

# ALDRIN ADVISORY



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

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ Second Quarter Ends—January 27
- ◆ Twin Day—January 27
- ◆ Student Holidays—January 30 & January 31
- ◆ Progress Reports Sent Home—February 9
- ◆ President's Day (No School) - February 20

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Happy 2012 - we were all energized to see our students return from their Winter Break with a level of enthusiasm similar to the first day of school. Thank you for sending children to us each day who remain prepared, positive, and ready to learn. It is hard to believe that the first semester will end on January 27. You have done your part in making our first semester so successful. Following teacher workdays and no school for your children on January 30 and 31, our third academic quarter will begin. I am positive that the next five months of the teaching and learning process will be productive, meaningful, and successful for all Aldrin teachers and students.

Your child will receive the second quarter Progress Report on Thursday, February 9. 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 and enhance his/her potential for learning success.

My Principal's Recognition Program will return the week of January 23.

At each grade level, approximately 15 students will be recognized each week for their achievement, and/or marked improvement in language arts, mathematics, science / technology, character development, or 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.

Students who are recognized will have their names appear on the morning WALD TV program. On Friday afternoon, each child will receive a certificate and special pencil when they join Mrs. Gist and me for a special celebration honoring their Principal's Recognition. As students enjoy a treat at their celebration, all of us will have 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.

I am very excited to be continuing this program at Aldrin. 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.

## COFFEE WITH OUR READING TEACHER



You are invited January 19 at 10 a.m. in the Aldrin Library to the first *Coffee with the Reading Teacher* this year. Mrs. Jane Cox will be presenting ideas to support beginning readers at home. We hope you will join her. If you have any questions, please contact [jane.cox@fcps.edu](mailto:jane.cox@fcps.edu).



Students in Miss Walker's class are busy practicing how to read with a buddy and retell stories.

## MAGNET SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Bailey's Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences has a broad array of programs to help each student continually grow and thrive in his or her ability to create, inquire, and connect. The school has both classroom teachers and additional specialized educators who focus on the sciences, the arts, and technology so that these areas are integrated and complement one another as the child learns in all fields. Additionally, some students have the opportunity to participate in the Spanish Immersion program.

Hunters Woods Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences offers an interdisciplinary, concept-based instructional program with an added emphasis on fine and performing arts, science, and technology. Kindergarten and first grade students are assigned to multiage (K/1) classes. A science specialist, a technology resource teacher, and additional art classes provide opportunities for all students to enhance their learning. The arts team includes music, art, and dance teachers. Resource teachers collaborate with classroom teachers to coordinate and integrate learning activities with classroom instruction.

To be eligible for the lottery, a student must be on or above grade level in language arts and math and demonstrate positive interpersonal and school behavior. Parents must complete the appropriate school application and return the form to the PreK-6 Instruction and School Support office at Fairfax Ridge. Applications must be postmarked no later than March 1, 2012.

Applications will be screened for eligibility, and a lottery will be conducted in early April. The application time line is provided below.

Bailey's Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences		Hunters Woods Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences	
February 9, 2012	Information Night (7:00 p.m.) (Snow Date--February 16)	February 7, 2012	Information Night (7:00 p.m.) (Snow Date--February 15)
March 1, 2012	Application Deadline	March 1, 2012	Application Deadline
Late March 2012	Computerized Random Lottery	Late March 2012	Computerized Random Lottery
Early April 2012	Invitation Letters Mailed	Early April 2012	Invitation Letters Mailed
April 17, 2012	Open House for Invited Students and Parents (9:15-11:00 a.m.)	April 19, 2012	Open House for Invited Students and Parents (9:30-11:00 a.m.)
May 8, 2012	Parent Intent Deadline	May 8, 2012	Parent Intent Deadline

Applications and information will be available online on January 3, 2012 at the following websites: <http://www.fcps.edu/is/magnetschools/index.shtml>, <http://www.fcps.edu/BaileysES/SiteIndexPages/Baileysenrollementprocess.html>, and <http://www.fcps.edu/HuntersWoodsES/magnet.htm>. If you have questions regarding the Bailey's Elementary School magnet program, please contact Sofia Arias, magnet liaison, at 703-575-6804. If you have questions regarding the Hunters Woods Elementary School magnet program, please contact Diane Beers, parent liaison, at 703-262-7405.

If you have questions regarding the application process, please call the magnet information line, PreK-6 Instruction and School Support office, Fairfax Ridge, at 571-423-4652.



4th Graders with their electric city and in the computer lab.



