



Mustang Message

September 18, 2009

Franconia Elementary School



When it's rainy and you cannot go outside, what do you do? Well, the Cat in the Hat visited students in grades kindergarten through 2 to share what he'd do. Hold a cup, some milk, a cake, three books, the fish, a rake, a toy boat, a toy man, a red fan and his umbrella while he's on a ball... Wow, these students thought he was one talented Cat!

From the Principal

Talking is a great way to improve your child's reading. It may seem like a simple activity, but hearing and participating in conversations allows children of all ages to increase their vocabulary, making them better readers and writers. At home, between appointments, or in the car, spend more time talking to your child.

-Chat it up. Talk about events that happened during the day or everyday things like how we get mail. Use describing words and insist on complete sentences.

-It's in the details. After your child reads a story, ask for the details of the story. The more he/she can describe, the greater the vocabulary. Share what details you know in the story to expose your child to more vocabulary options.

-Create a story together. Increase comprehension and writing skills by creating stories together. Begin by telling or writing a sentence, and then have your child tell or write the next sentence. Alternate the sentences until your story is complete.

-Compare movies and books. Watch a movie based on a book. Since most movies based on books contain many differences, this is a great time to compare and contrast events in the book and the movie. What's similar, different? How did the changes affect the story?

-Keep it honest. Encourage your child to be honest about the book. What do they feel are the strengths and weaknesses of the book? Did they like it or not? This let's your child know it's ok to dislike the book and that his/her opinion counts!

Merrell Dade

For Your Information

Intersession begins October 13 for registered students

Intersession takes place October 13-23, 2009, for registered students only.

There will be no classes on the Columbus Day Holiday, Monday, October 13. If your child does not receive a class confirmation letter Friday, October 2, contact our Intersession Coordinator, Ms. Morgan-Hale at (703) 822-2213.

We also need parents who would like to volunteer to assist in classrooms during intersession. Please contact Ms. Morgan-Hale with the date and the time you are available.

Advanced Academic Opportunities Parent Information Nights

The Advanced Academic Opportunities (AAO) office will be hosting an overview of the continuum of services and opportunities offered through K-12 Advanced Academic Programs. Choose the location and time that works best for you. For more information, go to <http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/gt/timeline.html>.

October 8	McLean High School	7:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
October 13	Oakton High School	7:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
October 15	Annandale High School	7:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
October 19	West Potomac High School	7:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Participate in FY 2011 Budget Community Dialogues

Fairfax County is projecting a significant budget deficit for FY 2011. You are invited to register for and attend one of the 12 Community Dialogues being held this fall to provide feedback on the impacts of recent budget reductions, as well as seeking solutions to close the FY 2011 budget gap.

For more information, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget or call (703) 324-2391, TTY 711. If you are unable to attend, call the Budget Hotline at (703) 324-9400 or complete the *Budget Feedback Form* online at the above website. Some sessions being held in our area are:

West Springfield High School	September 30, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
South County High School	October 14, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
John Marshall Library	October 24, 10:00 a.m.-noon
Kings Park Elementary School Library	November 14, 10:00 a.m.-noon

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