



Mustang Message

Franconia Elementary School
March 16, 2011



Second grade students proudly wore their “Cat in the Hat” hats in celebration of the week-long “Read Across America” program. The activities included shared reading among students, guest readers from Franconia’s business partner CALIBRE, and a generous helping of green eggs and ham for the more adventurous participants.

Read Across America Day, NEA’s national reading celebration takes place each year on or near March 2, the birthday of Dr. Seuss.

From the Principal

Parents and teachers have long known that it is a natural part of children’s development to copy what they see. So, we all make concerted efforts to model attitudes, values, beliefs, and behaviors that we wish children to emulate.

While parents and teachers use this knowledge to teach children, they are not the only influencing factor that can impact behavior and attitudes. The hours of unmonitored time your child spends in front of a screen, any screen, may have a detrimental impact on your child’s behavior and outlook.

Today, children are watching screens of various sizes on an average of 38 hours a week. Research also says that the number of violent acts on television is about 30 per hour, and almost 80% of the 33 most popular video games contain violence or aggression as a part of play. What does this mean for our easily influenced youngsters?

Well over 30 years of psychological research provides indisputable evidence that the exposure to media violence has a negative impact on children. In fact, violence filled video games have more influence than TV. The messages children receive have the potential to increase aggressive feelings, thoughts, and behaviors. Children may also display less concern, caring, and helpfulness towards peers.

Interested in learning more about the impact of video games and what the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends for children? Take a look at the March issue of School Psychology Services Newsletter in the Take Home Wednesday Materials.

Merrell V. Dade

Principal

At Franconia, we’re building tomorrow!

For Your Information

Will your child be 5 years old by Sept. 30, 2011?

If the answer is yes, then it’s time to register your child for kindergarten! Tell neighbors and friends too! Franconia’s Kindergarten Orientation is scheduled for Thursday, May 5 at 7:00 p.m. Please contact our Registrar, Martha McCash, at (703) 822-2200 to get started. To download forms and read more about starting school in Fairfax County, go to <http://www.fcps.edu/news/kinder.htm>.

The importance of being on time

Mornings can be a hectic time for families, and sometimes getting everyone out the door and to school on time is a challenge. While being a few minutes late for school may not seem like much, it may impact academic progress and create possible safety concerns.

Participation in morning routines is essential for academic success. Teachers use the first few minutes of the day to review the class schedule and collect assignments; and Franconia’s enrichment and intervention time begins school-wide at 9:00 a.m. When a student is late, it takes time to check in the office and walk to class. Thus, when a student is tardy, he or she misses valuable instructional time.

Tardiness is also a concern because of safety issues. When the bell sounds at 8:55 a.m., safety patrols and school staff leave their assigned duty posts. Students who arrive after the bell should be accompanied into the building by a parent or guardian to ensure safety.

Original Artworks is coming to Franconia, courtesy of the PTA

The Franconia PTA has teamed up with Original Works to offer a very special program. This program allows you to have your child’s very own artwork reproduced onto a selection of over 20 quality products. These products range from magnets, mugs, and mouse pads to t-shirts, tote bags and tiles. Your child has created their artwork in school, using the regular art curriculum as a basis for the works of art. Parents will have an opportunity to order whatever products they wish with their child’s own artwork featured on each and every product.

The Franconia PTA is thrilled to be participating in this unique and innovative program. Look for the complete program, product and pricing information to be sent home on Wednesday, March 23, 2011.