



Mustang Message

August 7, 2009

Franconia Elementary School



It's like we never left! Franconia Mustangs got back into the groove of school with ease this week without missing a beat. These students were caught reading at the "campsite" this week. They discussed what reading independently looks like and sounds like and jumped right into to enjoying a good book. Wow, our Mustangs are truly going to have a tremendous year of learning!

From the Principal

Welcoming our students back and starting school are not the only exciting things happening around Franconia these days. Many parents may have noticed our increased number of students. We are at an all-time high this year as our enrollment has increased to about 500 students. We've also welcomed a fourth kindergarten class, making our total number of little ones starting school for the first time about 100!

You may have also noticed some happenings on our playground. Well, it was a surprise to us all when the trailers arrived a few hours before Open House last Thursday. But, the Fairfax County Design and Construction folks worked quickly to get the trailers out of the way and onto the field before our big debut. Currently, we have much of the playground fenced off as the ground is being prepared to move trailers to their final position. Putting them together now will take quite a bit of time but will prevent water damage. However, once the trailers are up, the fence will come down, and we will be able to enjoy our *smaller* field once again.

In the coming months, we'll keep you posted on the exciting happenings at Franconia. So, welcome back, Mustangs. This year will be a winner!

Merrell Dade

Franconia Elementary School

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Merrell Dade, Principal
Nancy Mercer, Asst. Principal

For Your Information

Back-to-School Night, August 13 at 7:00 p.m.

We hope that all parents will attend our Back-to-School Night on Thursday, August 13. Because of limited seating, we ask that children not attend.

Representatives from community groups will be available at 6:30 p.m. to provide information about their programs before the evening begins. At 7 p.m., go straight to your child's classroom for the first session. You will watch our news show and get an overview of your child's school year.

Never fear if you have more than one child at the school, parents can go to another classroom for a second session at 7:45 p.m.

Have you signed up for Parent View yet?

FCPS 24/7 Parent View at <http://fcps.blackboard.com> provides online access to class, emergency care, and lunch account information for your child. If you do not get an opportunity to sign up at Back-to-School Night, don't worry. You can sign up in the library during our annual **Back-to-School Family Picnic on September 1** from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

All teacher Blackboard sites will be up and running for your reference by September 1, 2009. If you have any trouble accessing your child's account, contact the classroom teacher who will be happy to assist you.

Eat breakfast at school

Food Services is looking to expand Franconia's breakfast program this year. Due to a low participation rate last year, we had to offer only cold boxed breakfasts. However, by opening the cafeteria serving area, we hope to expand the program this year to include hot selections. In order to provide tasty hot selections for students, we need to have more than 30 students participating in the breakfast program daily. So why not take advantage of our breakfast service? We'd love for you to join us!