



THE CARDINAL SPEAKS

Magnificent May

Karen Kenna, Principal

The pollen has finally done its special work of nature and the flowers are in full bloom all around the neighborhood. Learning is in full bloom at Cardinal Forest as we head toward the end of the year and SOL testing which begins this month.

May starts with a series of celebrations for the teachers and instructional support staff that are the foundation of what makes Cardinal Forest a great place to learn. The PTA and room parents have planned a variety of tokens of appreciation for our wonderful staff. In the front lobby you will see a sign, *"If you can read, write, sing, play fair, think better, love learning...Thank A Teacher"*. Please take time during the week of May 4-8 to say thank you. It's amazing how these simple words make a teacher's day.

On May 6th, we also celebrate the contributions of the Clinic Aide, Donna Tisdall and the Public Health Nurse, Anne Hunter, RN. These two ladies assist students with chronic illness, medication disbursement, apply ice packs to bumped heads and knees, and of course dispense the magic band aids that seem to fix everything. We are so blessed to have this dedicated team looking out for the well being of students sent to the clinic.

On May 20th, the PTA will have a short meeting to propose the slate of Officers for the 2009-2010 school year. It will then be the school's turn to celebrate the contributions of the Volunteers who support the learning of students through the gift of their time and energy. We urge you to attend the *Volunteer Appreciation Coffee* from 9:30-11:00 AM in the school library. We love our volunteers and hope we can thank you in person.

On the evening of May 20th, Mrs. Susan Trinka, kindergarten teacher, will be honored at a reception hosted by FCPS School Board and Leadership Team for her nomination as Teacher of the Year. While she was not selected by FCPS for this award, she is certainly **OUR** pick for **Teacher of the Year**. We thank Sue for her many years of dedicated service to the students and community of Cardinal Forest.

With all the celebrations, we might forget to mention the importance of helping your child keep a healthy outlook on upcoming SOL tests. Teachers in grades 3-6 have been working to build test taking skills as well as the knowledge skills necessary for success on these tests. You can help by ensuring that your child has a proper sleep on the night before the test and a nourishing breakfast on the morning of the test. Please avoid doctor appointments on your child's test day so that they will not have to make up missed tests. If you know already that your child will miss the day of testing, please contact the school office to report this so we can make these plans in advance.

Please know that FCPS will continue to monitor the status of H1N1/Swine Flu and let you know of any changes. Please read carefully the backpack letter sent home this week with web sites to keep you updated on the latest information.

Thank you for helping make Cardinal Forest is a great place to learn!

May 2009

- 7 Family Literacy Night at Springfield Barnes & Noble
- 12 Strings Concert 7:00 PM
- 13 Band Concert 7:00 PM
- 20 Volunteer Appreciation Social 9:30—11:30

June 2009

- 4 Chorus Concert 7:00 PM
- 11 International Heritage Day
- 17 Sixth Grade Promotion 9:30—11:00 AM
- 18 Last Day of School

Health Update

The Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) and Fairfax County Health Department (FCHD) are working together to support the Student Illness Monitoring System (SIMS) to track certain communicable diseases. This system has been in place since 2005. The system allows for a daily review of absentee information to monitor for an increase in gastrointestinal and/or influenza like illnesses. Monitoring these illnesses on a daily basis allows for early identification and intervention.

When calling your school attendance line at 703-923-5252 to report your child's illness, you should provide specific information about your child's reason for absence. If your child is ill, please be specific as to a physician's diagnosis such as strep throat or pink eye. If your child has not seen a physician, please be specific about the symptoms your child is having such as fever, cough, sore throat, headache, diarrhea or vomiting.

We hope that this program, combined with systems already in place to safeguard your children and school community, will enhance our understanding of certain communicable diseases.

