

ALDRIN ADVISORY



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

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ Band/ Strings Concert—January 12
9:30 a.m.—Student Assembly
7:00 p.m.—Parent and Guest Assembly
- ◆ Martin Luther King Jr, Day (No School) - January 18
- ◆ IOWA Test – 6th Grade Compacted Math Students
- ◆ Second Quarter Ends—January 28
- ◆ Student Holidays—January 29 & February 1
- ◆ Progress Reports Sent Home—February 11



Please see back page for
Inclement Weather Procedures



Happy New Year to the Aldrin Family



On Monday, we were all energized to see our students return from their extra long Winter Break; many believing in the power of the now famous *Aldrin Snow Chant* performed by the entire student body at their annual *Aldrin Holiday Sing-Along* on Friday afternoon, December 18. Children arrived with a level of enthusiasm similar to the first day of school and with bursting news to me - “that chant really worked Mr. Marinoff”. Thank you for sending children to us each day who remain prepared, positive, and ready to learn. I promise no more *Aldrin Snow Chants* performed by all 595 students all at once – their results were way too good! Future chants are to only occur at home by individual students who are under parent supervision and who have their parent’s approval.

It is hard to believe that the first semester will end on January 28. Thank you for your part in making our first semester so successful. Following teacher workdays and no school for your children on January 31 and February 1, our third academic quarter will begin. I am positive that the next five months of the teaching and learning process will be productive, meaningful, and successful for all Aldrin teachers and your children.

Your child will receive the second quarter Progress Report on Thursday, February 11. Please use this report to gauge his/her effort and achievement thus far this year. Compliment your child where it is warranted and consult your child’s teacher if questions need answering.

Working together, you and your child’s teacher will make a difference for your child and enhance his/her potential for learning success.



January will bring the return of my Principal’s Recognition Program, beginning next week. At each grade level, approximately 15 students will be recognized each week for their achievement, and/or marked improvement in language arts, mathematics, science / technology, character development, and cafeteria manners. Additionally, 3 to 4 students will be recognized each week on a rotation basis in art education, music education, physical education, and as patrols.

Students that are recognized will have their names appear on the morning WALD TV program. On Friday afternoon, each child will receive a certificate and special pencil from me when they join Mrs. Gist and me for a special celebration honoring their Principal’s Recognition. As students enjoy a treat at their celebration, all of us will have the opportunity to share about one another. Lastly, students who are recognized will have their name and picture displayed in a special frame above the stage area in the main lobby.

I am very excited to be continuing this program at Aldrin. Students strive to be recognized. Teachers and parents are proud of their child’s success. School improvements are noted in the areas being recognized. However, the best part of this recognition program is that Mrs. Gist and I will get to know your child even better.

ENTRIES FOR THE 2009 – 2010 YEARBOOK COVER DESIGN HAVE BEEN EXTENDED TO FRIDAY, JANUARY 15

YOUR CHILD'S PICTURE COULD BE ON THE 2009 - 2010 ALDRIN YEARBOOK COVER SO PLEASE ENCOURAGE HIM/HER TO CONSIDER USING THEIR ART TALENTS TO DESIGN THE YEARBOOK COVER. YOUR CHILD WILL RECEIVE A COMPLIMENTARY YEARBOOK IF HIS/HER DESIGN IS SELECTED.

THE THEME IS "FIFTEEN YEARS SOARING TOGETHER".

HAVE YOUR CHILD SEE MRS. HARRIS FOR DETAILS OR VISIT HER 24-7 BLACKBOARD SITE [HTTP://FCPS.BLACKBOARD.COM/WEBAPPS/PORTAL/FRAMESET.JSP](http://fcps.blackboard.com/webapps/portal/frameSet.jsp) AND LINK TO HER ALDRIN ART STUDIO COURSE.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSINGS TELEPHONE HOT LINE WAS DISCONTINUED ON DECEMBER 31, 2009



Due to budget cuts, the FCPS emergency school closings telephone hot line was discontinued on December 31. Employees, students, parents, and community members who have relied on the hot line exclusively in the past will now need to check the FCPS web site, Channel 21 (a cable TV channel programmed by FCPS), or local TV and radio stations or sign up to receive emergency school closing information from the [Keep in Touch](#) e-mail notification system.

