



# Mustang Message

Franconia Elementary School  
January 19, 2011



They dream of peace and happiness and becoming doctors, teachers and firefighters. They also dream about more recess and pizza days at lunch!

Last week, these first grade students spent some time reflecting on their dreams in honor of the Martin Luther King Day holiday. No matter what their dreams are, we hope they continue to dream big and to work hard to reach their goals in the years to come!

## From the Principal

Welcome back! Yesterday's closure was certainly unexpected, but it serves as a reminder that winter is here and we need to plan ahead for inclement weather. Planning ahead is important not only for families, but also for the school system. Early this month, FCPS leaders proposed a budget plan for the 2011-2012 school year.

On January 6, Superintendent Dr. Jack Dale presented to the School Board a proposed budget of \$2.2 billion for the 2011-2012 school year. The proposed budget includes an additional 258.4 positions to support changes in student demographics and projected membership growth of 2,120 students, as well as market scale adjustments and step increases for all eligible employees following two years of frozen salaries. The School Board set employee compensation as a priority for the FY 2012 budget, and this budget reflects that priority. To support these initiatives, along with rising costs for retirement, health and life insurance, and to comply with the mandated implementation of online testing for all students taking the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) tests, FCPS is asking the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for an increase of 3.0 percent, or a \$48.8 million transfer of funds over the FY2011 level.

For complete information on the FY 2012 budget, including the budget calendar, visit <http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2012.htm>.

Merrell V. Dade  
Principal

## For Your Information

### Magnet School Applications

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) is currently accepting applications for its elementary magnet school programs for students entering kindergarten through grade 5 for Bailey's Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences and for students entering grades 1 through 6 for Hunters Woods Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences for the 2011-2012 school year. Selection for available magnet school spaces is based on a lottery.

To be eligible for the magnet school lottery, students must be working at or above grade level in language arts and math and must demonstrate positive interpersonal and school behavior. An information night will be held for families interested in the elementary magnet school program at Bailey's on **February 10, at 7 p.m.** at the school; the snow date is February 17. An information night will be held for families interested in the elementary magnet school program at Hunters Woods on **February 8, at 7 p.m.** at the school; the snow date is February 15.

More information about both programs, including an online application form, is available at <http://www.fcps.edu/news/magnet.htm>. Applications must be postmarked no later than **March 1** and sent to PreK-6 Instruction and School Support Office, Fairfax Ridge, 3877 Fairfax Ridge Road, Fairfax, VA 22030. If you have questions regarding the application process, please call the magnet information line, PreK-6 Instruction and Support office, at 571-423-4652.

### Enhance your KIT (Keep In Touch) Service

All FCPS parents and employees are automatically enrolled in the KIT Basic service which provides emergency, attendance and outreach messages. But you can enhance this service by subscribing to KIT Plus. This enhanced service is for anyone interested in news, events, and updates from FCPS. Parents can customize communication by selecting from topics including current issues (budget, boundary studies), School Board news and updates, delayed school openings and school closings, news releases and media tips, special education services, volunteer opportunities, and magnet schools and advanced academic programs. In addition to these topics, subscribers may also receive announcements from up to five schools of their choice. To become a KIT Plus subscriber, visit <http://www.fcps.edu/kit/>.