

ALDRIN ADVISORY



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

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Principal's Message

On Tuesday Aldrin teachers, staff, and I welcomed 654 smiling students from pre-school through grade six; by all accounts it was a great school opening. Our student enrollment is the largest in the past nine years and it continues to grow, especially in the primary grades. Our children have arrived eager to learn and ready to begin a new school year. As we greeted students at the end of the day as they made their way to buses, cars, and walking routes the smiles remained - a sure sign that everyone was off to a great new school year!



Communication is most important and critical to the continued success of our school. The Aldrin Advisory monthly publication will be my primary means of communicating with you concerning your children, our instructional programs, and the direction of our school. I will also be hosting quarterly Principal's Town Hall Meetings. These meetings provide an informal forum where timely information can be presented and parent input and questions can be received and answered. Additionally, Mrs. Gist and I will also have prepared remarks at the beginning of each Parent Teacher Association (PTA) meeting, followed by time for questions about our school and the programs that we provide our children. We value this time with our parent community because it is an opportunity for us to keep you informed about Aldrin Elementary initia-

tives and other important information about our school. Please plan on attending PTA meetings! The dates of these meetings are posted on the Aldrin PTA website, <http://www.aldrinpta.com/>.

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. Each family received a copy of the Aldrin ES brochure, *A Parent's Guide to Receiving Electronic Communications*, either with my welcome letter or at the time of registration. If your copy has been misplaced, you can obtain another one from the main office. This brochure is intended to assist you in learning how to receive electronic communications from our school. **Note: Families who do not have access to the internet may request hard copies of all information posted to the Aldrin website by contacting the main office at 703-904-3800.**

Conserving paper is a joint endeavor between the Aldrin school staff and our PTA. Because FCPS schools cannot provide family email addresses to any outside organization, including PTAs, a separate mailing from the PTA is being sent that requests parent email information. **Please**

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BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT

**THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 16TH**

Our “Back-to-School Night” is for **parents only**. A special meeting with interpreters for non-English speaking parents will be held from 6:00 - 6:55 pm. At 6:30 pm our doors will open and parents are invited to visit a number of community and PTA information tables located in the cafeteria which will remain there until 8:30 pm. Aldrin specialists will be in our school lobby from 6:30 until 7:50 pm. Parents will visit with their child’s classroom teacher (7:15 – 7:45 pm and 7:50 – 8:20 pm.) BTSN is an opportunity for teachers to meet you, share information about their instructional programs, and learn more about their students.

ensure that you receive important information from your PTA by providing them with a valid, current, and legible email address as requested in the letter you should have received by US Mail or at the time you registered your child.

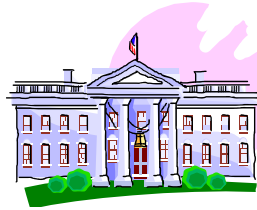
Challenges and opportunities are a normal part of any school year and are embraced by the entire Aldrin staff and me. However, we cannot solve challenges or seek “best practice” educational opportunities alone. We need you, our parents, to support every Aldrin professional in his or her efforts in teaching, nurturing, and safeguarding your son or daughter. Be your child’s “cheerleader” and advocate. Remember – *Family Affair: Home and School Remaining Focused on Learning...*

Child-by-Child.

At anytime during the school year if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher, a counselor, or an administrator by phone or email. We will do our best to answer your questions as quickly as possible.

On behalf of our teachers and staff, thank you for choosing public education for your child and for your part in making this a smooth opening of school. This is going to be another fantastic school year for our children, our teachers, and each of you. I am so pleased that you and your child(ren) are part of our Aldrin family!

President Obama’s Address to the Nation’s Students



Again this year, President Obama plans to address the nation’s students. The address will be held on September 14 during the school day. “The speech is an opportunity for the President to speak directly to students across the nation. Last year, he encouraged students to stay in school, study hard, and take responsibility for their education.” *Being responsible students and citizens, being respectful to others, and learning to their greatest potential* are key messages that teachers and I reinforce with students every day at Aldrin Elementary and that you reinforce at home. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to hear these same messages from our nation’s leader.