## ATTENTION PARENTS OF SIXTH GRADERS

This year Herndon Middle School will hold an open house for parents of rising 7<sup>th</sup> graders (currently 6<sup>th</sup> graders) on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Details will be provided in a flyer sent home in early January. They are planning to include the following presentations in the program:



- Special Ed and ESOL presentations beginning at 6:15

- General Ed and honors Curriculum team presentations at 7:00

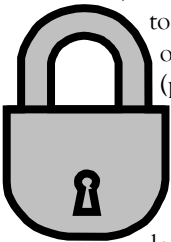
- Course registration procedures discussed at 7:30

- Open house and Elective Fair from 8 to 9pm

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Herndon Middle School at 703-904-4900.

## LOCKDOWN DRILL SCHEDULED

According to Facilities and Transportation Services, Safety and Security Regulation 8613, all FCPS schools are required to have a lockdown drill once during the school year (prior to February 1<sup>st</sup>.) Lockdown procedures are used to isolate building occupants from potentially violent intruder(s) and a lockdown is implemented when a situation indicates that students and staff need to be in a designated security area within the building.



The lockdown drill at Aldrin is scheduled for January 26<sup>th</sup> at approximately 2:30 p.m. The staff has been given specific instructions to follow during this drill and they have been practicing the routines with their students. Please note that during a lockdown drill, the exterior doors to the building are locked and no one will be admitted (unless, we have a legitimate emergency.) If a visitor is already in the building when a lockdown drill occurs, they will be asked to remain in the building in a secure/safe location for the duration of the lockdown.

## Miss Walker's Class Celebrates Wacky Hair Day and helped 2<sup>nd</sup> grade win the spirit day!



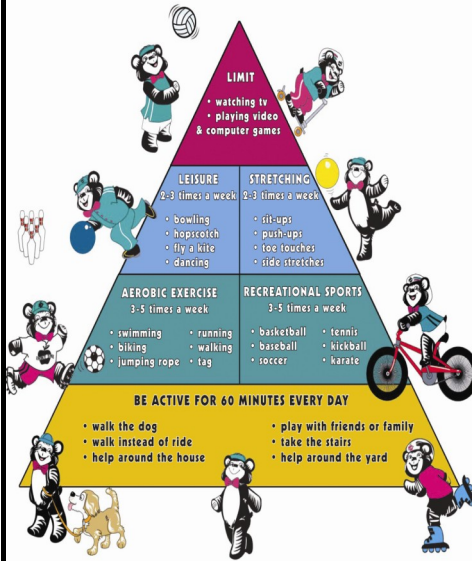
## DR. ALDRIN VISITS ALDRIN



Once again, Buzz Aldrin was in the Washington area and paid us a surprise visit right before the December music concert! Children and staff were delighted to see him.



## The Exercise Pyramid



### TIPS FOR FAMILIES:

#### EAT RIGHT

Choose healthy foods.

Increase whole-grain foods.

Eat fruits and vegetables especially dark green and orange.

Include calcium-rich foods such as lowfat dairy products.

Select lowfat meat, chicken, turkey and fish.

Avoid foods and beverages with sugar as the first ingredient.

#### EXERCISE

Be an active family.

Exercise 60 minutes per day

Include physical activities at family celebrations.

Limit TV and computer time.

## REFERRALS for FULL-TIME ADVANCED ACADEMIC PROGRAM (AAP) PLACEMENT—LEVEL IV (Grades 2–7)



Parents or guardians of students not in the second grade screening pool may initiate the full-time AAP (Level IV) screening process

by completing and submitting an AAP Level IV Referral Form to the local school principal no later than February 3, 2012. No late referrals will be accepted. Second graders **not** in the pool and all third through seventh graders are screened

only by referral. Forms are available on the AAP website ([www.fcps.edu/is/aap](http://www.fcps.edu/is/aap)) and in the *Parent Information Packet* available in our main office. (Please note: Parents or guardians of students who are in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade pool will be notified by the school. Students who are not in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade pool will not receive notification. The benchmark score used to create the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade pool will be published on the Advanced Academic Programs website in mid-January.)

## ATTENDANCE LETTERS SENT IN DECEMBER

Virginia law and FCPS require that students be punctual and regular in school class attendance. The focus of the Principal's Message in the November 30 Aldrin Advisory was to alert Aldrin families to the change in FCPS Regulation 2234.7 and to provide an overview of how we would be working with families to maximize student attendance. I also shared that attendance letters would be sent to families where absences, late arrivals, and early dismissals had become excessive.

Letters were sent to a number of Aldrin families in December. Some of these addressed a **limited number** of excused absences and late arrivals containing the statement "You must provide a doctor's note for future absences... ". I take full responsibility and apologize for mailing this letter to many families, when some letters did not need to be sent.

