

ALDRIN ADVISORY



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

March 18, 2010

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Principal's Message

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ Spring Pictures—March 24
- ◆ Grade 4 Recorder Concert—March 24 2:45 pm
- ◆ Spring Break—March 29 thru April 4 (School office will be closed)
- ◆ Census Forms Deadline—April 1
- ◆ Yearbook Order Deadline—April 16
- ◆ Progress Reports Sent Home—April 22
- ◆ Kindergarten Orientation—May 11



Monday, April 12 is no longer a teacher workday or a student holiday. It is now a snow make-up day and a full day of school following the Tuesday - Friday hours. Specific information about the revised 2009 - 2010 School Calendar follows later in this newsletter. Monday, April 12 is the beginning of the fourth academic quarter and with it usually comes warmer weather, longer periods of daylight, increased outdoor activities or sporting events, and ever-increasing thoughts of summer vacation. However, despite these potential distractions, much remains to be taught and learned between April 12 and June 25. Please continue to support the efforts of our teachers and the learning needs of your children by helping your child develop a healthy balance between school related activities and other outside activities that could distract him/her from taking full advantage of the remainder of the school year.

Key to this teaching and learning process

is your ongoing efforts to communicate with and work closely with your child's teacher. Teachers especially need your continued support as you monitor your child's academic growth during the remaining nine weeks of school. Third quarter Progress Reports will be sent home on Thursday, April 22. Please take time to review the progress of your child with him/her and use this opportunity 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 to succeed.

As teachers and students begin fourth quarter on April 12, I will be thinking of them from my hospital room. That day I will be having surgery to replace my left knee; matching the same surgery I had on my right knee in January 2001, prior to my coming to Aldrin Elementary. Mrs. Gist will assume my responsibilities and

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2009 - 2010 School Year Extended

At their March 4 meeting, the Fairfax County School Board voted to follow the School Board-approved 2009-2010 Standard Calendar with Monday, April 12, 2010 as the first makeup day, with the remaining three makeup days added to the end of the year on June 23, 24, and 25. Although Mondays are normally a shortened day at the elementary level, on April 12 students will follow their normal Tuesday - Friday schedule. This Board decision was made after obtaining extensive community and staff feedback. If

additional makeup days are required, they will be added to the end of the school year and would begin on June 28. Since February 15 could not be used as a makeup day due to inclement weather, the first makeup day will be Monday, April 12, and all makeup days have been shifted accordingly.

In addition the Board approved an action to seek a waiver from the Virginia Department of Education for one of the makeup days and any other future days that would be missed.

Principal's Message (continued)

SCHOOL OFFICES CLOSED DURING SPRING BREAK

Beginning Friday, March 26 at 4:30 pm through Monday, April 5 at 8:00 am the Aldrin school office will be closed.

Custodians will follow a normal schedule as they freshen up our building and grounds for our students' return following spring break. They will also be available to ensure that community use hours are continued.

will be named the acting principal during my period of recovery and rehabilitation. At this time, I anticipate returning to work in early May.

I have every confidence that Mrs. Gist will do an outstanding job running our school and guiding our instructional programs. Our school and especially your child will continue to move forward academically in my absence. Rest assured that Mrs. Gist and I will communicate regularly through phone and email so that my return in May is a smooth transition for everyone.

I am currently working with the Cluster I Assistant Superintendent to identify someone fully qualified to assume Mrs. Gist's assistant principal responsibilities while she is the acting principal. I anticipate naming this individual before my last day on April 9. The name of that person and pertinent background information will be provided to you once it is known.

Thank you for your continued support to our school and confidence in me as your child's principal.

Attention Parents of Students in Grades 3 – 6

TIME TO ORDER THE 2009 - 2010 ALDRIN YEARBOOK



Yearbook purchases are under way. There are limited copies of our 64 page yearbook for sale and it is anticipated that these copies will go quickly.

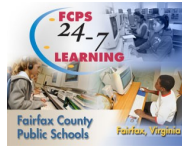
Students are encouraged to place their orders in advance of the

April 16 deadline.

The cost of the yearbook remains \$14.00 if ordered before April 16.

In June, any unsold yearbooks will be available for purchase at the \$15.00 publication price on a first-come first-served basis.

A yearbook order form can be found at the end of this newsletter.



Please review the steps for parents to access eCART ASPIRE student assessments. These FCPS assessments occur twice each year and provide teachers with valuable instructional information regarding their students' progress in reading and mathematics. The first quarter eCART ASPIRE assessment occurred in November and covered instructional material that was to have been learned to that point in the school year. Teachers will be giving the second assessment to their students later this month and it includes instructional material that students are expected to know by the end of this school year. In analyzing these eCART assessments, teachers (individually and as a grade level team) and parents can determine what students have or have not learned at key points in the school year. More importantly, using this instructional information in combination with their ongoing formative assessments teachers are provided with valuable information to deliver instruction that is closely matched to the needs of individual students or their entire class.