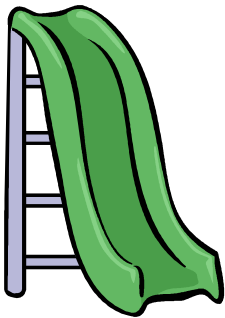
Aldrin Elementary will tape the live C-SPAN address and teacher grade level teams are being asked to preview the address before deciding how to best create and deliver a developmentally appropriate instructional activity for their children that will take place sometime within the

week. The goal will be to afford our students with an important opportunity to listen to their President and have their social studies curriculum reinforced.

Although we may all have different view points, it is important for Aldrin students to identify with their country and follow through on their rights and responsibilities of being American citizens. I encourage you to view this as an educational experience and follow up with your child on the message they will have heard from their President. It is also a great occasion for us to put our school theme into action – *A Family Affair: Home and School Remaining Focused on Learning... Child-by-Child*. Together we all want the best for our children and students and I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity.

If you do not wish to have your child watch the President’s address, please notify the school in writing and send it to your child’s teacher. Aldrin teachers and I will respect your decision and provide your child with an alternate place to learn during the time their class is viewing the President’s address.

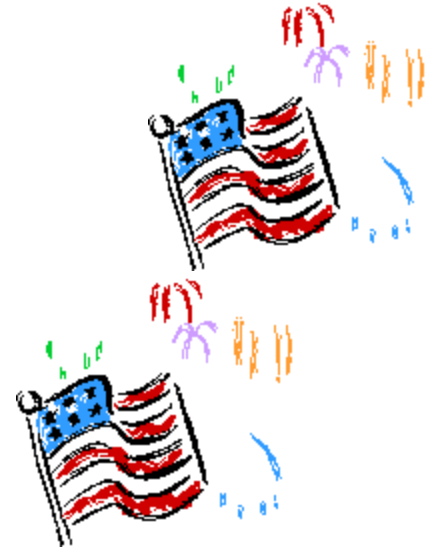
New Aldrin Playground Under Constuction



I am excited to let you know that part of the original Aldrin playground is currently being razed and updated equipment is being installed. The new \$75,000 playground is fully funded by

FCPS as part of their equipment renewal process that strives to update equipment

that may have become outdated or unsafe. The installation process is expected to last approximately two weeks and when completed will afford our children and the Aldrin community with countless hours of creative fun. Students will continue to use the playground equipment that is adjacent to the equipment that is being replaced. Teachers and students have been instructed to remain well behind the orange safety fence that has been installed throughout construction.



Thank You PTA



Nine additional Aldrin classrooms now have teacher-student Audio Enhancement sound systems installed as part of the ongoing PTA initiative to bring this

technology to our children. Teachers use a lavaliered microphone to transmit their voices through four speakers that have been installed in the ceiling and students use a hand-held microphone when mak-

ing presentations and participating in other instructional activities. As a result, ambient noise is greatly reduced, student attention and time-on-task is enhanced, and teachers are able to save their voices. Aldrin ES now has sixteen fully installed systems now in our school in grades 2-6, with future plans to bring this technology to every Aldrin Elementary classroom – thank you PTA for your continuing efforts to support instruction and our students.

Congratulations to our own Mrs. Dowsett for becoming one of the newest U.S. Citizens in our school!! We are all very proud of you Mrs. Dowsett!

Students Driven to School Must Arrive on Time



Unless they have a FCPS approved reason for being tardy, children being driven must be in their classrooms

no later than 9:15 am. Drivers are to allow adequate time for students to walk to their classroom - which will require students to be out of the car no later than 9:12 am. We use the school clock in the lobby / main office when determining if a child is tardy. These clocks are within a few seconds of Eastern Daylight Savings Time. If the child is tardy, a parent must park their car and escort their child into the office for a tardy slip. Please be respectful of our staff whenever you receive such a request. Our staff will do the same. School staff members who are monitoring

Kiss and Ride are doing so for the overall safety of all children and adult drivers.