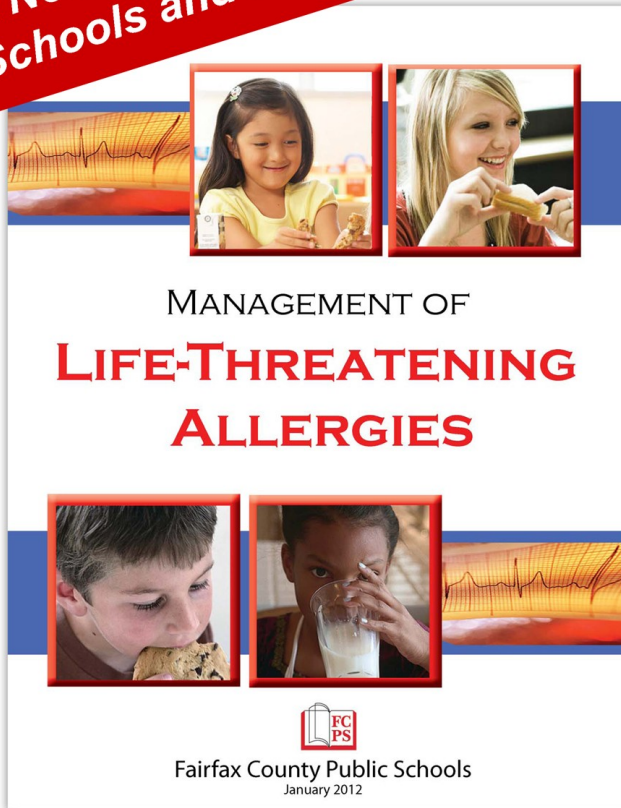
In the event that you received this letter and your child has had **limited** excused absences and late arrivals since the start of this school year, please know that you can expect to receive a follow-up letter toward the end of next week that will address this issue and the steps that are being taken to rectify it. I sincerely apologize for any concern that may have

resulted and appreciate your understanding and support as we move forward in 2012.

The Aldrin staff and I will continue to encourage children to attend school and arrive on time daily; unless, he or she needs to remain at home for a "Fairfax County Public School (FCPS) recognized legitimate reason": illness of the student, death in the family, doctor or dentist appointment, observance of a religious holiday, suspension except for certain violations as provided in the current version of Regulation 2601 [http://commweb.fcps.edu/schoolboardapps/report\\_policy/cache/numeric-2000.htm](http://commweb.fcps.edu/schoolboardapps/report_policy/cache/numeric-2000.htm) or another reason acceptable to the principal. Parents can support this by minimizing student absences, be they full-day, tardy, or early release. Thank you for joining with us in this effort.

Please remember that if your child needs to be absent, you are expected to contact the school as soon as the need to be absent is known. Cases of chronic or long-term illness may require a physician's note. To report the absence, parents may either call the Aldrin attendance line (703-904-3818) or send an email to [AldrinE-Attendance@fcps.edu](mailto:AldrinE-Attendance@fcps.edu).

## A New Resource for Schools and Parents



Find it online at: [www.fcps.edu/dss/osp/healthservices/AllergyHandbook.pdf](http://www.fcps.edu/dss/osp/healthservices/AllergyHandbook.pdf)

*Management of Life-Threatening Allergies is a new publication to help Fairfax County Public Schools school staff members care for students with life-threatening allergic conditions and to provide parents guidance about how allergies are addressed in FCPS.*

*Development of these guidelines was a result of a collaborative effort of parents, community members, Fairfax County Public Schools, and the Fairfax County Health Department who were part of an Allergy Review Team that was formed to review and update existing information about the management of life threatening allergies in Fairfax County Public Schools. Questions? Contact FCPS Student Health Services at 571-423-4402.*

### A Note from the Principal:

While there are many food allergies that students can have, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) the number of young people who had a food or digestive allergy has increased 18 percent between 1997 and 2007. It was also reported that eight types of food account for 90 percent of all food allergies: **milk, eggs, peanuts, tree nuts, fish, shellfish, soy, and wheat.** Reactions to these foods by an allergic person can range from a tingling sensation around the mouth and lips, to hives, and even death, depending on the severity of the reaction. One type of severe reaction is called **Anaphylaxis.** In order to establish a safe and healthy learning environment for children with allergies, schools and parents and/or guardians must form a partnership.

I will meet with the PTA Board later this month to explore how we can continue to make Aldrin Elementary safe for all 676 students, especially those with food allergies. We will examine the newest FCPS guidelines and newly release manual from Fairfax County Public Schools called **Management of Life-Threatening Allergies** (see above). Consistent procedures will then be established to educate the Aldrin community in preventing life-threatening situations and safeguarding our children. Our efforts will be communicated either through a flyer or in the next Aldrin Advisory newsletter, possibly both.



## HEALTHY CORNER

### WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE FLU

#### WASH YOUR HANDS

Wash your hands often, scrubbing your hands together for 20 seconds with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hands cleaners are also effective.

