

ALDRIN ADVISORY



“A FAMILY AFFAIR: HOME AND SCHOOL REMAINING FOCUSED ON LEARNING... CHILD-BY-CHILD”

February 18, 2010

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An Olympian Effort by the Aldrin Community



Since *The XXI Winter Olympics* opened in Vancouver, Canada last Friday we have been thrilled by Olympians from the United States and around the world in the challenges they have faced to simply become Olympic contenders, their athletic efforts, and the courage they have demonstrated in performing through pain and unimaginable competitive extremes, including the death of the twenty-one year old male luge rider from the country of Georgia, formally part of the Soviet Union. Despite a glitch in the lighting of the Olympic Flame during opening ceremonies and the warmer than usual weather in Vancouver that has limited the snowfall, everything has gone extremely well; much due to the organizational efforts of the Vancouver Olympic Committee and collaborative spirit with them and the Canadian citizens.

Two back-to-back record breaking snow “events” within less than a week certainly exceeded our wildest expectations and challenged all of us causing an immediate analogy in my mind between what has occurred in Canada since last Friday and our recent

experiences with the Aldrin community and the entire DC metropolitan area.

Under extraordinary conditions, the Aldrin community organized and collaborated in ways that can only be described as a *Gold Medal* performance! Aldrin families (past and present) along with their neighbors who may have never had children attend our school, organized and worked together to clear sidewalks, driveways, and bus stops so that our students could return to school as quickly as possible. Hot chocolate and coffee flowed almost as freely as the community spirit that warmed everyone as they worked on behalf of our children; boys and girls, parents, and neighbors thank you for your *Gold Medal* Olympic effort.



FCPS Superintendent, Dr. Dale and his staff also understand that digging out is not only a school-wide effort, it's a community effort. Hopefully you received Dr. Dale's email or phone message.

The Aldrin custodians worked Tuesday, Friday and Saturday last week and this past Monday, including up to the time students were returning to school two-hours late on Tuesday morning this week. Hour after hour they dug out our sidewalks, cleared areas that the snow plows did not reach in parking lots, inspected our roof for leaks, and cleared snow from around the fire hydrants located on our property; doing so for our children, teachers, and the greater Aldrin community. Ironically, last week was intended to have been *Custodian Appreciation Week*. It turned out to be a *Gold Medal* Olympic effort by our Building Supervisor (Julio

Avila), Assistant Building Supervisor (Marta Sanchez), and General Custodians (Patricia Sanchez, Pedro Aguirre, and Maria Ayala). Thank you custodians for all your hard work!

On Tuesday, Aldrin staff (and parents too!!) welcomed the return of our students back to school. It was just wonderful to see so many smiling faces. All children, staff and parents, were definitely ready to get back into the routine of school life. When special arrangements to our Kiss and Ride procedures were made in anticipation of many children being driven to school on Tuesday morning, the Aldrin staff was called upon to assist during arrival and dismissal times in order to more efficiently move the very long line of cars through our parking lot and to ensure that students were in class by the 9:15 am late bell; mission accomplished - another *Gold Medal* Olympic performance by Aldrin staff done in record time all three days this week.

Note: These temporary kiss and ride procedures are expected to remain in effect until no longer necessary. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding that they will not be permanent.

It remains hard to believe that since December 18 we have accumulated ten missed days of school (not counting our late opening time missed). Since the start of the third quarter on February 2, students have only been in school for five of thirteen days. Note: Specifics about the school day make-up options that are currently being considered by FCPS appear later in this newsletter.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ Progress Reports Sent Home—February 18
- ◆ Budget Forum at Marshall High School—February 20—9 to 12 p.m.
- ◆ Skate Night—February 21- 3 to 5 p.m.
- ◆ Family Fun Dance—March 5—6 to 8:45 p.m.
- ◆ Herndon Middle School Curriculum Overview - March 10—9 to 10:30 a.m.
- ◆ Spring Picture Day—March 24

The Bottom Line

What is the Bottom Line? An online newsletter by Fairfax County Public Schools for the FY 2011 budget. The Bottom Line is published by the FCPS Department of Communications and Community Outreach. Send your questions or ideas for future issues to thebottomline@fcps.edu.