Please remember to drive safely while traveling in our kiss & ride area and parking lot – not talking on cell phones and keeping your speed to a minimum





WELLNESS

CORNER

Snack Smart

- Select snacks from a variety of food types.
- Choose snacks low in fat, saturated fat and trans fat.
- Limit sodium and sugar.
- Read labels and rate your snacks using the Energy Zone Nutrition Calculator.
- Limit soft drinks and candy for special events.
- Offer age-appropriate portions

Standards of Conduct for Riding School Buses



Because all students will ride buses on field trips throughout the year, all Aldrin students must adhere to the FCPS expectations contained in the *Student Responsibility and*

Rights Regulation 2601.24P which will be sent home during the first two weeks of school. When it arrives, please review the information and standards with your child so that it is clear what is required for them to maintain the privilege to ride a

Aldrin Crossing Guard

A Fairfax County Police Crossing Guard is located on Center Harbor Rd. at the entrance to the rear parking lot. Walkers and parents should cross under his direction and not attempt to cross Center



Harbor Rd. at any other location during arrival and dismissal due to the presence of cars entering and exiting the Kiss & Ride area and the heavy flow of traffic along this street.

Special Transportation Arrangements

No child is permitted to accompany a friend home by bus, car or on foot without written permission in advance from BOTH parents. Parents are asked to notify the school office of any changes in transportation arrangements prior to 3:00 p.m. **Note:** Special transportation arrangements will not be approved when

notification from BOTH parents is not received or when changes are not made by 12:30 p.m. (Monday) and 3:00 p.m. (Tuesday - Friday) - no exceptions! Please help us to avoid having to reach this decision by making sure that all arrangements are known by the school early in the school day.

Kiss & Ride Procedures



The Kiss & Ride area is often congested due to the high volume of vehicles that use it, especially on inclement weather days. Parents who use the Kiss & Ride should adjust their travel time to allow ample time for their child to exit their car no later than 9:12 a.m. We also ask all drivers to remain vigilant and ensure the safety of students during arrival and dismissal times.

contract was sent home on the first day of school. Please read and sign the contract you receive and return it to school. Families will be issued a pre-printed card with your child's last name in large, bold print. Please display this card on your dashboard (or visor) prior to pulling into the school driveway and the Kiss and Ride area. Upon seeing your card displayed, a staff member will alert your child(ren) that you have arrived. Another staff member, with the assistance of a safety patrol, will do his or her best to have your rider(s) at curbside to enter your vehicle soon after your arrival.

Aldrin families who utilize the Kiss and Ride are required to complete a *Kiss and Ride Safety and Registration Contract*. The

FCPS Regulation Regarding Backpack Flyers

FCPS Regulation 1367.2 provides guidelines for posting and distributing via students' backpacks nonprofit flyers / informational materials from non-school associated groups or individuals in schools, and for the use of school newsletters and Back-to-School Nights by such entities.

At Aldrin Elementary, backpack distributions will occur at the beginning of the year on September 9 and on the first Thursday of the second, third, and fourth academic quarters—November, February, and April. Nonprofit flyers and information materials may also be

displayed in a clear magazine-style rack that is located next to the entrance to the main office in our school lobby.

Note: All items must first be approved by the principal (or designee) and contain the following disclaimer—"These materials are neither endorsed by nor sponsored by the Fairfax County School Board, the Superintendent, or this school." or they will not be sent via student backpacks or placed in the rack. If this process is not followed, the item will neither be sent home via students' backpacks nor placed in the lobby rack.



Kiss & Ride Safety

Whenever children and parents cross the parking lot when moving toward or away from the school building, they often encounter cars that are using the Kiss & Ride lane. This presents an unsafe situation for the child, parent, and car driver. **In the effort to always keep children safe, parents who drive students to school or who pick them up in the afternoon must use our Kiss & Ride lines rather than parking prior to**

escorting the child into the school in the morning or when meeting the child in the afternoon and then walking him/her to the car. Using the Kiss & Ride lines may seem to take longer; however, on most days all children are in the building by 9:10 am and afternoon riders are on their way home by 4:10 pm. Thank you in advance for following our Kiss & Ride routines and keeping all Aldrin students safe.

