

Mustang Message

Franconia Elementary School

April 13, 2011



Wow, talk about being impressed! With your help, the PTA has donated \$7,900 dollars to our library. That means books, books, and more books for our deserving students. With challenging budget times, Mrs. Gawalt's library budget has been reduced by half over the past 5 years. With your help, we were able to more than double her budget this year to support our library program. So, here's a humble thank you from us to you for all your support!

From the Principal

When asked about those who have profoundly influenced our lives, adults often include a teacher. Whether it was someone who inspired us, expressed confidence in us, or pushed us, his/her positive impact may have become clear only as we grew to adulthood. I regret that I have never been able to locate my 6th grade teacher, Mr. Watson, whose dynamic delivery and passion for teaching inspired me to become a teacher. I can still remember his encouraging words and the can-do attitude he worked diligently to instill in his students. He was a GREAT teacher!

Each spring, schools recognize and appreciate the educational professionals who serve our communities. Hats off to our instructional staff during **Staff Appreciation Week on May 2-6**. I believe that, one day, our Franconia students will fondly remember their elementary school days, for our Franconia teachers model the best of what we want for our students!

Need ideas on how to show your appreciation? Go to <http://www.fcps.edu/FranconiaES/docs/PTA%20Forms/We%20Love%20Our%20Teachers.pdf>.

Merrell V. Dade

Principal

At Franconia, we're building tomorrow!

For Your Information

Changes coming to Kiss & Ride

We have received many complaints from families about the safety of the back parking lot during dismissal. In order to enhance our Kiss & Ride procedures and make dismissal safer for all, we called in Fairfax County Safety expert, Ken Campo, to observe and help problem solve. His recommendation is to continue to encourage families to use the Kiss & Ride lane, and for the school to close the back parking lot during dismissal. Shortly, you will see posts installed at the entrance of the back parking lot, and it will be closed during dismissal. Accommodations will be made for families who need access to the handicap parking spaces as indicated by license plate or windshield tags. Parking is available on Kathmoor if you wish to walk and pick up your child.

Families will receive plenty of notice via KIT message and newsletter with the start date and time of closure. Thank you for your continued support as we work to keep our students safe.

Yearbook order date extended to April 29

It's not too late to send in your order form for the 2010-2011 Franconia Elementary yearbook. The cost of each book is \$14. To order online with a credit card, go to SplendidPortraits.com and enter Franconia's image locator number: 241297023. Payments must be received in advance to order a yearbook by April 29.

Submit info about your child for class groups by May 27

Creating class assignments requires careful consideration and the involvement of many staff members. We know that a good teacher-student match and a productive mix of children are ingredients for success. If you feel that you have information about your child that the school staff may not know, particularly regarding friendship or neighborhood factors, please submit it to the principal in writing by Friday, May 27. Our teachers use this information to create preliminary class groupings in June.

We also ask that you do not request specific teachers, for this does not take into account the many variables to be considered. It's far more valuable to share particular academic or behavioral concerns. Be assured that, with or without a parent letter, each child's strengths and needs are considered in this lengthy and complex process.

Defeat Diabetes with De Feet, May 7

The SCA and Franconia Safety Patrols are working on a very special project—Defeat Diabetes with De Feet—to raise money for research to find a cure for Type 1 diabetes, the “kids’ diabetes, a disease that strikes children and young adults. Students and Franconia staff members are encouraging families to register for a 1-mile walk on the Edison HS track on Saturday, May 7, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. Registration is a \$10.00 donation that will go to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF). For more information, contact Mrs. Doubleday (703-822-2200).