

ALDRIN ADVISORY



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

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ PTA Meeting—December 7, 1:00 p.m.
- ◆ Winter Chorus Concert—December 7
2:30 p.m.—Student Assembly
7:00 p.m.—Parent and Guest Assembly
- ◆ Word Masters Challenge—December 9
- ◆ Crayon Factory— December 10, 8:30 a.m.
- ◆ Orchestra Concert—December 14
2:30 p.m. — Student Assembly
7:00 p.m.— Parent and Guest Assembly
- ◆ Blood Drive—December 20, 3:00 p.m.
- ◆ 2 hr Early Dismissal—December 22
- ◆ Winter Break—December 23 to January 2

Mrs. Gist's Message



Thanksgiving Luncheon a Big Success!

Thank you so much for coming to join your children at our annual Thanksgiving Lunch. We had a tremendous turnout and it was my pleasure to host the Principal's Coffee this year. I so enjoyed seeing all of you. This is the time of year when we reflect on all we have to be thankful for and this year, I am especially thankful for all of your support and good wishes over the past few months.

Veteran's Day

A big thank you to Ann Tierney, our



tireless music teacher, and the entire second grade (and their teachers) for presenting such a wonderful Veteran's Day Assembly. We had over twenty veterans join us to make the day especially meaningful. The sound of young voices throughout the school is a stirring reminder of the dedication and commitment that our veterans and active military make every day.

Mr. Marinoff

Mr. Marinoff continues to recuperate from his full knee replacement surgery. At this point, he is planning to return on or about December 13. I just know that we are going to have to ask him to "walk, not run, in the hallways, please" when he returns.

Testing Dates~Heads Up

As you begin to plan for spring, please remember that the SOL's are scheduled for mid to late May. We know now that the **fifth grade writing SOL's** will be held on **March 8th (multiple choice) and March 10th (short paper)**~these dates are set by the state, so we

don't have any flexibility with them. The remainder of the SOL's will be given from **May 17th through May 26th** this year. When scheduling appointments, please keep these testing dates in mind.

INCLEMENT WEATHER AND EMERGENCY CLOSING PLANS

Due to inclement weather or other emergency situations, it may be necessary to close schools for the entire day, to open schools late, or to close early.

Parents are urged to make arrangements now for the care of their children when schedule changes are made (and to provide for the rare situation when it is necessary to close an individual school because of a power failure or other circumstances). Children should know where to go if a parent will not be home.

Decisions on schedule changes are made after careful study of the best information available from many sources including weather services, the highway department, the police, and FCPS transportation staff members who are out checking the roads. FCPS will make every effort to **decide**, before 5 a.m., whether to close or delay schools and will begin communicating the decision once it is made. **The 5 a.m. decision time is a goal.** Weather conditions can deteriorate after 5 a.m., which means that it may not be possible for FCPS to meet that goal. Decisions are made with one overriding consideration—the safety of all students—those who ride buses and those who walk to school each day.

When Fairfax County Public Schools has a schedule change (closing or delay) due to inclement weather or other emergencies, the information is communicated as soon as the decision is made in these ways:

- Called in to local radio and television stations, which are notified as soon as a decision is made.
- Posted on cable Channel 21, a channel programmed by FCPS.
- Posted on www.fcps.edu.
- Posted to Facebook and Twitter.
- Sent via e-mail to parents through the **Keep in Touch e-mail notification system**.

Please note: FCPS schools are open unless information is posted or sent that indicates schools are closed, opening late, or closing early. During an emergency closing situation in which other local school systems are closed or delayed and FCPS is open on time, the crawl for local TV stations WJLA (ABC 7) and NewsChannel 8 will indicate "No Report" for FCPS.

Do not phone a school or one of the stations for school closing information. To subscribe or update your Keep in Touch information, go to www.fcps.edu/kit/.

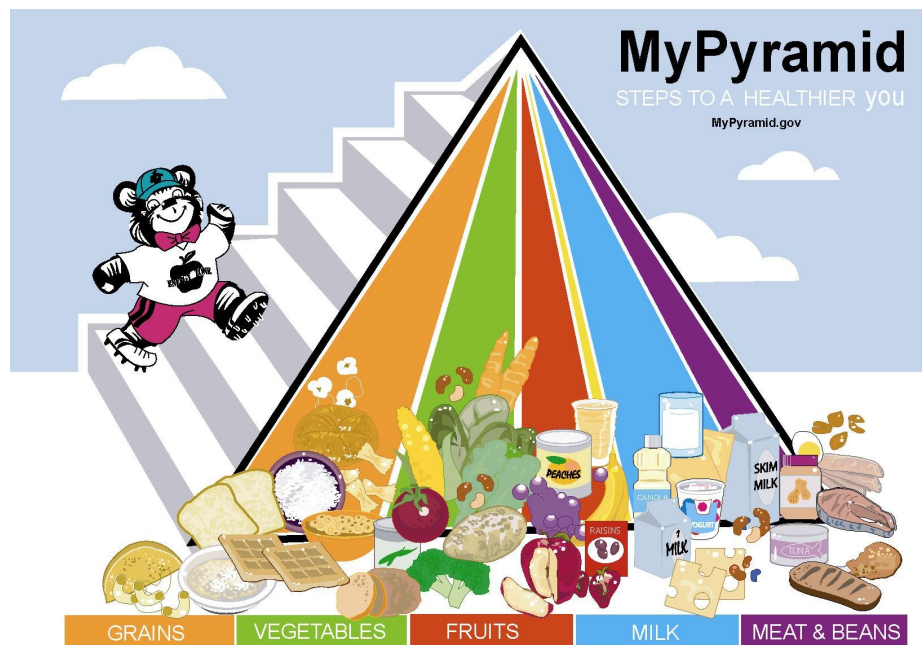
For more information, go to <http://www.fcps.edu/news/weather.htm>.

The Big Yellow Buses



Please keep reminding your children of the importance of observing the bus rules—the safety of children is our prime concern. In concert with our bullying prevention education

program, we are researching a school bus behavior plan called the Peaceful Bus Program. Watch for details and more information, but the idea is to create a "bus family" on each bus where children establish positive relationships with their fellow riders and the bus driver.



HEALTHY TIPS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

- Choose a variety of foods from MyPyramid.
- Start the day with breakfast and energy to tackle all projects.
- Eat plenty of fruits and vegetables.
- Eat lighter meals at night.
- Remember to exercise 60 minutes per day.
- Eliminate night-time stress-related grazing.
- Go to bed feeling light not "full."
- Limit portion sizes of favorite holiday foods, especially desserts.
- Enjoy your feast, family, and friends.