

# ALDRIN ADVISORY—



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

February 3, 2011

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Aldrin Advisory—Volume 8 Number 6

## Attention All Parents – Your Immediate Response is Requested by Tomorrow, February 4

A copy of my newsletter is being sent this month via your oldest child at Aldrin Elementary. Your immediate response is requested to the brief questionnaire that is attached to this newsletter. Please return it tomorrow to your oldest child's teacher in that child's Thursday Recorder. It is important that we receive a response from each Aldrin family to ensure that we have accurate records for those families preferring to receive or not preferring to receive future copies of the *Aldrin Advisory Principal's Newsletter*.

Upon my return from knee replacement surgery after being gone much of November and December, I discovered that a copy of the *Aldrin Advisory Principal's Newsletter* may not have been sent home to families who had wished not to receive it electronically via the Aldrin Website. All current and past newsletters are available at <http://www.fcps.edu/AldrinES/newsletterarchive.html>.

I apologize for this inconvenience. If this situation applies to you and you would like to receive back copies of the *Aldrin Advisory*, please indicate this on the attached ques-

tionnaire in the space provided. Copies will be sent to you as soon as possible.

Efforts to conserve paper will continue to be made this year by reducing the printed materials that are sent home and by posting handbook information, newsletters, notices, PTA flyers, and other information on the Aldrin Website. In addition, whenever it is necessary to send printed materials home, it will be done via the oldest child in each family.

**Thank you in advance for returning the Questionnaire with your oldest child tomorrow.**



### UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ Level IV Referral Deadline—February 4, 4 p.m.
- ◆ Progress Reports Sent Home—February 10
- ◆ Presidents' Day—February 21—Normal School Day—Regular Tuesday to Friday Dismissal
- ◆ Coffee with the Reading Teacher—February 21—10 a.m.
- ◆ PTA Meeting—February 22, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Read Across America Day—March 2
- ◆ Family Fun Dance—March 11
- ◆ Spring Picture Day—March 23
- ◆ Spring Break—April 18 thru 22
- ◆ Science Fair—April 28
- ◆ Rising Kindergarten Registration—May 2
- ◆ Rising Kindergarten Orientation—May 5

## Principal's Message

Thank you for your support during my absence from school as I recovered from total left knee replacement surgery. You, our staff, and the Aldrin students continued to ensure educational excellence during my time away. Our assistant principal, Mrs. Gist, did an outstanding job in running our school in her role as acting principal, and Mrs. Lewis, our advanced academic resource teacher, masterfully juggled her classroom responsibilities while supporting Mrs. Gist and our school as the principal's designee. Knowing their level of professionalism, skills in working with adults and children, and their dedication to the Aldrin community, I was able to avoid worrying about our school and focus my efforts on rest and rehabilitation. When I returned on January 10, I could not have been prouder to learn about the job that they and our staff had done for your children, the school-wide leadership demonstrated by our staff team leaders, and all that had taken place within our school community. However, I was not

surprised at what I learned because the Aldrin culture places family first, always supporting one another and your children. Thank you very much for all that everyone did!

It is hard to believe that the first semester ended on January 28 and the second semester began yesterday, February 2. You are to be commended for your part in making our first semester so successful for your child and our teachers. Second quarter Progress Reports will be sent home with your child on Thursday, February 10. 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 over the remaining five months of school and enhance his/her potential for learning success.



### February 21st—Snow Make up Day

Because of the recent snow days and based on the calendar established by the School Board, Monday, February 21, will now be a makeup day for all Fairfax County Public Schools students. All schools and offices will be open. Elementary schools will follow a full-day schedule with no early dismissal. SACC programs will operate on a regular schedule. Schools will be open for community use. For more information about the calendar and makeup days see <http://www.fcps.edu/about/10-11cal.htm>



## Principal's Recognition Program Begins!

I am very excited to be continuing this program this year and look forward to recognizing students in grades 1 - 6 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.

The approximately 15 students who are recognized each week will have their names appear on the morning WALD TV program. During a weekly thirty-minute special celebration, each child will join Mrs. Gist and me to honor their *Principal's Recognition*. All students being recognized will enjoy a treat and each child will receive a certificate and special pencil at their celebration. The celebration will also afford all of us 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.

