

FHES “Principal” News January 09

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LUNCH \$\$\$ (KIT message)

The PTA and Flint Hill ES are committed to making sure EVERY child has a healthy lunch. For that reason, the PTA pays for lunch if a student has no money on their lunch card. This depletes the money available to assist our families if a hardship arises.



If your student does not have money on their lunch card due to an unexpected financial hardship, please contact our guidance counselor, Sandy Andrews, and she will provide you with resources in a respectful, confidential manner.

If your child does not have money on their lunch card because you've forgotten, please go to www.mylunchmoney.com and register for automatic payments when your student's lunch balance is low.

Thank you for your help in using the PTA money in a responsible manner.

Flint Hill Students Are Top WordMasters From Ms, Stephens

Two of our grade level teams won highest honors in the first WordMasters Challenge this year. WordMasters is a national language arts competition entered by approximately 230,000 students annually. At Flint Hill, all of our students in grades 3 through 6 participate in this challenging enrichment activity.

The fifth grade team, coached by Mrs. Bailey and Mrs. Prentice, tied for **tenth place in the nation**. They competed against 729 other school teams across the country. Students Maura F., Ashley L., and Philip S. earned perfect scores in the meet. Nationwide, only 167 fifth graders achieved this feat.

Even more exciting is the news about the honors that the sixth grade team received. Our school's sixth graders, coached by Ms. Stephens, tied (with one other school) for **FIRST PLACE in the country** among 416 competing schools. Three sixth graders, Virginia M., Clark O., and Maddie R., also earned perfect scores, and, nationally, only 31 sixth graders accomplished this.

The WordMasters Challenge is an exercise in critical thinking which first encourages students to become familiar with a set of interesting new words (considered above grade level) and then challenges them to use those words to complete analogies expressing various kinds of logical relationships. Working to solve the Challenge analogies helps students learn to think both analytically and metaphorically. While most vocabulary building and analogy solving activities have been created for high school students, the WordMasters materials have been specifically designed for younger students in grades three through eight. They are well suited for able and interested children who enjoy the challenge of learning new words and enjoy the logical puzzles posed by analogies.

Faithful Falcons for December

This month we would like to recognize the following “friendly” students as Faithful Falcons of the Month for December. Students recognized will receive a Joey Card from our business partner Outback Steakhouse in Vienna, will have a popcorn party with the principal, and have extra time to explore the climbing wall. Thanks to Outback Steakhouse in Vienna for supporting this program. We will meet for our celebration on Friday, February 20th at 2:30 pm in the gym. The students are:



- K Coffin: AM- Anna C. & Ashton R.
Gage: AM- Carly S. and Nicholas M.
PM- Katie T. and Ethan W.
- 1st Ennis- Kyleen M. and Ethan D.
Mislavsky-Evey T. & Ryan L.
Spengler- Victor M. and Kimberly E.
Talty- Keshav C. & Helena W.
- 2nd Bechtle- Bailey B. and Josh G.
Kaneshiro- Josh C. and Ellie B.
Sharp - Morgan S. and Sean W.
Wilson -Angelika G. & Devin G.
- 3rd Reynolds- Paige K. and Gunnar H.
Hoak- Taylor C. & David D.
Tarr- Brek M. and Emily C.
Coffey- Henry M. & Shaun F.
- 4th Wolters- Sadaf E. and Nima J.
Gripka- Carrie D. and Keyan T.
Nye- Kelsey L. & Jared W.
Trainor- Jack S. and Anna B.
- 5th Bailey- Samuel C. and Sasha R.
Dickenson- Madisen J. and James S.
Hargrove- Madison S. & Roy J.
Prentice- Molly A. & Travis S.
- 6th Cowles- Shannon D. & Jimmy M.
Caruso- John B. & Kirsten W.
LeClerc- Ben F. & Amy W.
Marder- Tommy C. and Anna P.

Flint Hill Receives Governor's Award!

The 2009 Governor's Award for Education Excellence is the highest honor under the Virginia Index of Performance (VIP) incentive program created by the Virginia Board of Education to advance Governor Tim Kaine's "competence to excellence" agenda to encourage advanced learning and achievement in Virginia public schools. This year, 162 Virginia public schools were honored with the Governor's Award; last year, 89 schools received the award. To qualify for the Governor's Award for Educational Excellence, schools must meet all state and federal achievement benchmarks for at least two consecutive years and achieve Governor Kaine's goals for elementary reading. We have successfully accomplished this. Congratulations to all our staff!!!