If you have any questions about this monitoring program, please call your school public health nurse Ann Hunter, R.N. at 703-923-5210

KINDERGARTEN NEWS, MRS. TRINKA, MRS. MAQUERA, MRS. BAITINGER

The highlight of May for kindergarten students will be their trip to the National Zoo. We look forward to learning about how different animals move, what they eat

and their natural habitat. In math, we will be working on telling time on the hour and counting pennies, nickels and dimes. In science, we will be performing different experi-

ments to see what objects sink or float. We will even create our own boat and see if it floats (or sinks!). We have been working hard on earning tally marks for the

school's 1000 acts of responsibility. Eating our lunch outside sounds like a wonderful reward for being so responsible!

FIRST GRADE NEWS, MRS. BASSLER AND MRS. RAMIREZ

In May the first grade will be going on their field trip to Mount Vernon. Through stories, hands-on-activities and inquiry based discussions, students will learn about George Washington's role as a farmer and businessman

and explore how 18th century farmers used natural and human resources. Students will learn that George Washington was a farmer and discuss what crops he grew and why. They will also meet a Mount Vernon animal and learn

about the jobs of both people and animals on the farm. Lastly, they will learn how simple tools were used to improve farming. This will be a wonderful culminating activity for our unit on plants, as well as economics,

and social studies. We will also be counting money, learning about clouds, worms and completing our DRA testing, and working on projects.

Student DRA and SOL Testing Alert

Kindergarten through second grade DRA individual reading testing window is May 4-June 8. Third through sixth grade SOL testing window is May 18-June 5. Please notify your child's teacher if your child will be absent anytime during these testing windows to facilitate a test make-up schedule.

PRIMARY NEWS, MRS. HEIBEL, MRS. LONG, MRS. ROGOSKEY

Dear Primary parents, Our students have been busy learning about Famous Americans. We have talked about what makes an Ameri-

can famous, and how these people have contributed to our nation's history. The students have enjoyed hearing nonfiction stories about

each person and how their contributions have had an impact on modern day life. Ask your child to talk to you about George Washington,

Eleanor Roosevelt, Abraham Lincoln and others! Happy spring!

SECOND GRADE NEWS, MRS. NEFF, MISS RODE

We are wrapping up our money unit and we'll begin our study of telling time. Please continue to reinforce both skills at home. In Social

Studies, we are studying Native Americans with a focus on the Powhatan, Sioux and Pueblo tribes. Within this study, we are learning the

environments in which they live. We are also DRA testing this month and reading at home is most important. Check your child's Tuesday

Folder for a guide on retelling nonfiction and fiction as a review for the test. Thank you for all you do!



Baby trees have been planted out back by the playground. They are marked with tubes or flags. Please don't touch them or play near them, they are extremely fragile. In the years to come these trees will create shade and outdoor classroom space!

Spring Band Concerts

All members of the Cardinal Forest band, beginning and advanced, will perform in a spring concert on the morning of Tuesday, May 12 and evening of Wednesday, May 13. All band students are expected to be present at these performances. Details of the performances are as follows:

Date and Time: Tuesday, May 12, 9:45 a.m. – Assembly program in gym.
Wednesday, May 13, 7:00 p.m. – Evening concert.
Location: Cardinal Forest Gym. Band students need to report to the Band Room (at 6:30 p.m.) on Wed., May 13 to store instrument cases and tune up.
Dress: White blouse/shirt, dark slacks/skirt

EXTRA REHEARSALS:

There will be two combined rehearsals in preparation for this event:

Wednesday, May 6, 9:15-10:15, Cafeteria and Monday, May 11, 9:15-10:15, Cafeteria

THIRD GRADE NEWS, MRS. GREEN, MS. MAGGI, MRS. TASIKAS

May 1st is our field trip to the Natural History Museum in D.C. This will be a wonderful opportunity for students to explore the exhibits that the museum has to offer. The exhibits are a wonderful review of the units/topics that are covered in the 3rd grade curriculum (ancient cultures,

rocks and minerals, soils, etc...). In math, students will be working on the unit of graphing and probability. Students will work on graphing data that they have collected and organizing it into a variety of graphs. Interpreting graphs is an important skill that they will be learning

as well. The process of metamorphosis generates lots of excitement, as the students observe caterpillars changing into butterflies! Our last unit of study in social studies is Ancient Rome! Students will use a variety of graphic organizers to record what they have learned about Ancient

Rome's geography/climate, how they adapted to their environment, government, empire, architecture, and their contributions. With school coming to a close, keep in mind that SOL's will also be approaching at the end of May. Please mark these dates in your calendar!