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. I cannot wait until next week!

Special recognition and celebration for kindergarten students with Mrs. Gist and me will occur in early June and will be coordinated with the kindergarten team. Mrs. Gist and I always look forward to this time of year when we celebrate the year-long accomplishments of our youngest learners!

## Parent's Responsibility for Child's Walking Routes

The FCPS Office of Safety and Security has asked that schools remind parents of their important role in the safety of their child:

- Parents are responsible for selecting their children's walking routes to and from bus stops, schools, and home.
- Parents are also responsible for providing supervision that is appropriate to the student's age, the student's maturity, and conditions on the route.
- FCPS staff does not assess all possible walking routes, supervise those routes, or guarantee the safety of any particular

route.

- Staff provides general safety information to school communities, and responds to requests for specific information, and advice when practicable.
- Staff also assesses routes for unusual hazards when walkers, parents, or others bring concerns to their attention.
- Special arrangements or precautions to include meeting their child at stops may be needed for younger riders such as kindergarten or FECEP.

## Aldrin Elementary Recognized by Virginia Board of Education and Governor McDonnell

Aldrin Elementary was one of 58 Fairfax County public schools (47 elementary, 1 middle, and 10 high schools) and 323 schools in Virginia to have been recognized by the Virginia Board of Education and Governor McDonnell for the *2011 Board of Education Excellence Award*. This is the fourth 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 McDonnell and the Virginia Board of Education. Twenty-four other Fairfax County public schools (11 elementary, 9 middle, and 4 high 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/2011/jan20.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/news/news_releases/2011/jan20.shtml)

## Attention Kindergarten Parents

The school system's chief operating officer, whose responsibilities include pupil transportation and safety, has directed that the following procedures be followed regarding afternoon transportation of kindergarten students. The procedure is to be effective February 14, 2011, at all FCPS elementary schools. Please note that the term "guardian" includes day care providers or other adults designated by parents on a

student's emergency care card.

**"All kindergarten students riding regular afternoon school buses are to be met at their bus stop by the parent, a guardian, or a sibling in 7<sup>th</sup> grade or higher, or the driver will ask that the school be notified by transportation of the student's return and provide an estimated return time."**



## Kindergarten Orientation Date and Registration Date

Our Kindergarten Orientation for parents and rising kindergarten students has been scheduled for Thursday, May 5 from 8:30 - 11:00 am. Rising kindergarten students must be five years old on / before September 30, 2011. Letters with specific information will be mailed directly to parents of eligible kindergarten students who have notified the school either by phone or through the school survey that will be sent home.

Please share this information with neighbors or friends living within the Aldrin school boundaries and encourage

them to contact Mrs. Walker in the school office at 703-904-3800 to start the process.

**The registration process can be time consuming. In order to complete this process and to plan staffing for next year, we have planned Monday, May 2 from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Aldrin for parents to meet with our registrar Mrs. Walker to complete your child's registration.**

If you cannot turn in your child's registration on May 2, you are welcome to provide the registration paperwork at the kindergarten orientation.

## New Cafeteria Process for Students with Low Cafeteria Account Balances



Beginning today, February 3, the FCPS Food and Nutrition Services will begin to utilize the FCPS *Keep In Touch* electronic notification system (via email) and phone voice mail technology to alert parents when their child's cafeteria account balance reaches \$7.95 (the cost of three lunches). These messages will be sent on Thursday evenings each week. Parents will not receive messages if their child is receiving free or reduced meals or if their child's cafeteria account balance is

consistently at a zero balance. Messages will not be sent two weeks in a row; if the child has not used his/her cafeteria account in two weeks; or if it appears that the child is not buying cafeteria meals that often. If you have questions after receiving notification that your child's cafeteria account has a low balance, please contact the school office (703-904-3800) and ask to be connected to the cafeteria manager, Mrs. Helen Phekoo. She will be very happy to assist you. The best time to reach the cafeteria manager is between 9:30 and 10:30 am.

### School Board Member to Speak About the FY 2012 Budget at the Next PTA on Meeting

Please join me at the next PTA meeting on February 22 at 7 pm in the Little Theater. School Board Member Janie Strauss will be sharing specific budget information and responding to our questions.

