



Letter from the Principal

Dear Deer Park Families,

It is hard to believe we are coming to the end of another school year. The next two weeks are packed with activities throughout the school to reflect on and celebrate another successful school year. From our kindergarten blast-off to our sixth grade overnight camping trip at Camp Highroad, each grade level has planned something special to end the school year.

Our final celebration will be the Awards Ceremony for grades 4 through 6 on the last day of school, Thursday, June 18th at 8:45 a.m. in the Deer Park Cafeteria. If your child is receiving a special recognition, you should have received an invitation in last week's Thursday folder. We will recognize about 100 students, the majority of whom are sixth graders.

Please remember on June 18th we will dismiss early, at approximately 11:10 a.m. We will send a Keep In Touch reminder the day before with an exact dismissal time.

We are already busy making plans for next year. We appreciate the input many of you provided on the Parent Information form. This information helped us as we made initial class groupings for next year, and will be valuable information for your child's teacher next year to learn a little about your child before the start of school. If you have not returned your form, please feel free to do so over the summer. We may not be able to use all of the information to guide our placement of your child for next year, but will still be able to use it to help your child's teacher learn a little bit about your child. The form is available on the Deer Park webpage and in the school's front office.

Our theme for next year has not yet been determined, but will focus on reading and the language arts. Mrs. Clement has plans in the works for next school year that include a special author visit, school-wide read-a-thon, book club, and a Chinese New Year's Dragon. Look for more information in the fall!!

Over the summer, remember to have your child practice math facts, write in a journal, and read, read, read! I'll be anxious to hear about the wonderful books that your child read over the summer.

Have a happy and safe summer!

Best wishes,

Carol A. Larsen
Principal

Message from the PTA President

As the year comes to a close, I would like to thank all the parents who put so much time and effort into making this year a huge success. The creative ideas for finding ways to fill the gaps in funding have made it possible to continue full support of all budgeted school and PTA programs.

Thanks Go to:

- **Trisha Warren** for her yearlong dedication to consistently organizing the Market Day Fundraiser and Restaurant Spirit Nights.
- **Melissa Lottchea** and the Spring Fling Committee for planning and implementing a super fun Spring Fling.
- **Amy Kerr**, who coordinated the military families for game night.
- **John and Colleen Schillmaier** for taking on the task of organizing the Deer Park Golf Tournament, which was a great success on a beautiful day for golfing.
- **Amy Yoham and Veronica Delaney** for weekly and monthly getting the PTA and school information to the Deer Park families throughout the year!!
- **Nicole Moritz** for bringing in more funding than ever through Boxtops and Giant Bonusbucks.
- **Wanda Miller** for keeping the volunteers supplied for all the events.
- **Suzanne Cervarich** along with the Yearbook team for creating another memorable Yearbook.
- **All parents** who see a need and fill it by volunteering your time to Deer Park. **THANK YOU!!!**

Committee Openings:

There are several openings for committees in the fall. Please consider volunteering your time to devote to your child's school. You make the difference!

- Student Directory
- Cultural Arts
- Deer Pals
- Movie Nights
- Room Parent Coordinator
- Bingo Night
- Labels for Education
- Box Tops
- Giant Bonusbucks

The next PTA meeting is Tuesday, September 15 at 7:00p.m. in the library. Babysitting will continue to be provided. Mark your calendars now to attend. All are welcome!

Have a great summer,

Maria Vetsch
PTA President

Deer Park Car Wash Cancelled

Due to unforeseen circumstances the Pentagon Carwash event will not take place on Saturday, June 13 as planned.

The carwash will take place in September.

Watch for information on the event when school begins next fall.

Events/General Information

FCPS Adjusts Bell Schedule for 2009-10 School Year

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) is adjusting the bell schedule for the 2009-10 school year and, in doing so, will save the school system \$4.7 million dollars while removing 97 buses from Fairfax County roads.

The changes are being implemented in order to streamline bus routes. One of the changes is that students will not necessarily have the same driver on both the morning and the afternoon bus runs.

These adjustments are separate and apart from the proposal to change school start times that the Fairfax County School Board considered and voted to reject in March 2009. These adjustments focus on achieving efficiencies within the current bell structure, which the Fairfax County School Board voted to retain. For details about the bell schedule adjustments, visit <http://www.fcps.edu/news/start.htm>.

Thank You All Golfers And Helpers

The PTA would like to thank all of the parents and teachers who came out to golf at Chantilly National Golf and Country Club on June 1st. The weather was beautiful and all who attended enjoyed a fabulous dinner catered by Outback Steakhouse in Centreville. A special thank you to our platinum sponsors, SSI (for your heating and air conditioning needs) and Outback Steakhouse in Centreville, VA.



Summer Enrichment Camps and Opportunities

Get ready for summer! A host of summer enrichment opportunities are available for children of all ages. Two new full-day camps are being introduced: Kids' Campus provides language, art, and dance and fitness experiences for students in grades K-6, and, for sixth through eighth graders, Get an Edge camps provide skill-building in writing, foreign language study, math, and keyboarding. Additional enrichment opportunities are also available. Registration began on March 6. For more information, go to <http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/OACE/KidsandTeens.htm>.