FOURTH GRADE NEWS, MRS. CONBOY, MS. TRUMP, MISS HAGENAU

May is a very busy month for our fourth graders! We will begin the month with a field trip to Claude Moore Colonial Farm at Turkey Run in McLean, VA on May 7th. Students will learn about Colonial life just prior to the Revolutionary War and how life was for an 18th Century family living on a small low-income farm. Our focus this month in Social Studies will

be on Reconstruction, Changes for Virginia, and Civil Rights. In Science, fourth grade students will be learning about our Virginia Ecosystems! Students will be investigating the natural habitats in which our plants and animals interact and adapt for survival. Students will also learn about human impact on the environment, Virginia watersheds, and minerals. In

language arts your child will be connecting and applying reading strategies to test-taking, review how to write to a prompt, and the genre of Fantasy will be our reading focus. In Math we will be continuing our exploration of the basic concepts of probability. We will also be collecting, organizing, displaying, and interpreting data using line graphs and bar

graphs. We thank you in advance for helping your child learn their math facts! Fourth grade SOL test dates will be Wednesday, May 20th (reading), Wednesday, May 27th (Math), and Friday, May 29th (VA Studies). It is important that your child be well rested, have breakfast, and be to school on time. Thank you for not scheduling any appointments on these days.

FIFTH GRADE NEWS, MRS. BETSILL, MS. BUTLER, MS. JOHNSTON, MRS. POBST

We would like to thank all of the parent volunteers that made our field trip to the Udvar-Hazy Air and Space Museum a success. We couldn't have done it without you! In fifth grade, we are working hard to prepare for our upcoming SOLs. In math, stu-

dents are studying graphing and probability while reviewing concepts already taught. Students are also currently working on the Global Awareness Technology Project, which allows them to research and create a Powerpoint presentation on a cul-

ture we have already studied in social studies. We will soon be starting the Micro to Macro unit in science, where students will get to explore the world through a microscope. We are continually reviewing our comprehension strategies in reading and ap-

plying them to a variety of print materials. We thank you all for the continuous support you give and look forward to a great month of May.

SIXTH GRADE NEWS, MS. ECKER, MS. EIRIKSSON, MS. KELLEY, MS. LIZOTTE

As we enter our last full month of the school year, we find the sixth graders in social studies finishing their unit on the Civil War; in math learning about probability and graphing; in language arts

exploring various novels through activities and/or literature circles; and in science learning and experimenting with currents and other energy devices.

Please remember that the sixth graders have three SOL tests this year. They are Reading, Friday, May 22nd; History, Thursday, May 28th, and Math Tuesday, June 2nd. It is requested that every

child get a good night of rest and breakfast before each test.

*Thank You,
Sixth Grade Team*

AUTISM NEWS, MRS. GAROFALO, MR. BRADLEY, MRS. SHAPIRO

The Autism group has sprung into spring with zest! We are still celebrating autism awareness with lots of activity. We had fun making the autism ribbons for the staff and our parents. Thanks to Mrs. Miller for lending her warm support for this. We had a

great tea with our families, administration and teachers. Cardinal Forest is a fantastic school. The students and staff have shown warmth, guidance, support and friendship to all our students. We all appreciate this. April is an awareness month

of our environment, too. Our students have been busy learning about recycling, keeping our land clean, and appreciating the environment around us. We picked up trash around the school playgrounds, recycled cans, paper and plastics, made birdhouses

for the birds outside our window and did some spring planting. April has showered us with lots of activity sprouts; we are looking forward to the May flowers of fun.

