

# FHES "Principal" News October 2011



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School Hours: Mondays: 8:45 a.m. to 12:55 p.m. Tuesday - Friday: 8:45 a.m. to 3:25 p.m.

## Parent/Teacher Conferences

Most Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on November 7 - 8 and as scheduled by teachers. These days are student holidays. Teachers will share your child's progress to date, strengths, and areas for improvement. To maximize conference time, parents may want to prepare also. Plan what you would like to ask your child's teacher in advance. If you have specific questions, try to bring samples of your child's work that may illustrate your question. After the conference, talk with your child about what you and the teacher discussed. Let your child know that both you and the teacher care about their education. Keep in touch with your child's teacher via email and the FCPS Blackboard account. Working together, we will ensure your child has a successful school year!

Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> is also an Election Day...don't forget to get out and vote!



**Patriots' Day will be November 11.** This will be our 26<sup>th</sup> annual celebration. We are honored to have Commander Kacher, father of 5<sup>th</sup> grade twins in our school. We are proud to honor our troops and our heroes by

celebrating their work for our nation. This year's theme is **Honoring the Past and Looking Forward to the Future.** It will be represented in song and a presentation by the student government for all who have served our country. While this is an assembly for the students, we extend a special invitation to any parent in the military to be our guests and come in uniform. Students, teachers, and community members will enjoy this program as we celebrate the red, white and blue.

## Photos for Patriots' Day



We are asking for photos of parents or guardians who have served in any of the armed forces to honor you with a slide show during the program. Send these pictures (preferable electronically) to Ms. Judd in the library or email [yvjudd@fcps.edu](mailto:yvjudd@fcps.edu).

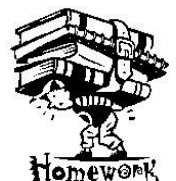
## FCPS webpage gets new design!

Visit [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu) to view. A link Flint Hill ES would like to highlight is the Parent Resource Center at [www.fcps.edu/ccp/prc/](http://www.fcps.edu/ccp/prc/). "The Parent Resource Center of the Fairfax County Public Schools promotes parent awareness of the services provided by the Fairfax County Public Schools for children with special needs and their families. The Center encourages parent participation in the educational decision-making process and provides seminars, training programs, and information to foster the parent/professional partnership. The Center also serves as a resource for educators and the community."

## Homework

During the viewing of Race to Nowhere and through following conversations with the PTA and staff, the question was asked; "how much homework is assigned at the different grades?" FCPS provides schools with a guideline. It states:

"It is recognized that students vary significantly in the amount of time they need to complete given assignments. Teachers should estimate the amount of time the average student would require to complete an assignment. In general, homework across disciplines should not exceed 0.5 hour in kindergarten through grade three, 1 hour in grades four through six, 1.5 hours at the middle school level, and 2 hours at the high school level. Long-term projects may require additional time. Teachers should adjust daily homework assignments accordingly." Disciplines means across all subjects. At Flint Hill ES, each grade level presented at Back to School Night their homework requirements. Staff



has been asked to post this information in Blackboard. Please note that for us "reading" is not part of homework. We want to build the love of reading and assigning reading as homework has

negative connotations for students. Grade levels may still require reading logs. However, this is good practice in keeping records of what students are reading and/or journaling.

As always, if your child is having difficulty with homework, please contact their teacher.

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## Thanksgiving Luncheon

This year Flint Hill ES will host a "visit your child for lunch" month instead of the traditional Fairfax County Thanksgiving Lunch. With Full Day Kindergarteners using the cafeteria for lunch, the prospect of hosting Thanksgiving Lunch is logistically unfeasible. We would rather your lunchtime visit with your child be convenient, relaxed and less crowded for both of you. Parents are encouraged during the month of November to pick any day of their choosing and eat lunch at school with their children. Please let your child's teacher know the day you select.

## Garden and Courtyard



Check out FHES courtyard above. It needs work! Mark your calendars to help on Saturday, November 5, 2011 from 9 am to 1 pm! The FHES PTA Garden and Courtyard Committee along with FHES teachers plan to clean up by clearing out the garden beds and clearing out the courtyard. We will also be planting daffodils bulbs, too. This will be a fun day to work to help beautify our school!

## How full is your bucket?

This summer the office staff read How full is your bucket? by Tom Rath and Donald Clifton. The theory behind this book is that each one of us has an "invisible bucket" that can be constantly emptied, or filled depending on what people say or do to us. We also see it as our opportunity to fill (hopefully not empty) our communities bucket. When our bucket is full, we feel great! As we continue to explore this concept, our goal is to provide our community with better service and support...and to fill your bucket. Thank you for supporting us and filling our bucket when you visit FHES.



# Big Thanks goes to:



Please visit our pergola in our courtyard. Thanks to many former and current PTA parents for writing a grant that gave us this great pergola. We especially want to thank Michael Zajkowski for the design and John Pacitti for building it. The pergola is used for instructional purposes and for students and staff to enjoy lunch.

## Technology continues to grow at FHES

Thanks to the many parents that support the FHES PTA Budget. Through your donations we have been able to provide almost every classroom with Smartboard technology. We have also been able to provide the majority of the classrooms an over-hanging projector. Please note, we need 5 more over-hanging projects! Below is 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Mr. Dickenson doing a science lesson.