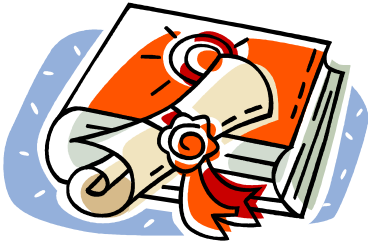
**Aldrin Science Fair  
- Save the Date -  
April 28**



## Attention Sixth Grade Parents

The Sixth Grade Awards Ceremony and Dinner is scheduled for Monday, June 20 from 5:15 - 8:30 pm in our school cafeteria. This is a very special evening for our sixth graders, their parents and guests as we celebrate their sixth grade year and remember their time as Aldrin students and the many contributions they have made to our school and community. Please mark this date on your calendar and look for more specific information in May.

## 2010 - 2011 Yearbook Cover Design Winners Will Be Announced Soon



So many wonderful and creative entries were received that choosing the winners has been extremely difficult. We will announce the winner very soon.

In recognition of all the creative entries please know that all entries will be represented in the yearbook.

## A Most Successful Kickoff—Coffee with the Aldrin Reading Teacher



On Monday, January 24, the Aldrin Reading Teacher, Mrs. Jane Cox, met with approximately 20 Aldrin parents of children in grades K - 6 to overview and discuss the Aldrin reading program. The informal presentation by Mrs. Cox was followed by an extended period of questions and answers, many focusing on how parents can work with their children to promote and enhance reading for their son or daughter. Mrs. Cox is planning future coffee

for parents with presentations covering such topics as Emergent Readers: Where do I begin? - Phonics and Decoding - Fluency and Rate - Comprehensive Reading Strategies - Nonfiction Text - Developmental Reading Assessment. Look for a future Aldrin Keep in Touch Message advertising the next Coffee with the Aldrin Reading Teacher.

Her next coffee is planned for February 21 at 10 a.m.

## Aldrin Standards of Learning (SOL) 2011 Testing Calendar

Test	Grade	Date	Testing Times*	Make-Up Dates
Writing Test (Multiple choice)	5	3/8*	9:30 - 11:30	3/9*
Short Paper Test	5	3/10*	9:30 - 11:30	TBD
<b><u>Week 1</u></b>				
Reading	5	5/17	9:30-11:30	5/18-5/27
Reading	3	5/17	9:30-11:30	5/18-5/27
Math	3	5/18	9:30-11:30	5/19-5/27
Reading	4	5/18	9:30-11:30	5/19-5/27
Social Studies	4	5/19	9:30-11:30	5/20-5/27
Math	5	5/19	9:30-11:30	5/20-5/27
Reading	6	5/20	9:30-11:30	5/23-5/27
<b><u>Week 2</u></b>				
Math	4	5/24	9:30-11:30	5/25-5/27
Math	6	5/24	9:30-11:30	5/25-5/27
Science	5	5/25	9:30-11:30	5/26-5/27
Social Studies	3	5/25	9:30-11:30	5/26-5/27
Science	3	5/26	9:30-11:30	5/27
Social Studies	6	5/26	9:30-11:30	5/27

\*Note: 5<sup>th</sup> Grade SOL Writing Dates are mandated by the Virginia Department of Education. All fifth graders across Virginia will take the writing test on the same date(s).



### PEACEFUL SCHOOL BUS

#### KICKOFF – FEBRUARY 9

Remember to ask your child about this meeting and use it as a springboard for discussion about appropriate bus behavior.

## FCPS Superintendent Proposes FY 2012 Budget to Support Continued Student Growth and Salary Increases

On January 6, 2011, Superintendent Jack D. Dale released the school system's **FY 2012 Proposed Budget of \$2.2 billion** with a projected enrollment of 177,416 students. The proposed budget includes an additional 258.4 positions to support changes in student demographics and projected membership growth of 2,120 students as well as **market scale adjustments and step increases for all eligible employees** following two years of frozen salaries. The Fairfax County School Board will hold public hearings on the FY 2012 budget on January 24 and 25 at Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road in the Falls Church area of Fairfax County; the speakers list for those public hearings opens on Friday, January 7 at

<http://www.fcps.edu/schlbd/>

[requestspeak.htm](http://www.fcps.edu/schlbd/).