Please Note: All FCPS employees and all FCPS parents who have registered e-mail addresses with their children's schools get The Bottom Line automatically. If you are not a member of one of these groups and want to receive copies of The Bottom Line, go to <http://www.fcps.edu/kit/>, create a KIT Plus subscription, and sign up for Current Issues or School Board News and Updates.



**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25—
GRADES K-3
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26—
GRADES 4-6**

**LOOK FOR THE AMERICAN
HEART ASSOCIATION DONA-
TION FLYER IN THE THURSDAY
RECORDER TODAY.**

Herndon Middle School 2010-2011 Registration Information

March 1st - 12th Counselors will visit elementary schools and course selection sheets will be due March 12th

Parents of Rising 7th Grade/Curriculum Overview (previously scheduled for February 24th) now scheduled for **March 10th from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.** at Herndon Middle School (Cafeteria). This is an opportunity to hear from the principal, core teachers and foreign language teachers. We will discuss the core curriculum requirements including advanced academic programs and the foreign language offerings.

An Olympian Effort by the Aldrin Community (cont.)

Yet again, it is going to take a Gold Medal Olympic effort by teachers, students, and our parents to assist students in reclaiming the instructional time and learning they have missed. I am confident that, together, we can reach this goal.

I hope, despite any inconvenience the snow caused, you were still able to enjoy Mother Nature's *Amazing Winter Wonderland*. It's been a very long time since our

area has had significant snow accumulation, and the "just right" type of snow for excellent sledding.

If you've had enough sledding and shoveling, consider building some snow sculptures or making some snow forts with your children, and warn your children to be careful if snowball throwing is allowed by you...



Have a warm, sunny weekend!

Snow Make-Up

The Fairfax County School Board, in concert with Dr. Dale, is currently considering available options for the make-up of school days missed thus far due to our recent snows. Dr. Dale has solicited feedback from the elementary, middle, and high school principal associations. The feedback that is provided will assist him in identifying the best options to recommend to the Fairfax County School Board.

Key Points sent to principals by Dr. Dale: Virginia Code 22.1-98 states "The length of every school's term in every school division shall be at least 180 teaching days or 990 teaching hours in any school year..." As of February 16, 2010, the unprecedented snow storms resulted in the loss of 10 days of school. Our current

calendar has three built-in snow days and the State waives three additional days, resulting in the need to make up the remaining four days. In addition to our standard option of adding makeup days to the end of the school year, two other options are being considered that add time to the each school day, which is more instructionally beneficial than adding multiple days to the end of the year.

Dr. Dale's recommendation will be forwarded to the School Board for their discussion as new business, and voted on by them March 4. I will let you know as soon as a decision is finalized. You are also always welcome to check FCPS Channel 21 or the FCPS Web Site <http://www.fcps.edu/index.shtml> for all the details.

Fairfax County to Host Budget Forums

County-Wide School Budget Forum with Full School Board

Postponed because of snow, the Budget Forum hosted by the Fairfax County School Board will now be held on Saturday, February 20, at Marshall High School from 9 a.m. to noon. Participants will learn more about the advertised budget adopted by the School Board on February 4 and the budget process as well as how to communicate effectively for change.

In addition, two breakout sessions will feature principals who will share the budget impact on their schools. Other session topics include how central office staff supports schools and budget realities and misconceptions. There will be ample opportunity for questions and answers. If you are planning to attend, please e-mail budgetforum@fcps.edu or call 571-423-1075.

Community Meeting Jointly Led by County and FCPS

Monday, March 1, 7 p.m.
Rocky Run Middle School, little theater, Chantilly, VA 20151
Hosted by:
FCPS School Board Chair Kathy Smith
FCPS Director of Budget Services Kristen Michael
Fairfax County Board Supervisor Michael Frey
Fairfax County Department of Management and Budget Director Susan Datta
Discussion:

- Budget highlights, process and calendar
 - Impact on individual schools
 - How to communicate effectively for change
- Contacts: Michael Frey: 703-814-7100; School Board: 571-423-1065.
Event information:
<http://www.fcps.edu/whatsnew.htm>