

ALDRIN ADVISORY



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

November 30, 2011

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Word Masters Challenge—December 2, 9:20 a.m.
- Interims sent home—December 8th
- FLE Parent Preview (Human Growth and Development), Grades 4, 5, and 6—December 8th, 5:00 p.m.
- Orchestra & Chorus Concert—December 13th, 2:30 p.m. (Student Assembly) and 7:00 p.m. (Parent and Guest Assembly)
- Winter break—December 23rd thru January 2nd (school closed)
- AAP Parent Coffee— January 12th, 10:00 a.m.
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day (school closed) - January 16th
- Student Holidays (no school for students), Teacher Workdays—January 30th and January 31st

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Thank you for doing your part, to ensure that your child attends school daily; unless, he or she needs to remain at home for a “Fairfax County Public School (FCPS) recognized legitimate reason.” When your child needs to be absent, parents are expected to contact the school as soon as the need to be absent is known. To report the absence, parents may either call the Aldrin attendance line (703-904-3818) or send an email to AldrinESAttendance@fcps.edu.

Please familiarize yourself with the following information.

Virginia law and FCPS require that students be punctual and regular in school class attendance. Parents can support this by minimizing student absences, be they full-day, tardy, or early release. When a student has been absent from school for any reason other than for a school sponsored activity and the parent or guardian has not contacted the school, an explanation for the absence is required. The parent or guardian must send verified communication to the Aldrin school office citing the reason(s) for the absence no later than two days following the student's return to school.

Any person who knowingly and willfully causes a child to be absent from school without justification is in violation of the Code of Virginia, Section 22.1-265.

The Code of Virginia, FCPS Regulation, and the process Aldrin ES utilizes to monitor student attendance is based on the well-established relationship between regular and on-time school attendance and learning; regular attendance is necessary in helping students to develop desirable behavior patterns, as well as maximize their achievement in school. In addition, punctuality and dependability in meeting assigned responsibilities are personal behavior habits valued in our society.

FCPS Regulation 2234.7 http://commweb.fcps.edu/schoolboardapps/report_policy/cache/numeric-2000.htm was recently strengthened to support the required Virginia school attendance law, as outlined in the Code of Virginia, Section 22.1-254.

The following definitions hold for full-day, tardy, and early release absences:

An excused absence / tardy / early release are those for

Continued on page 2..



Aldrin Elementary School

A Family Affair: Home and school remaining focused on children and learning... child-by-child.

11375 Center Harbor Rd., Reston, Virginia 20194 [\(map\)](#)
Office: 703-904-3800 | Attendance: 703-904-3818 | Report an Absence by Email: AldrinESAttendance@fcps.edu | Fax: 703-904-3897

New link on Aldrin ES Site for Reporting Attendance Electronically

Principal's message continued from page 2

which parents or guardians have prior knowledge, consent, and/or a legitimate reason. Legitimate reasons may include: 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 or another reason acceptable to the principal. Cases of chronic or long-term illness may require a physician's note.

An **unexcused absence / tardy / early release** is one for which the parent or guardian does not have prior knowledge, consent, and/or a legitimate reason. Examples of reasons that are not justified and will result in an unexcused ab-

sence include: family and/or student vacations, child care situations, missed school bus, nonschool-related activities, or other reasons unacceptable to the principal.

At Aldrin ES and throughout FCPS schools, full-day, tardy, and early release absences are addressed by individual interventions with progressive consequences for students. Teachers are required to record daily attendance each morning and record each absence as unverified. Each student absence for all or any part of the school day shall be supported by a legitimate reason that parents are expected to provide. The Aldrin office staff verifies all full day absences as well as tardy and early release absences with parents, and maintains the official student attendance record for each student. They follow the regulation in their verification process.

Per FCPS Regulation 2234.7, Aldrin ES has established a new system for administrative follow-up of absences,

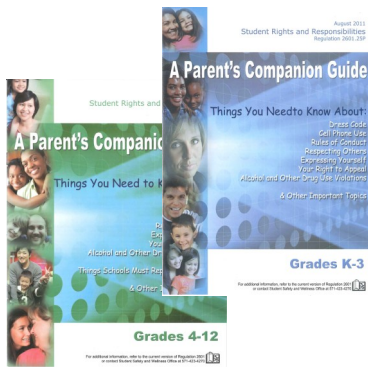
be they full-day, tardy, or early release. It will begin on Tuesday, December 6, 2011. Specifics about the new system can be found on the Aldrin website (indexed "Aldrin Attendance Monitoring System") <http://www.fcps.edu/AldrinES/siteindex.html>.

The parents of students who have had excessive full-day, tardy, and/or early release absences that occurred prior to December 6 will receive written notice from me reminding them of this situation and their responsibility of ensuring that their child is punctual and has regular school attendance.

I am always appreciative of the support our Aldrin families have evidenced toward the educational process in our school, to our education and office professionals, and me. Thank you in advance for your support in seeing that all Aldrin children arrive on time and attend school for the entire day; thus, maximizing their educational opportunities and experiences.

