

FHES "Principal" News September 2011



Sal.Rivera@fcps.edu (703) 242-6100 Office (703)242-6197 (Fax) (703) 242-6161 (attendance)
School Hours: Mondays: 8:45 a.m. to 12:55 p.m. Tuesday - Friday: 8:45 a.m. to 3:25 p.m.

The 2011-2012 school year is here!

Welcome to the new school year. We are excited about the learning that will take place. FCPS theme this year is Learning Together, Reaching Our Potential.

As we also welcome the graduating class of 2011 with Full Day Kindergarten, Flint Hill ES staff is committed to every student's success by building a strong Professional Learning Community (PLC.)

By now, I hope everyone has worked out many of the scheduling kinks regarding transportation. We greatly appreciate all car riders to carefully read the Kiss & Ride Procedures in this newsletter. For all, please don't hesitate to contact the main office if you need assistance.

This year we welcome new staff throughout the building. Joining our staff are: Heather Mella, second grade; Maya Kaufman, third grade; Theodore Barnett, fourth grade; Cassandra Ditto, fifth grade; Lauren Lipton, p/t guidance counselor; Christine Fecko and Paige Counts, resource teachers; Kimi McDonough, primary special education teacher; and Kitty De-Witt, special education instructional assistant.

As each new school year begins, it is important that the first conversation between teachers and parents establishes a positive connection. This year, all teachers will "touch base" with a personal phone call and set a positive tone for a successful school year. All teachers have access to email as well. Please be mindful that teachers may not be able to access their mail during the day because they are teaching☺.

As an added resource, all grade levels are also working on setting up their Blackboard accounts in FCPS 24/7. Thank you to the many parents that attended Back to School Night. Our new format allowed for more time in the classrooms. Best wishes for a great school year!

FCPS Family Life Education Instructional Program for 2011-2012

Parents/guardians may choose to **Opt-Out** their child of all or part of the Family Life Education program. If you wish to opt out your child of all or part of FLE for this school year or would like more detailed information about grade level programs, please access the opt out forms, opt out letter, and program descriptions for each grade level at www.fcps.edu/DIS/OMSI/fle/index.htm. FLE curriculum and media may be reviewed during Back to School Night in the Library.

Another **PBIS** school year!

PBIS stands for **Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports**. **PBIS** is an exciting school-wide program that focuses on catching your children doing the right thing. One way positive behavior is recognized is with a Flint Hill Falcon feather sticker. So if your child

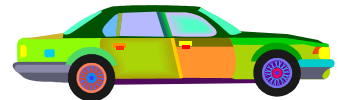
comes home with one, please ask them why they received it! Also, thanks to the PTA for purchasing the school mascot. We're excited to have it come visit our school during class recognitions and many other events.

Visitor/Volunteer Sign In

We have an electronic sign in for visitors and volunteers. All visitors and volunteers must sign in at the front office upon entering the school. Be sure to obtain a visitor or volunteer badge and have it visible to the "casual eye."

Kiss & Ride Procedures

Kiss & Ride is a service provided by the school for the community. If parents choose to drive their child(ren) to school, they must use the **Kiss & Ride**. For the safety of our children, please follow these procedures. Patrols and FHES TV News team are dropped off at 8:15 am to begin their duty. All others may begin unloading at 8:25 am. The Kiss & Ride is **ONE-WAY**. All vehicles must enter through the northern end parking lot and exit through the bus entrance unless directed to proceed to the bus lane. When traveling northbound on Flint Hill Road, turn left on Vale Road, left on Lake Vale Road and follow Vale Road Access lane to enter the Kiss & Ride lane to get in line. When traveling on Vale Road, please also use the access road. **Please load or unload 3 vehicles at a time**. For the safety of the students, **do not pass** other vehicles in Kiss & Ride lane that are loading or unloading children. Also, remain in your vehicle during loading and unloading to allow smooth flow of traffic. Cars will be directed to the bus lane when the lane is free of buses. Proceed to Entrance #2 and unload your child on your **first** stop.



