

# ALDRIN ADVISORY



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

May 27, 2010

**J. MARTIN MARINOFF, JR., PRINCIPAL**  
Marty.Marinoff@fcps.edu

Volume 7 Number 8

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Principal's Message	1
Staffing Projections for 2010-2011	1
As This Year Winds Down	2
Student Placements and Staff Selections for 2010 - 2011	2
Attention Sixth Grade Parents - Date Change	3
Lunch Money	3
Summer Office Hours and Door Entry	4
Attention Parents of Fifth Grade Students—Very Important Information	4

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ May 28—2 Hour Early Dismissal
- ◆ May 31—No School—Memorial Day Holiday
- ◆ June 4—Kindergarten Play, 2:00 p.m.
- ◆ June 8—SCA Election
- ◆ June 8—PTA Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ June 9—SCA Election Results Announced 3:30 p.m.
- ◆ June 11—Career Day—9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- ◆ June 15—6th Grade Yearbook Signing 9:30 a.m.
- ◆ June 15—6th Grade Play 2:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ June 18—6th Grade Visit HMS 9:30 a.m.
- ◆ June 22—3rd Grade Recorder Concert 2:45 p.m.
- ◆ June 23—Grades 1–5 Awards Ceremony 9:30 a.m.—11:00 a.m.
- ◆ June 23—6th Grade Awards Dinner 6:00 p.m.
- ◆ June 24—Last Day of School—Dismissal 11:45 a.m.

## Principal's Message:

### Thank you to the Aldrin Community

My wife and I would like to thank the entire Aldrin Community for the many prayers that were said on behalf of our daughter, Erin, following her March 30 tragic automobile accident. We are also grateful for the numerous cards and emails supporting us as we moved through our myriad of highs and lows during Erin's ICU hospitalization.

I am pleased to share that Erin was taken off the ventilator and the feeding tube within the last three weeks. She was moved from ICU last week to the burn unit rehabilitation floor where she will be for a month or

more. There she will go through painful physical and occupational therapy two to three times each day in the special gym that is located right on her floor. The goal will be for her to learn to walk again, increase her strength and flexibility, and restore full use of her hands that were very badly burned. Overall, the doctors are pleased with Erin's healing and the prognosis looks promising.

Please continue to keep her in your prayers - she has a long healing process ahead of her, with the possibility of one or two additional surgeries.

## Staffing Projections for 2010 - 2011



FCPS has allocated our school nineteen (19) classroom teachers (up one from this year) in grades 1 through 6 and five (5) full-day sessions of kindergarten for the 2010 - 2011 school year. In assessing our current student numbers for grades 1 through 6 next year, I believe that the (19) classroom teacher positions will be allocated as follows: **grade 1** (five teachers); **grade 2** (four teachers); **grade 3** (either three or four teachers); **grades 4 and 5** (either two or three teachers); and **grade 6** (two teachers). Please keep in mind that these allocations may be different in August when more definitive student enrollment numbers are known.

Staff assignments inevitably change each year due to retirements, vacancies, and interest in professional growth. At this time the following is known:

**Not returning to Aldrin** - one Preschool Autism Class (PAC) teacher, one kindergarten teacher; and two teachers from grades 1-6;

**Positions filled** - one kindergarten and two grades 1-6 teachers; and

**Positions to be filled** - one PAC teacher, and three grades 1-6 teachers (grade levels TBD in August).

Names of departing staff members and those new to our school will appear in my August welcome letter.

*Safety Reminder*

During this busy time of the year, please remember the safety of our students, their families, and other staff members as you drive through our parking lots during school visits, and especially during Kiss and Ride arrival and dismissal times. It is always important to maintain safe speed limits and avoid passing stopped vehicles. Thanks for keeping our children and others safe!

**As This Year Winds Down**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for making Aldrin Elementary School an outstanding place in which to work and learn. It is hard to believe that we are about to put a close to this very successful school year. It is my hope that you and your child will use your time this summer to enjoy one another and that your son or daughter will find time to read. **The last day of school is Thursday, June 24. Dismissal is at 11:45**

**am.** Thank you for working with us to make this school year academically successful for your child.

As this school year winds down and we prepare for the next, let us remain mindful that you and I hold the same agenda for your child, a successful school experience. Working together we will continue to make a difference for the children of Aldrin Elementary. Thanks for a wonderful school year!