J. Martin Marinoff, Jr.

Student Rights and Responsibilities (SR&R) Parent Companion Guide



FCPS has provided Student Rights and Responsibilities (SR&R), Parent Companion Guides to assist parents in their overall understanding of the SR&R. A hard copy is being provided to parents who do not have internet access. The guide in English and the other seven major languages is available at <http://www.fcps.edu/dss/ips/ssaw/SRR/index.shtml>.

THANKS FROM THE CLINIC

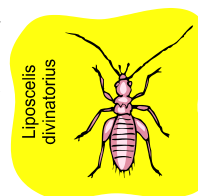


Mrs. Macken would like to extend her sincere thanks to the wonderful volunteers who assisted her with hearing and vision screening. Your generous donation of time and energy made it possible to screen more than 200 students.

Thank you to Patty Foran, Pham Vantrang, Elaine Nelson, Shipla Isloor, Ashley Ausbrooks, Shreehe Haldar, Suzie Huffman, Kylie Kraskouskas, Wendy Fiallo, Padmaja Penumeteh, Mariana Rautenbach, Angela Bottom, Kim Northrup, Amy Rubacky and a special thank you to our clinic volunteer coordinator, Stephanie Weeks.

HEAD LICE (PEDICULOSIS)

Outbreaks of head lice are common among children in schools and day care, affecting all social and economic groups. We are fortunate; Aldrin elementary has had relatively few cases of head lice this school year.



Because there is no evidence that head lice transmit disease, pediculosis is considered a nuisance rather than a health hazard. Head lice are spread either by direct contact with a person who has head lice or by indirect contact with personal be-

REFERRALS for FULL-TIME ADVANCED ACADEMIC PROGRAM 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) and in the

Parent Information Packet available in our main office. (Please note: Parents or guardians of students who are in the 2nd grade pool will be notified by the school. Students who are not in the 2nd grade pool will not receive notification. The benchmark score used to create the 2nd grade pool will be published on the Advanced Academic Programs website in mid-January.)

PARENT INFORMATION COFFEE

A meeting will be held for parents of students in grades 2-6 interested in referring their child for level IV services. This meeting will take place at Aldrin in room 121 (Strategies Lab) on **January 12, 2012 at 10:00am.** Chris Lewis, our Advanced Academic Resource Teacher will provide specific infor-

mation and answer questions about the screening process for Level IV services. Please note: All students are screened for levels II and III services at the end of the year without a parent referral. For more information about the levels of service, please refer to the AAP

FCPS Recognizes 45 Schools With Wellness Awards

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) recognized 45 schools with Wellness Awards for their efforts to promote wellness in school and the community during the 2010-11 school year. The Wellness Awards are based on the wellness policy adopted by the Fairfax County School Board to promote student health and contribute to reducing childhood obesity. All

winners were recognized at a reception on November 28th.

Aldrin ES along with 16 other FCPS Elementary Schools received the Golden Apple Award, the highest award given! Congratulations to our Aldrin ES Wellness Coordinator, Eddie Mae Walker, and the entire Aldrin staff for an outstanding job!



Girl Scout Troop 492 leading the Pledge of Allegiance after Posting the Colors at the Veterans' Day Assembly held on November 11th.

*Photo by Valerie Aber



Students singing "America the Beautiful" with Mrs. Gist and Mr. Marinoff at the Veteran's Day Assembly held on November 11th.

*Photo by Valerie Aber



Aldrin ES Wellness Coordinator, Eddie Mae Walker, receives Golden Apple Award from Dr. Jack Dale, Superintendent Fairfax County Public Schools and Jane Stauss, Chair Fairfax County School Board.

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:

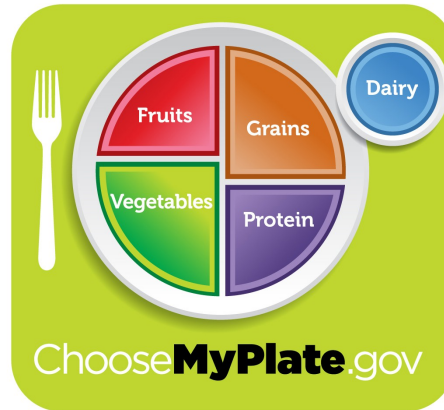
- Called in to local radio and television stations.
- Posted on TV Channel 21, (Cox Communications, Reston Comcast, and Verizon cable customers only).
- Posted on www.fcps.edu.
- Posted to Facebook and Twitter.
- Sent via e-mail to parents through the **Keep in Touch e-mail notification system**.

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>.

ChooseMyPlate is the new food icon based on the 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. The Guidelines encourage all Americans to eat a healthy diet and be physically active.



- Enjoy your food, but eat less.
- Avoid oversized portions.
- Make half your plate fruits and vegetables.
- Switch to fat-free or low fat (1%) milk.
- Make at least half your grains whole grains.
- Compare sodium in foods like soup, bread, and frozen meals – and choose foods with lower numbers.
- Drink water instead of sugary drinks.

<http://www.choosemyplate.gov>

NUTRIFAX

Fighting Childhood Obesity

Today, childhood obesity is a major national health crisis affecting about 25% of all students. Poor diets and lack of exercise are the major causes of this epidemic. Parents are role models who must take an active role in guiding their children's food selections and encouraging physical activity. It is recommended that children exercise at least 60 minutes a day and spend less time in front of the television or computer.