a way that celebrates music and the positive effects it has on the overall student. The students have enjoyed the opportunity to learn about music while participating in fun activities and exploring music through trying various instruments and learning about music from around the world.

In addition to the music curriculum, students can join the BAS Orchestra, Select Choir, and various Bell Choirs which offer a more in-depth musical experience to those participating. During the school year the specialty groups have the opportunity to perform in front of live audiences at select locations such as, the General Conference, Riderwood Retirement Center, and area churches.

In addition to the classroom education, the students have the opportunity to explore music on field trips to the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Kennedy Center, and Sight and Sound Theatre. These field trips allow them to experience music by professional musicians and in settings where many have not had the chance to attend. It is through these opportunities that BAS is able to increase our students' love of music and enhance their cultural awareness.

Next time you look through your child's backpack, remember to ask them about what they did in music class. You may be treated to a new song they just learned or hear about a musical instrument they are excited to try!



A GREAT DAY FOR A 5K

The sun was shining, the temperature perfect and the crowd big...it was a great day to host the fifth annual Run Fast for BAS 5K Fun Run/Walk.

There were over 140 runners, walkers and strollers who came out in support of the 5K event this year. Once again this year, the race was timed with race time results available. The students and many parents too, had fun looking at the list of finishers and seeing where their name was in the pack.

Thank you to our event sponsors LivingWell, Riverdale Park Dental, American Lawn & Landscape Inc. and Cheryl S. Toscano of Long & Foster Real Estate., and all that came out and participated in the event. All proceeds from the event benefited the BAS Scholarship Fund. We hope to see you next year.

