

—ALDRIN ADVISORY—



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

March 10, 2011

J. MARTIN MARINOFF, JR., PRINCIPAL
MARTY.MARINOFF@FCPS.EDU

Aldrin Advisory—Volume 8 Number 7

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE	1
ATTENTION PARENTS OF 5TH GRADERS	2
STUDENT DRESS CODE REMINDERS	2
KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION AND REGISTRATION	3
ATTENTION PARENTS OF STUDENTS IN GRADES 3-6	3
ENERGY ZONE FITNESS CHALLENGE	4
SOL SCHEDULE	4



UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ Family Fun Dance—March 11
- ◆ Spring Picture Day—March 23
- ◆ Teacher Work Day—April 4
- ◆ Spring Break—April 18 thru 22
- ◆ Science Fair—April 28
- ◆ Science Fair Student Visits— April 29
- ◆ Rising Kindergarten Registration—May 2
- ◆ Rising Kindergarten Orientation—May 5

Principal's Message

I have believed for some time that, as educators and parents, we are responsible for teaching children manners, values, resilience, perseverance, and how to be accountable for their actions, behavior, and overall responsibilities at home and at school. This mutual responsibility requires us to be *teachers of children* regardless of our respective roles. Our responsibility also goes hand-in-hand with teaching children curricular concepts, ensuring they are learning in school and excel to their ability level, and supporting them as they struggle to gain concepts and academic understanding.

Two weeks ago, I had the opportunity to view the documentary, *A Race to No Where* with a number of Herndon Pyramid educators and parents. It continues to be shown throughout the United States, Virginia, and Fairfax County. This powerful documentary sent two central messages that have resulted in either controversy or applause from those who watched:

- Numbers of young children and adolescents are overscheduled, tired, stressed, and lack skills in learning to: problem-solve; work cooperatively; think critically; and seek understanding as the basis for learning.
- Parents and educators may have inadvertently been responsible for this occurrence, regardless of our loving intent or desire to ensure that children and students excel in all ways, academically, socially, and athletically – the main contributors being: parents who strive to have their children's lives completely filled with activities at the expense of down time, and educators who assign far too much homework, and place high value on standards based test results and advanced level course-work.

These central messages must be viewed following thoughtful perspective, and it is important to draw one's own conclusion based on each family structure and values.

Since viewing the documentary I have spent time reflecting and testing the central messages of the documentary with the belief statement I made in my opening paragraph. What resounded most closely to my belief were the comments made by a Fortune 500 Executive who was featured in the documentary: *We have created a population of learners who have grown up with training wheels... We need to teach children that it is okay to fall off, get dusty, wipe self off, and then move on.*

Taking his comments further, I firmly believe that parents and educators must join together to teach children to be responsible, resilient and accountable and should set this learning process in motion for children, beginning early and continuing throughout a child's developmental years. In teaching children these important life skills, I am confident that: positive outcomes are possible; we can facilitate a healthier understanding with our children about their academic learning; and we will witness increases in children's ability to comprehend the importance of maintaining a balance between academics and extracurricular activities, both in the learning environment and while at home.

The Aldrin staff and I will continue to value the relationships we have with children and their parents, while holding strong to our belief about the teaching and learning process, always viewing it as *A Family Affair: Home and School Remaining Focused on Learning... Child-by-Child.*

2010 – 2011 Yearbook Cover Design Winners



Congratulations to Jordan Ismaiel (grade 6) and Kelsey Rogers (grade 4) for having their design selected for the front and rear covers of the Aldrin yearbook this year. Both of these students will receive a complimentary yearbook for their efforts. Over 50 entries were received from students who used their artistic skills to create a wide variety of cover designs that would illustrate the 2010 – 2011 yearbook theme, *“Hand in Hand, We all Learn.”* A number of other cover design finalists will see their creative work highlighted throughout the yearbook. Everyone who participated is to be congratulated for a job well done!



TIME TO ORDER 2010-2011 YEARBOOK

Yearbook purchases are under way – the *Order Form* and information about purchasing went home in each student’s Thursday Recorder last week. 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 early. A separate check / order form is needed for each student who is purchasing the yearbook. The cost of the yearbook remains \$14.00 if ordered before April 15.

Attention Parents of 5th Graders

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 21, 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.

Student Dress Code Reminders



FCPS Regulation 2613.5 outlines the expectations for student dress. It affects procedures in our school and should be adhered to at all times. A copy of the regulation was sent home with other information on the first day of school in September. Parents are encouraged to ensure that their child not only wears clothing that conforms to this regulation, but he/she also wears clothing that is appropriate for the elementary learning environment.

At Aldrin Elementary sandals, "Heelies" and Crocs are not allowed to be worn at any time. Students must also wear tennis shoes / sneakers / soft soled shoes, se-

cured with laces or Velcro, for physical education classes. Hats and other head coverings must be removed when entering the school (except for religious purposes or documented health reasons).