New Start and End Times for Deer Park

Plan Ahead for Fall! The new bell schedules will affect the start and end times for Deer Park. For the 2009-2010 school year, Deer Park will start and end ten minutes later than the current schedule.

School will begin at 8:40a.m. Monday through Friday. **Please do not drop your child off before 8:20a.m.** as we do not have the staff to supervise early drop offs.

School will end at 12:50 on Mondays, and 3:20 Tuesday through Friday.

Deer Park Elementary Preschool Community Integration Program

The Deer Park Preschool Program is looking for several four-year-old children with appropriate language and play skills to integrate into our preschool classrooms for children with special needs. We are offering two class sessions 9:00a.m. – 12:15p.m. and 12:15p.m. – 3:30p.m., Tuesday – Friday. Parents must live within Deer Park School boundaries, provide transportation to and from school, and volunteer service hours. Child must be toilet trained. If you have or know of a child that meets the criteria for this program, please contact the Preschool Team at 703-802-5000. We are holding an open house on Monday, June 15 from 10:00a.m. – 11:00a.m. for interested parents and their children.



Weekly Reminder Volunteer Needed For Next School Year

The Deer Park PTA is in need of a volunteer to take over the weekly reminder for the 2009-2010 school year. It is very easy to do, and will require no more than an hour a week of your time. This is great for parents that have little ones, since everything can be done from home. For questions, please contact Amy Yoham at amyoham@yahoo.com or 703-815-6586.



Smartboards for All! Thanks to the fundraising efforts of the Deer Park PTA, we now have Smartboards in ALL of our classrooms! There are very few schools in the county that can claim this fabulous educational benefit!

Registration Open for FCPS Tech Adventure Camp

Programming a video game, filming a short movie, and creating the car of the future are just some of the activities available to Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) students who are currently in fifth, sixth, or seventh grade at the summer Tech Adventure Camp, a two-week program to be held at Chantilly Academy and Lee High School from July 6 to 17.

Students rotate through six areas during the two-week camp, including:

- **Making the Game** — Students can program their own video games and compete with others for champion status.
- **Design Studio** — Using graphics, text, color, and illustrations, students will design and create their own web pages.
- **Creating the Shot** — Combining artistic creativity with technology via multimedia applications, campers will learn to digitally edit and manipulate their own photographs.
- **Hollywood, Here We Come** — Aspiring moviemakers will write, produce, and film their own short scripts, creating storyboards, capturing action on video, and editing their movies.
- **Well Fit...Well Fed** — Preparing healthful foods and learning fun ways to stay fit are the goals of this class. Campers will use sports, dance, and workouts to get in shape and stay active.
- **Invent the Future** — Using an interactive software program, students will produce two-dimensional drawings that they will ultimately turn into three-dimensional objects. Possible projects include cars of the future, spacecraft, and cartoon characters.

Camp runs from 9a.m. to 3p.m. each day, and students are encouraged to bring their own lunches. Transportation will be provided by FCPS, or students can arrange their own transportation. The cost for Tech Adventure Camp is \$400, which includes all materials and supplies.

For additional information or to register, visit www.fcps.edu/DIS/OCTE/events/TechCamp.htm or call 703-208-7789.

Lunch Price Increase The price of a full student lunch will increase to \$2.65 for the next school year. Milk prices will not increase.

GT Programs Discussed The Fairfax County School Board is holding three meetings over the next two months to examine and discuss the range of programs and services offered to students in the Advanced Academic/Gifted and Talented (GT) Program. The Board is committed to providing Advanced Academic/GT services to all identified students. The first meeting was held on June 8 to explore the best program practices nationally and research associated with these practices. Subsequent meetings will be held on July 13 and during the board's retreat on July 17-18. To view the press release about exploring advanced academic programs, see <http://commweb.fcps.edu/newsreleases/newsreleases.cfm?newsid=1190>

Stay Safer on Summer Adventures

With summer's warmer weather and sunshine, your family is finding reasons to leave the house that was a cozy retreat all winter. As your family spends more time outside, take some time to remind your kids of ways to stay safer away from home:

- Teach your kids to ask you before leaving home and to stay with a friend whenever they're playing outside or walking anywhere.
- Talk to your children about how to locate help at theme parks, sports stadiums, shopping malls, and other public places. Identify those people who are safe to ask for help, such as law enforcement, security guards, and store clerks with name tags. Make it a point to practice each time you take a trip; quiz your children on the things they should look for.
- Teach your children that if anyone tries to grab them, they should make a scene and make every effort to get away by kicking, screaming, and resisting. Set up role-play situations at home to practice.
- Take a trip to the neighborhood playground. While there, check to make sure all the equipment is well-maintained, and talk to your children about how to play safely.

For resources on a variety of important safety topics, visit PTA.org's "[Child Safety Events: How to Get Involved](#)" page. Learn how to take action on the topics most relevant to your family.

