



**Forestdale Elementary  
School News**  
*A Newsletter for and about  
Forestdale and our PTA*

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Cheryl Toth, Principal    Cathy Pullar, Assistant Principal

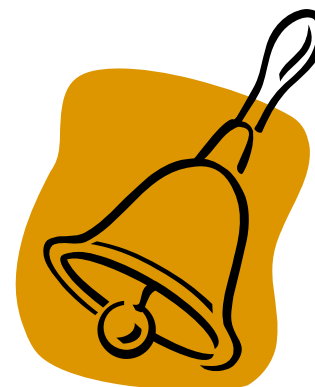
***Bell Schedule for 2009-10***

There is a proposal before the School Board to adjust the bell schedule for next year. This proposal came from a taskforce charged with looking at the start time for high school students. Over the past couple of years, community groups have been very vocal regarding this issue.

This proposal, if approved, will change our start time to 9:20 a.m. to 4:00 pm, Tuesday through Friday and 9:20 am to 2:00 pm on Monday. While this has not been approved, it is open for community input. Fairfax County is organizing a series of community meetings so that your opinion and concerns can be heard.

I encourage you to reflect on the impact this might have for our community and for your family. Take advantage of the opportunities to share your concerns with the School Board.

I have attached a newsletter from our representative, Brad Center, as well as the scheduled dates, times and places for the hearings.



February is...

Black History Month

The 100th day of school

(Feb. 12th)

**Inclement Weather**

This is the season when we can experience delayed openings and school closings due to bad weather. When we have a delay, faculty and staff are delayed as well. Often times we have parents who, due to their work schedule, bring their children to school at the regular time thinking the school will watch their child.

While we acknowledge that a two hour delay is very inconvenient to parents, we are not staffed to supervise your child until all of our faculty has arrived. Please do not put us in the situation where we have to ask you to come back in two hours. It is a very uncomfortable situation for us and it can be very frustrating for you. Thank you for considering our circumstance in this matter.

A two hour delay means that the buses will arrive at the bus stops two hours later. If your child's bus picks them up at 7:55, with a two hour delay, they will be picked up at 9:55. School begins at 10:30 when a two hour delay is issued.



## Partners in Print...

On February 26th, Forestdale will be hosting an evening literacy workshop for families of children in FECEP, kindergarten, first and second grade. The primary focus of these workshops, known as Partners in Print, is to show teachers and parents how to work together to assist children in becoming life-long readers. The families will attend a number of sessions, which are all centered on reading activities. During these sessions, the teachers, parents and children will interact with each other and practice specific reading techniques to help their children when reading at home. At the close of the evening, each family will be given a book and cookie to enjoy at home together.

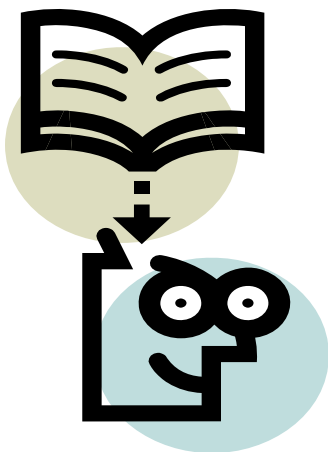


Please set this date aside and come and join us on the 26th from 7:00-8:30 for an evening of great fun....READING!!

Partners in Print  
Forestdale Cafeteria  
7:00 pm— 8:30 pm

## Help your child understand what they read.

When we read, it often serves many different purposes. Some of us love to read for enjoyment. While others read for information and knowledge. Think about all of the things you read in a day.



- Newspaper
- Morning memos
- Computer emails
- Letters from family
- Recipes for dinner
- Magazines
- Bills (not one of my favorites)

The list is long and it serves a purpose for us every day. When children learn to read, they are not just learning words, but meaning, inference, authors purpose. We teach and expose children to various genres of literature to help them gain knowledge and broaden their perspective of the world they live in, past, present and future. Elementary age children need to continue to learn and refine their literacy skills everyday. On the next page are some helpful hints that you can use at home to reinforce these skills.

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## The Testing Corner...



### Standards of Learning

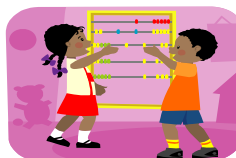
Students in grades 3-6 will be participating in one or all of the SOL's (Standards of Learning ) assessment during the 2008-09 school year. Fifth grade will start the testing window on March 3rd and 4th with a writing SOL. This test has two parts, so on Tuesday, March 3rd students will take the multiple choice section. On Wednesday the 4th, they will complete the direct writing section.

Attendance is mandatory, so please do not schedule any appointments that might take your fifth grader away from school on those two days.

On testing days, like every day at school...children need to arrive on time and have a good night sleep and breakfast in the morning.

The rest of the SOL testing will take place between the dates of May 18th and June 5th. We are asking parents not to schedule early vacations during this time. Students need to be present until the last day of school, June 18th. More specific information will be sent home as we get closer to May.

Thank you for your support. If you have any questions, please contact Cathy Pullar at 703-313-4300



### 100th Day of School

The 100th day of school arrives on February 12th. We will be scheduling many fun activities at school throughout the day. From the beginning of school, our primary grade classes count, add on and focus on a number line up to 100. We encourage you and your family to celebrate at home by coming up with items or words that you can count up to 100. Invite your child to share their day and excitement of the 100th day of school.

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## Are you moving??

If you are planning on moving and your child will not be attending Forestdale for the 2008-09 school year, please let Cindy Morris know in the office. Student enrollment is very important to us. It helps us to determine the number of teachers we will have along with additional programs for the children of Forestdale. Thank you for keeping us informed on your current and future status!

Cindy Morris—703-313-4300



<http://www.fcps.edu/ForestdaleES/>

"Home of the Falcons"