Log on to www.fcps.edu

1. Select the link FCPS 24-7 Learning
2. **User Name** - type your child's FCPS Identification Number - you can find this on his/her Progress Report.
3. **Password** - either use the one you may have set **OR** ask your child if he/she set one **OR** re-type his identification number (which is how it is set the first time FCPS 24-7 Learning is used).
4. Select Login.
5. Select the eCART tab at the top of the menu bar.
6. Select the ASPIRE link
7. Select Continue until you reach "Completed Assessments" You will see the following headings - Assessment - Completion Date - Score - Action, then:
 - Select the "Action" icon that corresponds to the assessment you want to see.
 - Work your way through the assessment using the options that may be available.

Requests for Applications, Surveys, Reports, or Student Records

Throughout each school year, parents often request that their child's teacher(s) or other school staff provide information in the form of an application, a survey, or a report to a private school, agency, or specific organization. The information being requested frequently requires multiple pages to be completed resulting in the individual using valuable instructional planning or personal time to complete the document being requested. In fairness to parents and Aldrin staff, these requests are consistently not honored. However, the school, in accordance with *The Privacy Rights of Parents and Students Act*, will provide the child's school records, as long as written parent permission has been received. These records will be mailed directly to the professional, school, or organization. They will not be given to the parent to deliver.

During this time of the year as plans are being made to move out of the area and enroll students in another school, we also have requests to duplicate or mail student records. We are always most happy to accommodate each parent's request, provided the request is made in a timely manner. Parents have a variety of options when requesting duplication of records:

- Parents with whom a child resides receive one copy at no cost of all report cards, test scores, and other information about their child. Additional copies may be obtained upon payment of duplicating fees - up to

and including 6 one-sided pages is \$5.00, with each additional one-sided page at 20 cents per side.

- Duplicate copies of test data and end-of-the-year Progress Reports may be obtained by the parent not residing with the child upon payment of duplicating fees.
- Parents may pick up the sealed records to mail or deliver as they see fit.

If your child's camp requires a physical and/or a list of current immunizations and you would like to request a copy of that information from the school instead of visiting your pediatrician, please inform our school registrar, Mrs. Walker, in writing and at least two weeks prior to the date the information is needed. At that time a duplicating fee may be assessed. The fees collected will be in accordance to FCPS Notice 2701.

Postage will be charged as appropriate.

Charges may be waived when:

- Fees would cause a financial hardship.
- The parent, guardian, or eligible student would otherwise be prevented from exercising the right to inspect and review the records.
- Official requests are received from other school systems or government agencies.

Attention Sixth Grade Parents - Save the Date - Thursday, June 24, 2010



Please mark your calendar to attend your child's Sixth Grade Dinner and Awards Ceremony on **Thursday evening June 24, 2010** in our school cafeteria, beginning at 5:15 pm. This special evening for our sixth graders, their parents and teachers, includes a Carrabba's Italian Grill dinner for students and guests. Unfortunately

and due to the state of our economy, Carrabba's is no longer able to provide complimentary dinners for each of our sixth graders and two adult guests. I am currently negotiating a reasonable price with Carrabba's management for their delicious dinner - **details about the evening events and the cost for meals will be provided in a reservation-type flyer that will be sent home in late May or early June.**

KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION MAY 11

It is time to register rising kindergarten students.

The Aldrin Kindergarten Orientation is Tuesday, May 11 from 8:30 - 11:00 am.

Recently you received a Survey of Preschool Children in your Thursday folder. Please take the time to complete and return the survey if there is a child in your home who will reach their fifth birthday on or before September 30, 2010.

Please share this information with others living within the Aldrin school boundary.

REMINDER SPRING PICTURES WEDNESDAY MARCH 24

As you search for that special spring picture outfit for your child, please remember that pictures will be taken next Wednesday, March 24 and will include a group class picture as well as an individual student picture.

The Spring Picture envelope-flyers were sent home in your child's yellow Take-Home-Thursdays Envelope last week.

Group photos must be preordered.

Please call the school office if another order envelope is needed.

THANK YOU PARENTS AND ALDRIN STAFF



On behalf of the Aldrin teachers and staff, I would like to extend a special thank you to the PTA volunteers who coordinated the Family Fun Dance and Auction on March 5, to the parents who supported this exciting evening by attending with their children, and to the Aldrin staff who attended and/or provided enticing auction items in support of our PTA.

This annual PTA event was not only very well organized but extremely successful in terms of the monies raised in support of our school. Fun was had by all - parents, students, teachers, and the Aldrin administrators. At Aldrin Elementary, it is truly "a family affair"!

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

Census Will Bring Dollars to Schools

"LET'S MOVE" KICK-OFF



First Lady Michelle Obama kicked off "Let's Move", a program designed to tackle childhood obesity by encouraging exercise and healthy eating.

