



Mustang Message

October 2, 2009



Franconia Elementary School

It was a glorious sight! 500 hundred pinwheels spinning in the wind in front of our school. This glorious art installation was in honor of the International Day of Peace. Franconia students learned about peace and how it manifests itself in their daily lives and in art. Before putting their pinwheels together, students illustrated peace and wrote about what it meant to them. Soon families will learn more on Red Apple 21 as they were out covering the event. We'll let you know when the show airs!

From the Principal

It's hard to believe we are at end of the first quarter of school. It's time for Parent-Teacher conferences and we want your conference to be a positive experience. Here's what you can do to make the best of your conference time with the teacher next week.

Talk with your child before the conference.

Ask what he/she thinks the teacher will say. Talk about any likes, dislikes, problems, and successes.

Think about what you want to learn from the conference. Make a few notes. They help all of us stay focused!

Ask the teacher to explain anything you don't understand. We are a profession of acronyms—SOLs, POS, IEP, PBS. No question is a foolish one.

Be prepared to talk and listen. Tell the teacher what you see at home. Talk about your child's interests. Tactfully talk about any concerns. Let us know about anything that might affect your child's learning.

Follow up. Stay in touch. If you think of a question you didn't ask, write a note to the teacher. Remember that the teacher is anxious to please. Try to mention a bright spot in your child's program. If there are issues, try not to "kill the messenger." When parents and teachers work effectively together, they make an unbeatable team!

Merrell V. Dade

Franconia Elementary School

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Merrell Dade, Principal
Nancy Mercer, Asst. Principal

For Your Information

Intersession begins October 13 for registered students

Intersession takes place October 13-23, 2009, for registered students only. There is no school on the Columbus Day Holiday, Monday, October 12.

Students attending intersession received class confirmation letters today. They should bring the letter to school on the first day of intersession. If your child did not receive a letter, contact the Intersession Coordinator, Ms. Morgan-Hale at (703) 822-2213.

Parents, we need volunteers in classrooms during intersession. Please contact Ms. Morgan-Hale with the date and the time you are available.

Advanced Academic testing and screening

All second grade students and students in grades 3-6 who are new to Fairfax County Public Schools will take the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) in October. Our school will administer this test **Oct. 27-29**. Scores from this test provide information that is used as part of the selection process for advanced academic school and center-based programs.

Additionally, parents of children in grades 3-6 may request that their child re-take one ability test, such as the CogAT, once between grades 3-6. To exercise this one-time option this year, **notify the school office in writing by Friday, October 9**.

School Bond Referendum to Be on November 3 Ballot

On Tuesday, November 3, 2009, the voters of Fairfax County will be asked to vote on a school referendum valued at \$232,580,000. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. The proposed bond referendum includes:

- \$104.3 million for renovations;
- \$65 million for new construction and modulars;
- \$26.2 million for infrastructure management;
- \$50 million for construction of the new middle school; and
- \$40.7 million for capacity enhancements.

For further information, go to <http://www.fcps.edu/news/bond09.htm>.
Source: Fairfax County Public Schools *Familygram*

Send in Box Tops for the first quarter count

It's time to turn in your box tops for the first quarter. Please send them to school with your child by Wednesday, October 7. The PTA thanks you for supporting this great program.