During warmer weather it is important to be sure that children are also dressed appropriately for school (as defined in the regulation). No spaghetti straps or see through shirts (unless an extra shirt is worn under it or over it). Tank top straps must be at least 1 ½ inches wide. Sandals that have ankle straps, and do not have a wedge or high heel, may be worn. **However to ensure student safety and mobility, rubber/plastic beach/pool flip flops are not allowed.**

Kindergarten Orientation Date and Registration Date



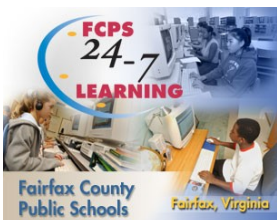
Our Kindergarten Orientation for parents and rising kindergarten students has been scheduled for Thursday, May 5 from 8:30 - 11:00 am. Rising kindergarten students must be five years old on / before September 30, 2011. Letters with specific information will be mailed directly to parents of eligible kindergarten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

Attention Parents of Students in Grade 3—6

The first quarter eCART ASPIRE assessments occurred in November and covered instructional material that was to have been learned to that point in the school year. Teachers will give 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 provides teachers with valuable information to deliver instruction that is closely matched to the needs of individual students or their entire class; thus giving great power to the process of teaching and student learning.

Here are 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.



Understanding that the registration process can be time consuming, 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 unable to turn in your child's registration on May 2, you are welcome to provide the registration paperwork at the kindergarten orientation.

1. Log on to www.fcps.edu
2. Select the link FCPS 24-7 Learning
3. User Name type your child's FCPS Identification Number - you can find this on his Progress Reports

4. Password either use the one you may have set or ask child if he/she set one or re-type his identification number (which I believe is how it is set the first time it is used)

5. Select Login
6. Select the eCART tab at the top of the menu bar
7. Select the ASPIRE link

Select Continue until you reach "Completed Assessments" You will see the following headings - Assessment - Completion Date - Score - Action

- Select the "Action" icon that corresponds to the assessment you want to look see.
- Work your way through the assessment using the options that may be available.

CIVIL WAR RE-ENACTORS

VISIT ALDRIN ELEMENTARY



On February 16, Mr. Court Stone and three other Civil War re-enactors visited the fourth grade. They brought to life for students many aspects of the Civil War: explained the artillery, Navy, medical treatments, and clothes that soldiers from the North and South wore during the war. Time was provided at the end of the presentation for children to view the relics that the re-enactors brought with them. Many good comments and questions were made by the fourth graders.

SCHOOL OFFICE CLOSED DURING SPRING BREAK

Beginning Friday, April 15 at 4:30 pm through Monday, April 25 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.

Aldrin Science Fair
- Save the Date -
April 28



**MRS. YINGLING'S CLASS
CELEBRATES
DR. SEUSS' BIRTHDAY**

VIRGINIA

Oh the things Virginia can do
It has thousands of people like me
and you
Virginia is a commonwealth
People who live in Virginia have
good health
In 1607 Britain founded Jamestown
Later a big fire burned it down
In 1699 Williamsburg became the
capital
People loved it because it was in-
habitable
Virginia is a great place to see
In no other state would I want to
be.

By: Sydney, Sebastian and Vihaan

MATH

Adding is so much fun,
But two plus two is definitely not
one
One million, one thousand, one
hundred one
We do a lot of math, at least a ton.
When we're stuck on a problem we
scream and shout
But the our teachers help us out
Fractions, fractions, you us them
when you cut a pie
To find an equivalent, you must
multiply.

By: Katherine, Eddy and Haley

PLANTS

Oh the things plants can do
They breathe out carbon dioxide
And grow outside too
They need water and air jut like a
tree
They breathe out oxygen for you
and me
They collect sunshine and water
from their small roots
When they begin as tiny shoots
They use photosynthesis to make
their food
They're in the ground and look like
they're glued.

By: Leila and Sam

ENERGY ZONE KIDS FITNESS CHALLENGE

Research shows children copy the behavior of adults in their life. If parents are physically active, the children will be active too. Exercise burns calories, which assist in maintaining ideal weight. **Fit adults and children exercise 60 minutes per day.**

KEEP MOVING TO STAY IN SHAPE TIPS

- Plan daily family walks.
- Limit television or computer time to 1 to 2 hours per day.
- Make exercise fun.
- Encourage play outside with other children.
- Assign chores that involve activity such as cleaning or walking the dog.
- Help your children find physical activities they enjoy.



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

Test	Grade	Date	Testing Times*	Make-Up Dates
<u>Week 1</u>				
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
<u>Week 2</u>				
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: It will be very helpful if you can avoid appointments which may take your child out of school during this period. Also, it will help your child perform his or her best if he or she has had a good night's rest, a healthy breakfast, and comes to school with a positive attitude.