REFERRALS for FULL-TIME ADVANCED ACADEMIC PROGRAM (AAP) PLACEMENT—LEVEL IV (Grades 2–7)



Parents/guardians of students not in the second grade screening pool may initiate the full-time AAP (Level IV) screening process by completing and submitting an *AAP Level IV Referral Form* to the local school principal no later than February 5, 2010. No late referrals will be accepted. Second grad-

ers **not** in the pool and **all** third through seventh graders are screened only by referral. Forms are available on the AAP website <http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/gt> and in the *Parent Information Packet* available at the local school. For additional information contact: Mrs. Lewis, Advanced Academic Resource Teacher at Christine.Lewis@fcps.edu or 703-904-3800.

MAGNET SCHOOL PROGRAMS

The Hunters Woods Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences magnet program has openings for qualified students in grades K-6 for the 2010-11 school year. To be selected, students must be working on or above grade level in language arts, mathematics, and possess good citizenship and study skills. Entering kindergarten students should have attended preschool in 2009-2010.

An information night will be held at Hunters Woods ES on February 2, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. *(snow date is February 11). For more information contact Diane Beers, parent liaison, 703-262-7405.

Bailey's Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences integrates arts and technology in all curricular areas to make learning a creative experience.

Applicants for admission must be entering grades K-4 in the 2010 -11 school year, be working on or above grade level in language arts and math, and demonstrate positive interpersonal and school behav-

iors. Entering kindergarten students should have attended preschool in 2009-10.

An information night will be held at Bailey's ES on February 4, 2010, at 7:00 p.m.. (snow date February 11).

For more information, contact Marjorie McCarthy, 703-574-6836.

Selection for available magnet school spaces is based on a lottery. Applications for both programs are available in all Fairfax County elementary schools or can be downloaded from <http://www.fcps.edu/HuntersWoodsES/> or <http://www.fcps.edu/BaileysES>.

Applications to both programs must be sent to: Magnet Program, Leis Instructional Center, PreK-6 Instruction and School Support Office, Room 21A, 7423 Camp Alger Avenue, Falls Church, VA 22042.

Applications must be postmarked no later than March 1, 2010.

MY CHILD IS SICK ... WHAT DO I DO?



If your child is not feeling well in the morning, please use your best judgment about sending him or her to school. As you know, colds and flu can be easily spread from person to person and we want to keep all children (and teachers) at school and learning!

Any child who is found to be sick while at school will be sent home, but you can

help by keeping children who have a fever at home and keeping them at home for at least 24 hours after having a fever or showing signs of a fever, without the use of fever-reducing drugs.

Please plan now for your child's care if you or your child becomes ill and needs to stay home. Our goal is to keep Aldrin children (and Aldrin teachers) at school and available for learning!

DID YOU KNOW?

All parents received a copy of the 2009 *Student Responsibility and Rights Grades K-12* handbook (Regulation 2601.23P) at the start of the school year or when their child entered Aldrin ES for the first time, if arriving after the start of school. The following are excerpts from page 9 of that handbook:

School attendance is required by law as outlined in the Code of Virginia.

In FCPS, absences and tardies are addressed by individual interventions with progressive consequences for students.

Unexcused absences and tardies result when a child is absent from or late to school and the parent or guardian does not have prior knowledge, consent and/or legitimate reason.

Justifiable absences (and tardies) include those due to illness of the student, death in the family, medical or dental appointment, personal religious obligations, or other reasons acceptable to the principal (Note - at Aldrin, family vacations are consistently viewed as unexcused absences).

Whenever any student accumulates a total of five unexcused days of absence in a school year, the school will refer the student to the attendance officer, and a plan to resolve the non attendance will be developed (Note—at Aldrin letters are sent home for unexcused absences or tardies in excess of five. If attendance does not improve, a conference is held between the parents, principal, and the school social worker. This occurs prior to making a referral to the attendance officer.)

If further unexcused absence occurs in the school year, the attendance officer will file a complaint with the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court as described in Section 22.1 of the Code of Virginia.

Specific details concerning *Responsibility for Attendance* are provided in FCPS Regulation 2234. The link is:

<http://commweb.fcps.edu/schoolboardapps/numericindex.cfm>

PLEASE REMEMBER

YOUR CHILD WILL NOT BE MARKED TARDY IF ARRIVING BY SCHOOL BUS. If your child is assigned to ride a school bus, please utilize that school bus whenever possible. This will help to reduce the number of cars in the Kiss and Ride line and will ensure that your child does not receive an unexcused tardy.

STUDENTS CAN BE DISMISSED FROM CARS BEGINNING AT 8:55 AM. Student Patrols and one staff member will be available to open your car door and ensure that your child enters the school safely. Please have said all good-byes and have your child's backpack in a convenient spot to make their exit from your car as efficient as possible.