Here at Aldrin, we are starting a new column in our newsletter called "Aldrin's Fitness Corner" which supports the FCPS Wellness Policy and our children's effort to reach their fitness goals and live a healthy lifestyle.



Every resident in Fairfax County can help bring additional funds to our schools by completing the census forms that will be mailed to every household in the country in mid-March.

Counties and school districts receive federal funds based on census data. Everyone should be counted—it doesn't matter whether you are a citizen or not. Answers on the ten-question census form are confidential. By law, they cannot be shared with any local, state, or federal government agency, such as immigration, welfare, or the police.

FCPS school-based **parent liaisons** and student registration site **community liaisons** will be available to help families complete the ten-question census form. Many of FCPS liaisons are bilingual, and like

Census Bureau employees, are bound to rules of confidentiality. Families can bring their census form to their school parent liaison or to a community liaison at:

- South County Government Center, suite 123, 8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria.
- Lake Anne-North County Government Center, suite 310, 11484 Washington Plaza West, Reston.
- Devonshire Center, room 10, 2831 Graham Road, Falls Church.
- Census forms are mailed in English and Spanish. Residents can call 1-866-783-2010 if they want to receive a census form in Chinese, Korean, Russian, or Vietnamese.

Census forms should be completed and mailed back by April 1. To learn more about the 2010 census, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/census.

ALDRIN'S FITNESS CORNER

THE kid's ACTIVITY PYRAMID

Each week you can have fun and be active by trying the following things...

With Friends

- Dance to music
- Play games like tag and hopscotch
- Join a sports team at school or the park

With Family

- Go on a walk together
- Play at the park
- Turn off the TV for a day

By Yourself

- Fly a kite
- Do cartwheels, somersaults or jumping jacks
- Practice sports skills

Have more fun by thinking up your own activities!



For additional copies, call 1-800-372-7776.

Nutritious Snacks

P	R	U	N	E	X	Y	I	C	E	C	R	E	A	M
A	M	I	L	K	B	D	M	O	Q	S	N	I	T	I
S	R	P	L	U	M	S	L	A	B	T	U	A	L	L
V	R	A	I	S	I	N	S	B	C	D	E	A	R	K
B	A	N	A	N	A	U	H	L	M	N	U	T	S	S
U	P	U	S	U	W	T	A	P	P	L	E	E	N	H
V	Y	O	G	U	R	T	K	O	R	T	S	S	T	A
X	S	S	C	Y	A	P	E	A	C	H	E	S	S	K
V	C	H	E	E	S	E	T	J	U	I	C	E	L	E

apple, banana, cheese, ice cream, juice, milkshake, nuts, peaches, plums, prune, raisins, yogurt

Fruit Find

W	D	A	T	E	S	P	E	A	C	H
A	P	P	L	E	X	P	E	A	R	R
T	W	R	A	S	P	B	E	R	R	Y
E	L	I	M	E	G	P	L	U	M	T
R	O	C	H	E	R	R	Y	W	B	X
M	X	O	C	F	D	F	G	Y	A	L
E	S	T	A	N	G	E	R	I	N	E
L	M	A	N	G	O	R	A	C	A	M
O	R	A	N	G	E	D	P	L	N	O
N	L	E	M	O	N	P	E	M	A	N

- | | | | |
|--------|-------|--------|------------|
| apple | grape | orange | raspberry |
| banana | lemon | peach | tangerine |
| cherry | lime | pear | watermelon |
| dates | mango | plum | |

Attention Parents and Students!!

Now is the time to order your yearbook. Yearbooks will be on sale from March 18 through April 16. Yearbooks will ONLY be sold during this pre-paid period.

The cost of the yearbook is \$14.00.

This yearbook is expected to be the best ever. The 2009-2010 Aldrin yearbook will be packed full of the best collection of photographs representing the school year and include Dr. Aldrin's back-to-school visit.

You may order as many copies as you wish; however, **it is very important to the ordering and distribution process that you send a separate check and form for each child's yearbook order.**

Please fill out the order form below. Yearbooks will be distributed in early June.

Please contact Mrs. Aschenbach @ 703-904-3806 or Mrs. McElrath @ 703-904-3802 with any questions about yearbook orders.

Detach here and return in an envelope marked "ALDRIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL YEARBOOK ORDER."

**Return all orders to your classroom teacher or the school office.
Make checks payable to, "Aldrin Elementary School."**

A separate check / form is needed for each child's yearbook order!!

Yearbook Order Form

STUDENT'S NAME: _____

SCHOOL NAME: _____ ALDRIN ELEMENTARY _____

GRADE: _____ TEACHER'S NAME: _____

NUMBER OF COPIES REQUESTED FOR THIS CHILD: _____ TOTAL PAID: \$ _____