## Student Placements and Staff Selections for 2010 - 2011

*Picnics and Carnivals ....*

June 16—5th Grade 10:00 a.m.

June 17—2nd Grade 9:30 a.m.

June 18—4th Grade 11:30 a.m.

June 18—6th Grade Carnival  
12:30 p.m.

June 22—1st Grade 11:45 a.m.

June 23—Kindergarten 11:00 a.m.

June 23—3rd Grade 11:30 a.m.



Student placements and staff selections for any upcoming school year are always given my highest priority. As such, I continue to remain committed to selecting teachers whose unique strengths and interests will benefit our children and the instructional programs we provide.

Forming classes and making student placements will be done with the best interest of students in mind, considering each child's academic needs and learning styles while establishing heterogeneously grouped classes. All classes will be established with a balance in boy/girl ratios, academic levels of performance, ethnic diversity, and specific learning needs. Review of student records, classroom teacher recommendations concerning learning styles, work habits and student needs, and consultation with our guidance counselors and specialists will all play a vital role in this important decision-making process.

**Parents also hold a valuable part of the class placement decision-making**

**puzzle.** If you have information about your child (i.e., special needs or circumstances) or the kind of learning environment best suited for your child (i.e., teaching style, learning style, and academic strengths/needs) that could affect your child's 2010 - 2011 placement, **please direct it to me in writing by June 30, 2010.** Your letter should provide your "observational snapshot" as to the way(s) your child learns best or the type of learning environment that you believe would best meet your child's needs. Parent written input concerning their child, in addition to information provided by the professional staff that have worked directly with each child, will be carefully considered.

The content of parent letters should not name a specific teacher or be written in a manner that provides information which only pertains to a certain teacher. If so, that portion of the letter will not be considered when making your child's 2010 - 2011 class placement.

*Remember to  
Pick Up Your  
Child's Medication*



Medication stored in the clinic must be picked up no later than the student dismissal time, 11:45 pm, on the last day of school, June 24. Medication left in the clinic after that time will be discarded. It is FCPS policy that medications must be picked up by the parents or guardian.

## Attention Sixth Grade Parents – Date Change

Since my last newsletter, the last day of school has been moved to Thursday, June 24. As a result, the Sixth Grade Awards Ceremony and Dinner has also been moved. It will now occur on Wednesday evening, June 23 in our school cafeteria.

As reported in my last newsletter, Carrabba's unfortunately and due to the state of our economy is no longer able to provide complementary dinners for each of our sixth graders and two adult guests. However, I was able to negotiate a price with Carrabba's management for their delicious dinner - \$4/sixth grader and \$8/each parent and guest.

In honoring our outgoing sixth graders, I will use local school funds to pay the cost of their meal. My hope is that this will allow parents and additional guests to be able to attend this special event. Anyone who may have some unique financial situation is encouraged to contact me so that we can discuss in confidence how I might assist you in being able to attend.

Since the sixth grade dinner and

awards ceremony will take place on the evening prior to the last day of school, attendance that evening will meet the last day June 24 two and a half-hour attendance requirement. With this in mind, parents may elect to have their child's last full day at Aldrin be Wednesday, June 23. This will be a parental decision and there will be a place on the dinner reservation form for parents to indicate their decision. Please know that if your child does not attend the awards ceremony on Tuesday evening they will be expected to attend school for two and a half hours on Thursday, June 24. Our sixth grade teachers will be at school to work with these children and others whose parents want them to attend on the final day of school. **Specific information and reservation-type flyer about this year's special sixth grade dinner and awards ceremony and dinner was given to your child today in his or her Take-Home Thursday envelope. To ensure that Carrabba's has adequate time to plan for their meal preparations, please return your family reservation no later than Friday, June 4.**

## Lunch Money

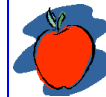


Please remember to replenish your child's lunch money account. It is easy to forget at this busy time of the year, but can be done quickly and conveniently—you can either send in cash or a check (made payable to Aldrin Food Services) with your child to school, or you can go to MyLunchMoney.com.

Please note that it is important that you make sure that your child has enough money on his/her lunch card to begin next school year. If your child will not return to Aldrin or another FCPS school in the fall, any remaining money currently on your child's card will be refunded.

Contact the Office of Food and Nutrition Services at 703-813-4800 to obtain information on the refund process. The money on the accounts of students who plan to return to Aldrin or another FCPS school remains in their FCPS lunch card account.