Highlights from June 2, 2009

PTA Meeting

- Guest Speakers – Rebecca King – Huntington Learning Center. HLC's motto – "Your Child Deserves the Best Education Possible." HLC provides individual testing and tutoring for reading, writing, spelling, phonics, math, study skills and SAT/ACT prep. HLC offered those in attendance at PTA a discount for Diagnostics Testing at their center. If you are interested in additional information about HLC: www.huntingtonlearning.com or 703-359-4714.
- DP received twice as many parent input forms this year.
- Reasons to celebrate:
DP just ordered the last 9 SmartBoards for the school – every teacher will have one in their classroom.
Additional afterschool events (thanks to Suzanne Cevarich)
PTA Events – Movie and Bingo Night, Military Family Night
- Thanks to everyone and their hard work is much appreciated.
- Lunch prices will be increasing next year by 25 cents.
- Bell schedule is being adjusted for next year for DP.
8:40 – 12:50 Mondays
8:40 – 3:20 Tuesdays – Fridays
Do NOT bring children to school before 8:20.
- Mrs. Stevener will be leaving DP; she will be joining Oakton Elementary School as a Reading Specialist.
- The County has approved for the rest of the classrooms to get tile – this will happen next year during school. Tile is healthier for the kids and easier to maintain.
- Summer School Programs for Special Needs
Students who qualify will be held at Deer Park this Summer.
- For next year, there will be before and after school programs for math. Students will be referred for this program by their teachers.
- About 60 4th and 6th graders (nominated by their teachers) will participate in Project Lift. They will have 6 different books to read over the summer.
- Mrs. Larsen presented books to the PTA Officers for their work during this year. The books will be dedicated to each officer and placed in the library for the students.
- Lot of time has been spent on testing. Tuesday was the last full day. Testing went well.
- Thanks to PTA for the funds to have a Root Beer Float social for the Leadership Club.
- Community Outreach – Carwash has been cancelled for this school year due to the many conflicts. A decision was made to move this to the beginning of the new school year and to possibly have the Military Family group be the lead on this event.
- Collected over \$6,000 for the plant sale. PTA made \$2500 on this event.
- Spring Fling was a success – this was a service event. 105 pizzas were ordered and sold!

- Lot of turnover next year on the PTA for committees.
- Need new chairs are needed for the following committees next fall:
Student Directory
Deer Pals
Bylaws
Reflections – Chair needs to be identified this Spring for students to participate in the activity in the fall.
Labels for Education
BoxTops
Giant
Weekly Reminders
Cultural Arts
Room Parent Coordinator
- Deer Pals – Two Parent/Principal coffees were held in the month of May. The first one was held at Diane Saint Germain's house and was geared toward parents of rising kindergarteners. Diane has also offered to help arrange play dates over the summer so kids can meet each other before school starts. A new chairperson is needed for this committee.
- Golf Tournament – was held on June 1st. 52 golfers participated (last year, we had 80-100). We had three hole sponsors (usually we have 10). Over \$3,000 was made on this event.
- Giant Gift Cards -- A motion was made and approved to participate in the Giant Gift Card fundraiser for next year. DP will make 5% on the sale of the gift cards. More information will be forthcoming.
- Two Outgoing PTA Officers (David Gerlitz and Cindy Susko) were presented with plants to thank them for the last two years of service. Melissa Lottchea, who was re-elected as VP for Ways and Means, was roasted by Marty Bouveron and given fun gifts to thank her for all of her hard work and her willingness to continue to serve for the next two years.

Calendar of Events

June 17	Kindergarten Blast Off 1:30p.m.
June 18	Awards Ceremony gr. 4-6, 8:45a.m.
June 18	Last Day of School, Early Release

September 3	Open house, 8:00a.m.-9:00a.m.
September 8	First Day of School, 8:40a.m.
September 15	PTA Meeting 7:00p.m.
September 23	Back to School Night, AMPS,K,4,5,6,AUT at 7:30p.m.
September 24	Back to School Night, PMPS,1,2,3 at 7:30p.m.

This newsletter is a PTA publication of Deer Park Elementary
15109 Carlbern Drive, Centreville, VA 20120
www.fcps.edu/Deer_ParkES
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The deadline for articles is 5:00 pm on the Friday after each PTA meeting. Please write "Deer Tracks Submission" in the subject field of your email.

Free School and Sports Physicals Day



Saturday, August 8th
9 a.m.– 1 p.m.

Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic
00 Grove Street – Suite 330
Herndon, VA 20172

Children who qualify are over three years of age, live in Fairfax County, have no insurance, and have a household income of 200% or less of the federal poverty level.

To schedule an appointment, call 703-481-8160 x1
If you would like to volunteer, call 703-481-8160 x2

Dia Gratis De Examen Fisico Para El Colegio y Deportes

Sabado, Agosto 8th
9 a.m.– 1 p.m.

Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic
500 Grove Street – Suite 330
Herndon, VA 20172



Para calificar, los niños deben tener más de tres años de edad, vivir en Fairfax County, no tener seguro y un bajo ingreso economico de 200% o menos del nivel de pobreza federal.

Para hacer una cita Llamar al 703-481-8160 x1
Si gusta ser voluntario, Llamar al 703-481-8160 x2