Portions of this budget may ultimately affect Aldrin Elementary and our instructional programs, and **I urge you to become familiar with the budget and take opportunities to provide input as the budget process continues.** For complete information on the FCPS FY 2012 budget, including the budget calendar, public hearings, and other activities through which the budget will reach its final form can be found at <http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2012.htm>. While at that site, also check out the FCPS publication, *The Bottom Line*. It is intended to keep all stake holders up-to-date with timely and accurate information concerning the FY - 2012 budget process.

## Parent Requests for Private School Recommendations or Copies of Student Information

Please be aware that 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 recommendation, 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. As such, teachers and I will provide a recommendation letter on behalf of the student and academic records will be sent to the private school as long as written parent permission has been received and a stamped envelope provided. I am confident that there will be adequate information contained in our letter and in your child's academic records to allow the private school to determine your child's eligibility. These documents will be mailed directly to the professional, school, or organization.

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 re-

quests 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.

## Focus On Food Choices:

### GO, SLOW, and WHOA!



An eating plan that can help you and your family maintain a healthy weight is one that gives everyone the nutrients they need while keeping calories under control. One way to put this plan into action is to think about food choices in terms of GO, SLOW, and WHOA foods:

**GO** foods are the lowest in fat and added sugar. They also are “nutrient dense,” which means that they are rich in nutrients (vitamins, minerals, and other components important to health) and relatively low in calories. Enjoy GO foods almost anytime.

**SLOW** foods are higher in fat, added sugar, and calories than GO foods. Have SLOW foods sometimes, at most several times a week.

**WHOA** foods are the highest in fat and added sugar. They are “calorie

dense” (high in calories), and many are low in nutrients as well. Have WHOA foods only once in a while or on special occasions. And, when you do have them, have small portions.

Translating GO, SLOW, and WHOA into daily food choices means:

- Emphasizing fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and fat-free or low-fat milk and milk products.
- Including lean meat, poultry, fish, beans, eggs, and nuts.
- Cutting back on foods and drinks that are high in fat and added sugar.

Source: [http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/public/heart/obesity/wecan\\_mats/parent\\_hb\\_en.pdf](http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/public/heart/obesity/wecan_mats/parent_hb_en.pdf)



## Fruits & Veggies Are Great GO Foods

✓ **GO for color**—choose dark green, deep yellow, orange, red, blue, and purple.

✓ **GO for sensory appeal**—juicy, crunchy, tart, crisp, sweet, yummy.

✓ **GO for variety**—berries, other fruits, leafy greens, dry beans and peas, starchy vegetables (like potatoes), and other vegetables.

Remember, It’s All About Go, Slow, and Whoa.

By eating more GO foods, you are making an

important investment in preserving a healthy

you. It’s not that you can’t eat foods in the

other categories—just be sure to slow it way

down with some foods like pastries and ice cream. And, obviously, some foods should be

considered a definite Whoa!—like the double,

bacon cheeseburger with the chili cheese fries.

***Remember, Go, Slow, and Whoa!***

## Questionnaire - Receiving Aldrin School-Wide Information

Please indicate your preference by checking in the space provided below and return your completed questionnaire tomorrow via your oldest child's Thursday Recorder.

Oldest Aldrin ES Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Print

Oldest Aldrin ES Child's Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I prefer to receive Aldrin school-wide information via the Aldrin ES Website. This will include all Aldrin Advisory Principal Newsletters and teacher / grade level newsletters, PTA flyers, and other school-wide information. You will receive a Keep In Touch notification whenever information has been posted on the Aldrin Website.

\_\_\_\_\_ I prefer to receive a hard copy of Aldrin school-wide information in my child's weekly Thursday Recorder. This will include all Aldrin Advisory Principal Newsletters, PTA flyers, and other school-wide information. This information will be sent home via each family's oldest child at Aldrin Elementary.

**Note:** Student-specific work and other teacher-specific written information will continue to be sent home by each classroom teacher in your child's Thursday Recorder.

\_\_\_\_\_ I need to receive a hard copy of the previous five Aldrin Advisory Principal's Newsletters. These will be sent home via each family's oldest child at Aldrin Elementary.

Person Completing the Questionnaire: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