To better facilitate Kiss & Ride, staff and patrols will be providing Kiss & Ride signs for drivers to display in their windows when picking up your riders. Please write your child's name in magic marker and display in the windshield. If your child is not at Kiss & Ride you will need to proceed to get in line again. Thanks!

Notes: 1. Buses have the "right of way." 2. The median in front of school is not a safe drop off or pick up area for students.

Cafeteria and Lunch



At Flint Hill ES, we want to make sure each child has lunch. It is so easy to make sure your child has money with a mylunchmoney.com account. You can set up your account so that when money is low, it automatically puts more money on the card. You will need your child's ID No. to set up your account; visit our main office and we will gladly give you your child's ID Number. You can also find the ID No. on your child's progress report.

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Thank you to the following parents, current and former who helped paint the Arts Courtyard:

Amanda DiDonna, Lisa Eaton, Sarah Helmicki, Sammye Justice, Michelle Keene, Donna Perez, Justine Poyner, Donna Ritter, Rod Hines, Amy Davis, Phil Charwood, and Lisa Grant who came up with the concept with Mrs. Colliatie.



FHES Counselors' Corner

It has been our pleasure to say hello to both new and returning students through our visits to each class. We extend a special greeting to our new Flint Hill families. We have been meeting with your children and their newfound friends during their lunchtime. During the year, we try to invite each child to at least one Lunch Bunch.

Classroom guidance lessons (twice monthly) are part of the developmental guidance and counseling program. Lessons are geared to enhance students' skills in peer relationships, problem solving, and conflict resolution. A review of study and organizational skills is also a guidance unit that we teach. We emphasize respect, responsibility, and caring for ourselves, for others and our community.

As always, counselors are available to meet with parents and individual students. School is a partnership between the home and the classroom. Things that happen at home often affect what happens in the classroom and vice versa. When situations occur that are difficult or painful, they can impact how children perform academically, socially, and emotionally. Life occurrences, such as separation and divorce, death of a loved person or pet, moving to a new home, the arrival of a new baby, etc. can affect each person in the family in different ways. Informing your child's teacher or counselor during these times will help us support not only children through the process, but parents as well.

In our role as a resource for parents, we listen to concerns and address issues so that, together, we can consider a course of action that will most benefit children and parents. Parent contacts, whether in person, by phone, or email are confidential and are handled discreetly, according to the needs and wishes of parents. We can monitor a child's progress in school and provide feedback to parents. Small counseling groups are available for certain children throughout the

year to focus on a particular topic or concern.

Counselors notify parents in advance of this group work which requires parent permission.

When referrals to community resources are warranted or requested, counselors can help with suggestions. Should you need information about parenting classes, personal family assistance, area counseling programs, tutors and learning centers, child development issues, etc., do not hesitate to ask us. We also have a resource area outside our offices (Rooms 108 C and D) where we welcome you to browse.

Flint Hill ES also spearheads a program called Peer-Mediation to help students solve school-related conflicts in a peaceful manner. Mediation is a process involving a mediator who assists two parties to find solutions to a dispute. Peer mediation in schools involves the students themselves in mediating disputes between students. Peer mediators are trained in a range of skills including listening and problem-solving. They apply a systematic process, which they have learned through role-play and by following a script. Mediators take a neutral stance and avoid offering direct advice. The process of mediation enables two parties to reach a solution which is acceptable to both parties. The process of reflecting, problem solving, generating solutions and reaching a consensus facilitates the solution of disputes. Ms. Lipton sponsors our Peer Mediation Program.

Mrs. Andrews is the sponsor of the school Mentoring Program whereby selected students are mentored by Flint Hill staff members other than their teachers. She also sponsors the Vienna Madison Coalition and the Student Government. For information about any of these programs, please contact her.

To remind you of our schedules, Sandy Andrews is here every day and can be reached at 703-242-6160. Lauren Lipton is here on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and B WEEK Mondays and can be reached at 703-242-6162. We look forward to working with you and your children this year.