Staff and Visitor Parking

Reserved spaces for most staff parking are located on the playground side of the building where buses discharge and load. Additional staff will also park in the front parking lot. During the school day when parking for school events, parents and visitors are asked to use the front parking lot, any legal street parking areas, and the Baron Cameron Park

located behind the school. During evening events, the playground side parking area may be used. The row of parking spaced located directly in front of the Exit 2 door and adjacent to the curb is intended for the use of our parents of preschool and their children. If possible, please try to save these spaces for the drives of these young students.

2010-2011 Thanksgiving Luncheon—November 18

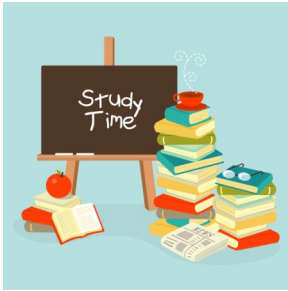
Mark your calendar and plan to attend our Thanksgiving luncheon on Thursday, November 18. Important information will be coming home in a *Thursday Recorder* in November. As this special day approaches, it is important to make sure

that your child has money on his/her lunch card since that will be how your child's meal is purchased. We look forward to having you join us for this great annual event!

"SAFETY OF THE CHILDREN IS OUR MAIN CONCERN"



LUNCH PRICES:
ADULTS: \$3.65
CHILDREN: \$2.65



Friendly Reminder about Traffic Safety Laws

Please be aware that Fairfax county Police will ticket motorists making U-turns or parking in marked turning lanes on Center Harbor Road. They will also ticket the driver if anyone in the car is

not wearing their seatbelt whether the car is in the Aldrin parking lot or on a Fairfax County roadway.

Let's work to keep everyone safe.

Mark Your Calendars—Fall Picture Day

Our annual fall pictures will be taken tomorrow, October 5, beginning at 9:30 a.m. The photographer has assured us that these pictures will be ready in time for Thanksgiving and the Winter Holi-

days when our families may wish to share that special picture with grandparents or other relatives and friends. More information will be sent to you later this month.

Family Portrait Night Scheduled

It is not too late to participate in our annual *Family Portrait Night* on **Wednesday, November 10 from 5 - 9 p.m.** Our school photographer, Blanton Studios, has assured me that you will receive your pictures in time for the holiday season and that you will be able to select from your proofs, process your order, and receive your finished photos from home. Ten dollars of the \$20.00

sitting fee will be given to our school and you will receive a 10" x 13" photo for your donation. I intend to use the money we make to reduce the cost of our school yearbook for all students and for other instructional supply needs that may arise during the remainder of this year. Contact Mrs. Aschenbach (703-904-3806) for details about how to reserve a sitting time.

Principal's Town Hall Meeting

I have scheduled one Town hall meeting each academic quarter. The first quarter meeting will be on October 5 at 7:00 pm in the little theatre as part of the monthly

PTA meeting. Aldrin staff and I will share the 2010-2011 **Aldrin School Improvement Plan** and discuss the process used in developing the plan. Please plan to attend.

Please Be Aware

The public can easily access a Virginia State Police web site for individuals registered in the "Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry" and reside within the same or contiguous ZIP CODE as their organization / entity. Persons can request to automatically be

notified of said registrants under "Community Notification" whenever someone new is added to the registry. The "Sex Offenders and Crimes Against Minors Registry" can be accessed on the Virginia State Police Internet Home Page at <http://sex-offender.VSP.state.va.us>

PLEASE CALL

MRS. ASCHENBACH

AT 703-904-3806

TO SIGN UP FOR

YOUR FAMILY

PORTRAIT



Virginia State Police

Dismissal Reminders

In an effort to always keep children safe and fully utilize our door/video entry access security system parents are asked to follow the established dismissal process at the end of each school day. Thus, it is no longer practical to have parents wait inside of the school (alcove or lobby) for children at dismissal and parents who plan to pick-up their children at dismissal should do so through established Kiss & Ride procedures.

