

ALDRIN ADVISORY



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

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ Second Quarter Ends—January 28
- ◆ Student Holidays—January 29 & February 1
- ◆ Budget Forum—February 6, 9 a.m.
- ◆ Level IV Referral Deadline
- ◆ PTA Meeting—February 9, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Progress Reports Sent Home—February 11
- ◆ No School (Presidents' Day)—February 15
- ◆ Family Fun Dance—March 5
- ◆ Spring Picture Day—March 24

Principal's Message



On January 7, Superintendent Jack Dale presented to the School Board a \$2.3 billion FY 2011 proposed budget that includes \$104.8 million in program cuts and cost avoidances and \$3.4 million in increased and new fees. In his presentation, Dr. Dale noted that the cuts and fees reflected community and employee feedback, as well as School Board priorities. Some key statements made by Dr. Dale:

“These cuts will have a long-term and far-reaching impact on maintaining our high student achievement and the excellence for which FCPS is widely known and respected.”

“Unfortunately, this is the third straight year I have had to submit a budget with major cuts due to dismal local and state economic conditions.”

“FCPS is at a crossroads. Student achievement, of course, is our highest priority, but we are also concerned with losing the many innovative programs that meet individual student needs and make Fairfax County a magnet for individuals and businesses alike.”

The proposed budget cuts will affect programs at Aldrin Elementary. Additionally and in the event that FCPS does not receive Dr. Dale's recommended county transfer increase of \$57.8 million from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, our

school will be affected to an even greater degree; potentially losing full-day kindergarten, elementary band and strings, further increases to class sizes for all classes, and my ability to staff our school with a full-time Advanced Academic Resource Teacher and full-time School Based Technology Specialist - all critical to our children's academic success and the overall success of Aldrin Elementary.

The FY 2011 proposed budget was developed based on the current fiscal realities. The Superintendent noted that if he presented a needs-based budget—a budget that would allow FCPS to continue to maintain high student achievement and excellence at the level at which Fairfax County residents expect—it would require an increase in the county transfer of \$248.4 million.

I urge you to become familiar with the budget and take opportunities to provide input as the budget process continues. More details on the budget and the schedule of work sessions, public hearings, and other activities through which the budget will reach its final form can be found at <http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2011.htm>.

Please join me at the next PTA meeting on February 9 at 7 pm where I will hold a Town Hall Meeting to discuss two timely topics: “Budget Implications for Our School” and “Advanced Academic Program Level IV Services for Third and Fourth Grade Aldrin Students in 2010 – 2011.”

(Adapted from FCPS The Bottom Line dated 01/08/10)

Fairfax County School Board to Host Budget Forum on February 6

You are invited to attend a Budget Forum hosted by the Fairfax County School Board on **Saturday, February 6 at Marshall High School from 9 a.m. to noon**. Participants will learn more about the budget (the FY 2011 advertised budget is scheduled to be 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 the 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.

Advanced Academic Level IV Program in Grades 3 and 4 Next Year!

This year, Aldrin began offering a full-time level IV advanced academic program for qualifying third graders. This was an alternative to students attending a center program at another school. One of the many benefits of the program being at Aldrin is that all 3rd graders now have access to the advanced academic curriculum in a variety of ways. We are excited to continue the program next year by offering level IV services in 4th grade. Learn more about Aldrin's Level IV Advanced Academic Program! Come to the PTA meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 9th at 7:00 pm.

(Deadline for Level IV referrals is Feb.5th.)

2009 – 2010 Yearbook Cover Design Winners Announced



Congratulations to 5th graders Carol Sukkar and Isabelle Roy for having their design selected for the rear and front covers of the Aldrin yearbook this year. Both of these students will receive a complimentary yearbook for their efforts. Over 100 entries were received from students who used their artistic skills to create a wide variety of cover designs that would illustrate the 2009 – 2010 yearbook theme, *“Fifteen Years Soaring Together.”* A number of other cover design finalists will see their creative work highlighted throughout the yearbook. Everyone who participated is to be congratulated for participating and a job well done!

Aldrin Elementary is Recognized for the Third Consecutive Year by Governor Kaine and Virginia Board of Education



Aldrin Elementary was one of 32 Fairfax County public schools (25 elementary and 7 high schools) and 288 schools in Virginia to have been recognized by the Virginia Board of Education and Governor Kaine for the *2010 Board of Education Excellence Award*. This is the third consecutive year our school has received this special recognition for having met all state and federal accountability benchmarks for at least two consecutive years and having

made significant progress toward goals for increased student achievement and expanded educational opportunities set by Governor Kaine and the state Board of Education. Thirty-six other Fairfax County public schools earned the *2010 Governor's Award for Educational Excellence*. For a complete listing, please use the following link:

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/news/news_releases/2010/jan12.shtml#excellence

School Bus Safety Reminder



Please assist Aldrin staff in reminding your child that acceptable classroom standards of conduct are expected of bus passengers while traveling to and from school and while on field trips. Bus drivers work closely with students and the administration to ensure that our children observe appropriate behavior and are not yelling, screaming, swearing, pushing, or fighting that could distract the bus driver's attention on the

road ahead. Students also should set an example for smaller children. They should not extend hands, arms, or heads from the bus window. Additionally, appropriate and safe student behavior is expected while students are waiting for the bus to arrive in the morning and while walking home from the bus stop in the afternoon. Students who do not heed the bus driver's warning as to behavior, may have their bus riding privilege suspended by the principal, based upon the driver's recommendation.

Aldrin Standards of Learning (SOL) 2010 Testing Calendar

Test	Students	Date	Testing Times*	Make-Up Dates
Writing Test (Multiple choice)	Grade 5	3/1*	9:30 - 11:30	3/2*
Direct Writing Test	Grade 5	3/3*	9:30 - 11:30	TBD
Reading	Grade 5	5/18	9:30-11:30	5/19-5/28
Reading	Grade 4	5/18	9:30-11:30	5/19-5/28
Reading	Grade 3	5/19	9:30-11:30	5/20-5/28
Math	Grade 5	5/19	9:30-11:30	5/20-5/28
Math	Grade 3	5/20	9:30-11:30	5/21-5/28
Virginia History	Grade 4	5/20	9:30-11:30	5/20-5/28
Math	Grade 4	5/25	9:30-11:30	5/26-5/28
Reading	Grade 6	5/25	9:30-11:30	5/26-5/28
History & Social Science	Grade 3	5/26	9:30-11:30	5/27-5/28
Science	Grade 5	5/26	9:30-11:30	5/27-5/28
Science	Grade 3	5/27	9:30-11:30	5/28
Math	Grade 6/7/8	5/27	9:30-11:30	5/28
History & Social Science	Grade 6	5/28**	9:30-11:30	5/29