



Mustang Message

November 13, 2009

Franconia Elementary School



What a week! It all started with the Veterans' Day Performance followed by the Thanksgiving Luncheon, a concert at CALIBRE (our business partner), and Barnes and Noble Book Night. Wait...don't forget about the PTA Holiday Bazaar tonight! Red, Hot and Blue, here we come!

From the Principal

There's still time! Fairfax County is again projecting a significant budget deficit for the Fiscal Year 2011. We are in the midst of a multi-year, cyclical downturn that requires county decision-makers to make major adjustments. In these tight budget times, we need to look for ways to reduce spending and maintain our quality instructional program in Fairfax County Public Schools. Proposed budget cuts include an increase in class size and the elimination of full-day kindergarten, elementary band and strings, and modified calendar. Go to www.fcps.edu and click on the FY11 Budget Details to learn more.

Your help and your voice are needed to help Fairfax County Government and Fairfax County Public Schools guide the development of criteria for making budget decisions. It's not too late to participate. On **Saturday, November 14** from 10:00 a.m. to noon at Kings Park Library, Sherwood Regional Library or George Mason Regional Library, you can share your thoughts and concerns. If you cannot attend on Saturday, three new sessions have been added on **Wednesday, December 2** from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Hayfield Secondary School, Herndon High School, and Lake Braddock Secondary School.

If you have not had a chance to attend, mark your calendar. Registration is required. Go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget or call 703-324-2391, TTY 711 for more information. Remember, your input matters!

Merrell V. Dade

Franconia Elementary School

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www.fcps.edu/FranconiaES
Merrell Dade, Principal
Nancy Mercer, Asst. Principal

For Your Information

Student—Parent Survey forms due now for all students

Your **Student-Parent Survey** form is important to us as it identifies federally-connected students for our Impact Aid federal grant program. The FCPS budget is largely financed through local property taxes; however, federal properties are exempt from state and local taxes. The federal Impact Aid program helps bridge the gap left by these lost revenues in these tight economic times. Impact Aid funds benefit all students as part of the FCPS general operating budget.

Please complete and return a form for your child, *even if you don't think it applies to you*. If you have any questions, please contact the school office at (703) 822-2200.

Change in transportation plans? Contact us early

The need to change in transportation plans for your child can occur at any moment; and we're here to make sure your child gets safely where he/she needs to go at the end of the school day. Understandably, the office is a busy place at the end of the school day. We need time to get your message to your child's teacher. If you have to change your child's transportation plans, please send a note to school in the morning or call the school office no later than 2:30 p.m.

Keep an eye on your child's lunch account

Once your child's lunch account gets below \$10.00, the cafeteria will give your child a sticker or a stamp on the hand. Typically, your child will have enough money for 2-3 more lunches, depending on what is purchased. If your child does receive a PTA-funded lunch, please make sure you directly reimburse the PTA. Donations to the PTA lunch fund are greatly appreciated. If you'd like to donate, please send your money directly to the PTA with a note indicating how you would like the money used.

Stress-free birthday cookies, ice cream

On your child's special day, the school cafeteria can provide freshly-baked Otis Spunkmeyer cookies or ice cream for a small fee per student. Napkins and a surprise for the birthday child are included in the birthday package. Contact the cafeteria manager at least one week in advance if you'd like to take advantage of this great service.