Students utilizing **Kiss & Ride** will be dismissed from the little theater by Aldrin instructional assistants and escorted to cars by patrols from 3:55 - 4:10 pm. Parents are to follow the *Kiss & Ride* procedures which were provided in the contract they signed.

Students who **walk home from school** should leave via exit 5 lobby doors and proceed along the sidewalk to cross with the crossing guard. Parents meeting their children to walk them home should wait outside under the exit 5 walkway overhang.

Bus riders will be called as buses arrive and are to leave the school via exit 5 lobby doors.

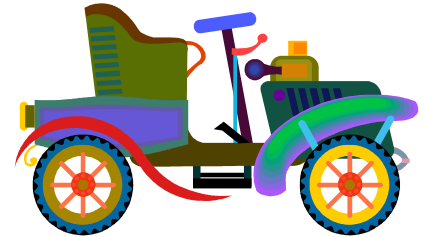
Please note - If your child's usual transportation routine home changes (walker, bus rider, Kiss & Ride) you must send a note to the classroom teacher in the morning and then follow the procedures which are noted above.

Dismissal Timelines:

3:50 pm (Monday 1:20 pm) - Patrols will arrive at the kindergarten classrooms to escort bus riders to their respective buses and SACC personnel will escort kindergarten students in that program to the SACC rooms.

3:55 pm (Monday 1:25 pm) - Students using *Kiss & Ride* or SACC students in **grades 1-6** or students designated as **Walkers** will be dismissed from classrooms to go home. Students using *Kiss & Ride* should proceed directly to the little theater where they will be dismissed following established procedures. SACC students are to walk directly to the SACC classrooms. Walkers will proceed to *Exit 5* to meet their parents who should be waiting outside under the *Exit 5* walkway overhang to meet their children. Parents and students should then use the crossing guard if crossing Center Harbor Rd when walking home.

3:55 - 4:05 pm (Monday 1:25 - 1:35 pm) - Bus riders will be dismissed as buses arrive and students waiting in the Little Theater will be dismissed using the following procedure: upon seeing the child's last name displayed in the windshield of the parent's car, a staff member will radio ahead to the Little Theater and a patrol will escort the child to the curb in front of exit 1 to help the child into the car.



**FOR
TRANSPORTATION**

EMERGENCIES

AFTER 4:30 PM

PLEASE CALL

703-249-7100



Transportation and Parking Arrangements

Aldrin students travel to school each day as walkers, bus riders, or Kiss & Ride car riders. Because the many streets leading to and surrounding our school are not safe crossing locations, students are not permitted to ride bicycles to school. Whenever a child's usual transportation routine for go-

ing home changes (walker, bus rider, Kiss & Ride), parents must send a note to the classroom teacher in the morning so that the school will be aware of the change. Parents are then to follow the procedures for dismissal and transportation that are contained in this newsletter.



UPCOMING EVENTS



- ◆ Back-to-School Night—September 16th
 - ◆ Fall Picture Day—October 5
 - ◆ PTA Meeting—October 5—7 p.m.
- ◆ Principals Town Hall Meeting—October 5—7 p.m.
 - ◆ Sixth Grade Class Picture—October 6
- ◆ Columbus Day Holiday (School Closed) - October 11
 - ◆ First Grading Period Ends—October 29
 - ◆ Parent Conferences—November 1 & 2
- ◆ Teacher Work Days—No School for Students—November 1 & 2
 - ◆ PTA Meeting—November 9— 7 p.m.
- ◆ Family Portrait Night—November 10 (call Mrs. Aschenbach for details)
 - ◆ 1st Quarter Progress Reports Sent Home—November 11
 - ◆ Thanksgiving Luncheon—November 18
 - ◆ 2 Hour Early Dismissal—November 24
- ◆ Thanksgiving Holiday (School Closed) - November 25 & 26