STUDENTS MUST BE IN THEIR CLASSROOMS NO LATER THAN 9:15 AM EACH SCHOOL DAY. This will require each child to enter the building no later than 9:12 AM.

STUDENT PATROLS MUST LEAVE THEIR KISS AND RIDE POSTS BY 9:10 so only one staff member will remain causing the Kiss and Ride line to move more slowly. If you must use Kiss and Ride, please allow yourself plenty of time to get through the line so your child will be on time to school. This is especially important during times of inclement weather.

STUDENTS ARRIVING AFTER 9:15 AM WILL RECEIVE AN UNEXCUSED TARDY. If your child will be exiting your car after 9:15 AM, you should park your car and accompany your child to the office to explain why he/she is late to school and so that your child can receive a tardy pass.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR EFFORTS TO HAVE YOUR CHILD IN THEIR CLASSROOM NO LATER THAN 9:15 AM.



ALDRIN'S CHARACTER TRAIT FOR JANUARY IS

RESPONSIBILITY

YOU CAN PRACTICE THIS AT HOME BY REMINDING STUDENTS TO:

ALWAYS DO YOUR BEST!

THINK BEFORE YOU ACT - CONSIDER THE CONSEQUENCES.

DO WHAT YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO DO.

BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR YOUR CHOICES.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS FOR BEING FEATURED IN THE DECEMBER 29TH ISSUE OF THE RESTON 2009 CHILDREN'S CONNECTION:

PANKA PASZTOR

ALLISON RULLI

TESS RUBACKY

SATHIYA KANNAN

JUDY ABU-IZZ

GRACE FRINKS

IMPORTANT INFORMATION--PLEASE KEEP FOR REFERENCE! Aldrin Elementary 2009-2010 Inclement Weather Procedures

Please keep this chart in a convenient location in the event school hours are adjusted due to inclement weather or other emergency situations.

If Schools . . .	Monday	Tuesday - Friday
Close for the Day A public announcement will be made by 5:30 a.m. on local radio and television stations and www.fcps.edu .	All day, after-school, and evening classes <u>and activities</u> (including PTA and community use) are cancelled. School-Age Child Care (SACC) centers are closed.	All day, after-school, and evening classes <u>and activities</u> (including PTA and community use) are cancelled. School-Age Child Care (SACC) centers are closed.
Open Two Hours Late A public announcement will be made by 5:30 a.m. on local radio and television stations and www.fcps.edu .	School Office opens on time for staff. <u>School begins at 11:15 a.m. and will NOT observe Monday early-closing schedule.</u> School closes at 3:55 p.m. Breakfast program and field trips are cancelled. SACC will open by 8:00 a.m., when possible.** Morning Preschool (special education) classes are cancelled. Full day Preschool Autism (PAC) classes start two hours later than the regular schedule. Afternoon Preschool (special education) starts on the regular Tuesday-through-Friday schedule.	School Office opens on time for staff. School begins at 11:15 a.m. Breakfast program and field trips are cancelled. Normal closing time at 3:55 p.m. SACC will open by 8:00 a.m., when possible.** Morning preschool (special education) classes are cancelled. Full-day Preschool Autism (PAC) classes start two hours later than the regular schedule. Afternoon Preschool (special education) starts on the regular Tuesday-through-Friday schedule.
Close Two Hours Early A public announcement will be made by 10:30 a.m. on local radio and television stations and www.fcps.edu .	Decision and Announcement by 10:30 AM. School closes at 1:55 p.m. SACC will stay open until the children are picked up. After-school and evening classes and activities cancelled. Morning Preschool (special education) classes are dismissed at approximately 11:00 a.m. Full-day Preschool Autism (PAC) classes are dismissed @11:15 am. Afternoon Preschool (special education) classes are cancelled.	Decision and Announcement by 10:30 AM. School closes at 1:55 p.m. SACC will stay open until the children are picked up. After-school and evening classes and activities cancelled. Morning Preschool (special education) classes are dismissed at approximately 11:00 a.m. Full-day Preschool Autism (PAC) classes are dismissed @1:45 PM. Afternoon Preschool (special education) classes are cancelled.

Parents are urged to make arrangements **NOW** for the care of their children when schedule changes are made. Children should know where to go if a parent will not be home.

**Every effort is made for SACC to open before 8:00 a.m. BEFORE you bring your child, please call the Center (703-904-3860) to make sure it is open.

In every case of a schedule change, tune in to cable Channel 21, check www.fcps.edu, or call the FCPS hotline at 800-839-3277.