

ALDRIN ADVISORY



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

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ June 10—Kindergarten Play, 2:00 p.m.
- ◆ June 10—Adventure Day (Grades 4-6)
- ◆ June 14—Last Day of Preschool Program
- ◆ June 15—6th Grade Yearbook Signing 9:30 a.m.
- ◆ June 20—Last Day of PAC
- ◆ June 20—Grades 1–5 Awards Ceremony 9:30 a.m.—11:00 a.m.
- ◆ June 20—6th Grade Awards Dinner 6:00 p.m.
- ◆ June 21—Last Day of School—Dismissal 11:45 a.m.

Principal's Message: 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 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**

Tuesday, June 21. 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!

Staffing Projections for 2011 - 2012



FCPS has allocated five (5) full-day sessions of kindergarten (down one from this year) and twenty-four (24) classroom teachers (up four from this year) in grades 1 - 6 and for the 2011 - 2012 school year. In assessing our current student numbers for grades K - 6 next year, I believe that the (29) Aldrin teacher positions will be allocated as follows: **kindergarten** (five teachers); **grade 1** (six teachers); **grade 2** (five teachers); **grade 3** (four teachers); **grades 4** (four teachers) **and 5** (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.

Teacher assignments inevitably change each year due to retirements,

vacancies, and interest in professional growth. Approximately five Aldrin teachers who currently teach in grades PreK-6 will be teaching at Aldrin at another grade level next year, and all but one of the four new classroom teacher positions in grades 1-6 have been filled. At this time the following is able to be shared:

Not returning to Aldrin - one Preschool Autism Class (PAC) teacher; two classroom teachers from grades 1-6; one part-time general music teacher; and one part-time art teacher.

Positions to be filled - one PAC teacher; one grades 1-6 classroom teacher (grade levels TBD in August); and a part-time art teacher.

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!

Picnics

June 15–2nd Grade

June 16–Kindergarten

June 17–3rd Grade

June 17–4th Grade

June 17–5th Grade

June 17–6th Grade

June 20–1st Grade

*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 21. 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.

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.

Student Placements and Staff Selections for 2011 - 2012

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 2011 - 2012 placement, **please direct it to me in writing by June 30, 2011.** 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 2011 - 2012 class placement.

Aldrin General Music Program Continues with Long-Term Substitute Teachers

In early May, it became necessary to obtain a long-term substitute teacher for Mrs. Tierney who needed to be on leave for the remainder of the school year. She and I are looking forward to her returning as your child's music teacher next year.

Mr. Michael Keryeski became the initial long-term substitute teacher and did an excellent job working with our children and delivering the lessons that Mrs. Tierney had planned our students. On Monday, June 6, he was replaced by a FCPS certified general music teacher Ms. Mindy Fleming. Ms. Fleming will continue in that capacity through the last day of school. She has also been hired to be the part-time Aldrin general music teacher next school year.

Mrs. Tierney continues to communicate with the long-term substitute teacher and Mrs. Barb Murry, our current part-time general music teacher, to ensure that your child's general music instruction continues. Progress report marks will be collaboratively determined by Mrs. Tierney, Mrs. Murry and our substitute teachers.

I appreciate your understanding regarding Mrs. Tierney's absence, and especially your continued support of Aldrin Elementary School and what our staff does for children, child-by-child. If you have any questions or would like to meet, I can be reached at 703-904-3800.

Summer of Awesome Reading (SOAR)

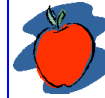
Aldrin Elementary is excited to have 150 selected students participating in the SOAR program this summer. This program targets students who will benefit by having leveled books specific to their reading needs provided to them as well as planned reading experiences throughout the summer.

Participating students have already received special reading comprehension lessons to prepare for reading independently during June - August. Children in grades 3-6 are also expected to complete written responses to their reading in a reading response notebook; they received instructions on how to complete these reading responses during their summer reading



preparation lessons. Participating students will also be invited to the **Soar Summer Literacy Event** at the school on **Friday, July 29th at 1 p.m.**! A second set of books will be distributed at this event.

Parent participation is critical to the success of this program. Parents of participating students have been invited to attend our **SOAR Parent Information Session** on **Thursday, June 16th** in the school Library at either 10:00 a.m. or 6:00 p.m. to learn about the SOAR program and how parents can best support their child's summer reading success. The Aldrin staff and I look forward to sharing about the benefits of the SOAR program when we meet with them at this special meeting.



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 Book Swap

For the first time ever, Aldrin will host a student Book Swap! The intent of the Book Swap is to ensure that every child at Aldrin has books to read over the summer. All students were invited to bring a book—take a book; but, all students will actually take home at least one book before leaving for summer vacation. The Book Swap will be held in the cafeteria on **Thursday, June 16th after lunch and Friday, June 17th before lunch**. Each class will sign up for a 10-minute spot on the schedule.

You can help!! We need volunteers to help direct student traffic through the cafeteria and to replenish the book tables. **If you're interested, please contact our Librarian, Rhonda Haydock (703) 904-3830.**

Summer Office Hours and Door Entry

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.