



Mustang Message

Franconia Elementary School
February 16, 2011



These third graders are enjoying the PTA-sponsored *Take Your Family to School Week*. Family members had an opportunity to visit not only their child's general education classroom, but also a special (art, physical education, music) as well. Some family members even got in on the fun by participating in fun-filled activities in the building!

From the Principal

Whether it's joining your child for lunch, chaperoning a field trip, or checking your child's Take-Home-Wednesday envelope each week, we know that you've made your child's education a priority. We can see your commitment to every day as you check those assignment books and participate in evening events, even in blustery weather!

It takes many people working together to ensure the success of our students. No one wants to imagine what our school would be like without a PTA. We would certainly miss our family socials, assemblies, field trips, professional development support for teachers and many, many other extras that make our school a special place. If you haven't already, consider offering to help. There's only one qualification: an interest in making the most of your child's school experience. Knowing that, you already have all that's needed!

We are currently looking for volunteers to support some fun-filled upcoming events:

- Family Fun Night Bingo/Silent Auction
- Future Events Coordinators

If you're interested, please email Jill Vaughn, at jessandjillvaugh@gmail.com.

Merrell V. Dade
Principal

At Franconia, we're building tomorrow!

For Your Information

Reminder: Presidents' Day, February 21, is a full school day

Due to the recent snow days, Monday, February 21, will now be a makeup day for all Fairfax County Public Schools students. All schools and offices will be open. Elementary schools will follow a full-day schedule with no early dismissal.

Parent volunteers needed

Volunteers have always been a big help in making the PTA Family Fun Night a huge success. Helpers are needed to collect and assemble basket items prior to the event and to provide assistance on March 11 during the Basket Bingo and Silent Auction. If interested, please email PTA volunteer coordinator, Jill Vaughn, at jessandjillvaugh@gmail.com.

Be ready for the weather

With the weather fluctuations, it is sometimes hard for your child to determine what is appropriate to wear each day at school. Please help your child make good decisions. It is always easier to remove items of clothing than to be underdressed. While the weatherman says it is going to be 60 degrees outside, we find that it's pretty cold outside for the majority of the school day.

Fairfax's testing season is here

The second semester means it's time to prepare for Standards of Learning tests (SOL) in grades 3-6. Teachers are including skills reviews in students' weekly activities to help them remember the different concepts they have studied. Some practice exercises use formats similar to the way the standardized tests are written.

Fifth graders will take an SOL writing test on March 8 and March 10. All other SOL tests will be administered in May and June. Look for specific testing dates on each month's calendar.

How can parents help? Make sure your child gets plenty of rest and eats breakfast on test days. Try not to schedule appointments out of school on test dates. The tests are not timed, so we cannot guarantee that your child will be finished in time to leave for an appointment. Help your child relax as he or she prepares for these tests. Encourage your child to do his/her best and praise your child's efforts.

Testing is done to let the school see how well a child is learning. Thanks for helping us promote success through your support and encouragement at home.