PATROL NEWS, COACH STERNER, COACH MILLER, MRS. DARDEN

Congratulations to the Patrols of the Month! Jack Bishop and Josh Johnwell have been doing an excellent job. Jack is an outside patrol at Lakinhurst. Josh is a bus patrol. Keep up the good work. Our Safety Patrol bowling

field trip will be Friday May 8th. Please hand in your permission slips and \$5 before May 8th. Also, don't forget to bring money for food on that day too. We are all looking forward to having a little fun and cele-

brating all of our hard work. The safety patrol selection committee will be meeting on May 11th to appoint new patrols and officers. Parents will be receiving a letter of acceptance if their child becomes a safety pa-

trol for 2009/10. Lastly, we will begin training our new patrols the first week of June. Thank you for keeping Cardinal Forest a safe school.

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE Technology utilization at Cardinal Forest has expanded the awareness of students across all grade levels with access to web cameras, Senteo Response Clickers, and interactive curriculum websites. In late April, students in all Scratch sessions experienced true high definition live video conferencing with a Tandberg videoconferencing system. The Tandberg system allows Internet webcasting with true clarity of video and audio transmission. What this means for our students and teachers is that the focus is upon instruction and not of technology. Scratch students will be wrapping up the school year designing their own games with special flow chart software called EDraw. EDraw simulates real-world software design principles in a format that is friendly for student use.

If you have not visited the Cardinal Forest website (www.fcps.edu/CardinalForestES) recently, please take a peek at the revolving slideshow. Pictures are submitted every two weeks and will allow for parents to see how our students are benefitting from the wonderful instruction they receive from their teachers. We also have a Google calendar linked to the main page that is an excellent source of information for end-of-the-year activities. Soon a web gallery will be added to each grade level team page and specialist page!

Our high-lighted grade level for the month of May is the Fourth Grade. Several projects that the students are working on include: making biography trading cards; creating an SOL video timeline movie; exploring electricity with Northrop Grumman engineers; and strategizing with our TestTalk curriculum SOL review session. The students are actively learning and teaching other students how to implement these great skills! We're proud to see all Cardinal Forest students sharing knowledge and building confidence everyday with technology in the classroom.

Cardinal Forest will be hosting a Family Literacy Night/Bookfair at Barnes and Noble in Springfield on Thursday, May 7, from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. Cardinal Forest will receive a percentage of the sales from this very special family event. The proceeds will be used to purchase additional reading material for our Leveled Bookroom and will benefit all students in our school.



In order to ensure success, we need you! Greeters and individuals to host literacy games, read alouds, and even face-painters will be needed. If you can donate a few hours on May 7th between 6 and 9 PM, please contact Donna Salussolia at (703) 923-5241 or Donna.Salussolia@fcps.edu.

Cardinal Forest International Day

June 11

This year our Heritage Night has changed. We will be celebrating it instead as International Day and it will be held during the school day. On Thursday June 11th we will be having an all day celebration of our cultural diversity at Cardinal Forest Elementary. We will celebrate the countries that represent the student backgrounds of Cardinal Forest. Student created art will be shown throughout our school and Cardinal Forest students will have the opportunities to experience cultural books being read to them and to play cultural games throughout the school day.

There will be two assemblies, one for K-3 and one for 4-6. During the assemblies we will celebrate the countries with our Parade of Nations. Any student that wishes to wear traditional dress representing their culture and/or their native/ancestral country is encouraged to do so during our International Fashion Show. Our music and PE teachers will lead the students as they sing songs and dance dances that represent countries we have studied. Any student that wishes to do a cultural performance must fill out an entry sheet with any accompanying music (i.e. CD) and turn it in to Ms. Baeseman by Friday May 22nd. The entry forms will be in the school office. No late entries will be accepted. We look forward to celebrating International Day at Cardinal Forest Elementary!