Additionally, look for letters from FCPS Food Services in August with information on qualifying for free and reduced price meals. Everyone must apply to qualify. If you've qualified before, you must reapply. It is vital that you apply early so that your child (if qualified), can access the free and reduced price opportunity right away in September.



### Aldrin's Fitness Corner

#### Add More Fruits to Your Family's Diet

*Our bodies crave fruits (and vegetables) more than just about any other food because we tend to get far fewer of them than we need. Both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the USDA recommend at least 5 servings of produce per day! What you're missing could be the difference between just surviving and all out thriving.*

*With just a little thought and a tiny bit of effort in snack preparation, you can make these nutritious foods more convenient and accessible for the whole family:*

- *Add fruits to cereals, oatmeal, waffles or pancakes at breakfast*
- *Create your own yogurt flavors by mixing plain yogurt and fresh fruit*
- *Offer your family 100% juices instead of addictive coffee, teas, and sodas.*
- *Keep fruits and vegetables in the line of sight. A bowl of grapes, oranges, bananas, and apples make a colorful arrangement on the table. If you see them, you will eat them.*
- *Dried fruit is just a portable as potato chips—and less messy.*
- *Frozen fruits are nearly as healthy as the fresh stuff, and only take minutes to prepare.*
- *Combine fruit with your main meal courses. Raisins, apples, and tangerine slices add a sweet crunch to a salad.*

### Thank You Parents and PTA Members



We are very fortunate at Aldrin to have the level of support that we do from our PTA organization and our parents. Many of you volunteer countless hours working in classrooms, serving on committees, chaperoning field trips, working from home, and in so many other outstanding ways to benefit our children. The exceptional financial support that is provided through our PTA also makes it possible for our school and teachers to support your child's instructional needs. Although Volunteer Appreciation week was some weeks ago, it is never too late to thank all of you who have supported our school, students, and teachers throughout the year in so many wonderful ways. Thank you!



### ALDRIN'S Character Trait For May is

## RESPECT

Remember the Golden Rule:

Treat others as you want to be treated



## Summer Office Hours and Door Entry

Aldrin Elementary will host the Extended School Year (ESY) for identified preschool special education students from July 6 through August 12, as well as summer sessions for Preschool students and our Preschool Autism Class (PAC) students from July 6 through August 12. **The Aldrin school office will conduct regularly scheduled business Monday through Friday from 8:00 am through 2:00 pm in June and July, and 8:00 through 4:30 pm in August.**

Exit doors will remain locked throughout the summer, thus requiring

that parents and guests wishing to enter our building first press the button on the control camera located on either the far left of the entrance doors at Exit 1 or the far right of the entrance doors at Exit 5. An office staff member will request that the individual identify who they are and announce why they need to enter the school. Once this information is obtained, parents / visitors will then be buzzed into our school, and will be expected to come directly to the school office.



### Attention Parents of Fifth Grade Students Very Important Information!

Effective July 1, 2006, all students in Virginia must receive a booster dose of Tdap vaccine **prior to entering sixth grade**, if at least five years have passed since the last dose of tetanus toxoid-containing vaccine (DTP, DTaP, DT, or Td).

- If your child is 11 years old, he or she should get the Tdap immunization, and documentation should be provided to the school.
- If your child is still 10 years old, he or she may receive the Tdap vaccine, Boostrix, which is approved for 10 years old, or you may wait until the 11th birthday to receive the vaccine approved for 11-year-olds.
- If your child's 11th birthday is after the first day of school, your child must have a medical exemption from the doctor stating when he or she will receive the Tdap immunization in order to attend school.

Please check your child's immunization records carefully. If your child is required to have a Tdap booster, we ask that your child receive it and that you provide documentation to the school prior to June 22, 2010. This documentation can be a copy

of your child's immunization record, or a note from your physician listing the date of his or her most recent Tdap booster shot.

The Tdap booster can be obtained from your child's physician. Immunizations required for school are also available at the Fairfax County Health Department at no charge. Clinic locations and walk-in hours are available online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/hdclinicsite.htm>. Students receiving immunizations at the Health Department must be accompanied by an adult, and students should bring their immunization records to the Health Department clinic with them.

It is most important that you attend to this matter soon. **Sixth graders cannot begin school in the fall without documentation of having had the Tdap booster or having had a tetanus-containing vaccine within the past five years.**

Please contact the school public health nurse at 703-904-3800 if you have any questions. Thank you for your cooperation.