



Mustang Message

August 21, 2009



Franconia Elementary School

This kindergarten student is getting an opportunity to share what he knows with his teacher. Yes, the first few weeks of school are exciting, but they are not only filled with making friends and learning routines. Teachers start right away assessing students to determine their academic skill level and plan instruction to meet their individual needs. As you walk down the halls, it's easy to see that the care and attention is truly benefitting the students!

From the Principal

Keeping your child healthy is a top priority. The school system is working closely with the Fairfax County Health Department as well as the Centers for Disease Control to monitor flu conditions and make decision about the best steps to take for schools.

In our efforts to reduce the spread of flu, classroom teachers will be teaching lessons on hand washing and disease prevention. You can help at home by:

- Teaching your child good hand washing hygiene. Hands should be washed frequently with soap and water, lasting for about 20 seconds. Sing *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*.
- Teaching your child not to share personal items like drinks, food or unwashed utensils.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with tissues. No tissue around? Use the elbow, arm or sleeve.
- Learn the symptoms of the flu. Fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, and feeling tired. Some people may vomit or have diarrhea.
- Keep sick children home for at least 24 hours after a fever without the use of fever-reducing drugs. This helps reduce the number of people who may get infected.
- Plan now for child care in case your child becomes ill with the flu.

Parents can stay informed by visiting www.flu.gov or call 1-800-CDC-INFO for the most current information. To find out about the school system plans, go to www.fcps.edu.

Merrell Dade

Franconia Elementary School

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703-822-2200
www.fcps.edu/FranconiaES
Merrell Dade, Principal
Nancy Mercer, Asst. Principal

For Your Information

Be a clinic parent volunteer

Franconia is looking for parents who would like to volunteer to support our clinic during emergencies. If you're interested, let us know. Free training is available on October 7 and October 29 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Springfield Health Department, Wing A Conference Room, 8136 Old Keene Mill Road.

Nutritious breakfasts at school

Franconia's breakfast program is offering more choices for breakfast this year. For only \$1.50 (30¢ for free or reduced), students can choose for such items as cinnamon rolls, pancakes with sausage, bagels with cream cheese or jelly, French toast sticks, yogurt, and cereal. Each breakfast includes fruit juice and milk.

FLEX program continues this Fall

The first semester of after-school classes in Spanish and French will begin at Franconia on September 8, 2009. There is one registration, with a fee of \$249 for two semesters (30 weeks). Registration deadline is August 25, 2009. For more information, contact Samantha Joyner (Sam.joyner@verzon.net) at 703-216-6563.

Keep In Touch (KIT) monitors daily attendance

A new KIT program allows office staff to electronically connect with families when students have been marked absent from class and we have no parent notification regarding the absence. The new program will automatically send out phone and email messages to parents, requesting that they call the school to confirm the child's absence. To report an absence, parents should call our attendance line at 703-822-2222.

Excused Absence or Tardy — Illness of student, death in the family, doctor or dentist appointment, and observance of a religious holiday.

Unexcused Absence or Tardy — Family trip, child care situation, oversleeping, non-school related activity, traffic or missed bus.