#### COVER YOUR COUGH

Cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing, or cough into your upper sleeve, not into your hands.

#### STAY HOME IF YOU'RE SICK

The Fairfax County Health Department (FCHD) recommends that students or staff with influenza-like symptoms (fever with a cough or sore throat) stay at home and out of school until at least **24 hours** after they are free of fever, or signs of a fever without the use of fever-reducing medicines.

If students have flu-like symptoms, they should not participate in any school activities, in school-aged child care (SACC) or be out in the community except to seek medical care.

If a child appears to have an influenza-like illness when he or she arrives at school, a parent or guardian will be notified and asked to pick up the child.

Parents should ensure that their emergency information is up to date and that they pick up their children when notified.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION--PLEASE KEEP FOR REFERENCE! Aldrin Elementary 2011-2012 Inclement Weather Procedures

Please keep this chart in a convenient location in the event school hours are adjusted due to inclement weather or other emergency situations.

If Schools . . .	Monday	Tuesday - Friday
<p><b>Close for the Day</b></p> <p>A public announcement will be made by 5:30 a.m. on local radio and television stations and <a href="http://www.fcps.edu">www.fcps.edu</a>.</p>	<p>All day, after-school, and evening classes <u>and activities</u> (including PTA and community/recreation use) are cancelled. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extracurricular activities</li> <li>• Interscholastic contests</li> <li>• Team Practices</li> <li>• Field Trips</li> <li>• Adult/Community education classes</li> <li>• School-Age Child Care (SACC) centers are closed.</li> </ul>	<p>All day, after-school, and evening classes <u>and activities</u> (including PTA and community use) are cancelled. This includes:</p> <p>Extracurricular activities Interscholastic contests Team Practices Field Trips Adult/Community education classes</p> <p>School-Age Child Care (SACC) centers are closed.</p>
<p><b>Open Two Hours Late</b></p> <p>A public announcement will be made by 5:30 a.m. on local radio and television stations and <a href="http://www.fcps.edu">www.fcps.edu</a>.</p>	<p>School Office opens on time for staff.</p> <p>School begins at 11:15 a.m. and will <u>NOT</u> observe <u>Monday early-closing schedule</u>. School closes at 3:55 p.m.</p> <p>Breakfast program and field trips are cancelled.</p> <p>SACC will open by 8:00 a.m., when possible.**</p> <p>Morning Preschool (special education) classes are cancelled.</p> <p>Full day Preschool Autism (PAC) classes start two hours later than the regular schedule.</p> <p>Afternoon Preschool (special education) starts on the regular Tuesday-through-Friday schedule.</p>	<p>School Office opens on time for staff.</p> <p>School begins at 11:15 a.m.</p> <p>Breakfast program and field trips are cancelled.</p> <p>Normal closing time at 3:55 p.m.</p> <p>SACC will open by 8:00 a.m., when possible.**</p> <p>Morning preschool (special education) classes are cancelled.</p> <p>Full-day Preschool Autism (PAC) classes start two hours later than the regular schedule.</p> <p>Afternoon Preschool (special education) starts on the regular Tuesday-through-Friday schedule.</p>
<p><b>Close Two Hours Early</b></p> <p>A public announcement will be made by 10:30 a.m. on local radio and television stations and <a href="http://www.fcps.edu">www.fcps.edu</a>.</p>	<p>Decision and Announcement by 10:30 AM.</p> <p>School closes at 1:55 p.m.</p> <p>SACC will stay open until the children are picked up.</p> <p>After-school and evening classes and activities cancelled.</p> <p>Morning Preschool (special education) classes are dismissed at approximately 11:00 a.m.</p> <p>Full-day Preschool Autism (PAC) classes are dismissed @11:15 am.</p> <p>Afternoon Preschool (special education) classes are cancelled.</p>	<p>Decision and Announcement by 10:30 AM.</p> <p>School closes at 1:55 p.m.</p> <p>SACC will stay open until the children are picked up.</p> <p>After-school and evening classes and activities cancelled.</p> <p>Morning Preschool (special education) classes are dismissed at approximately 11:00 a.m.</p> <p>Full-day Preschool Autism (PAC) classes are dismissed @1:45 PM.</p> <p>Afternoon Preschool (special education) classes are cancelled.</p>

Parents are urged to make arrangements **NOW** for the care of their children when schedule changes are made. Children should know where to go if a parent will not be home.

\*\*Every effort is made for SACC to open before 8:00 a.m. BEFORE you bring your child, please call the SACC Center (703-904-3860) to make sure it is open.

In every case of a schedule change, tune in to cable Channel 21 (Cox Communications, Verizon, and Reston Comcast Cable customers only), or check [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu).