



Mustang Message

Franconia Elementary School
March 2, 2011



Ever wonder what the students were doing at school on the long President's Day? Well, students in grades 4-6 got an opportunity to fine-tune their skills in various art forms as they traveled through from music, art, and physical education to learn more about Franconia's Changing Education Through the Arts (CETA) program and partnership with the Kennedy Center.

These fifth grade students participated in a tableau exercise that demonstrated the water cycle. Can you tell who's evaporation?

From the Principal

More and more, parents are asking us how they can help their child at home. Oftentimes, it begins by talking with the classroom teacher, counselor, or resource teacher about your child's present level of performance and going from there. However, there are on-line resources for parents right on the Fairfax County Public School site that provide amazing strategies and tips for helping your child find success in school.

Interested in learning more? Visit **Strategies for School Success** at <http://www.fcps.edu/ccofam/ptips.htm>. This site gives you tips and ideas on how you can help your child be the best he or she can be in both elementary and secondary school. Additionally, the information provided is in both Spanish and English. Today you will find:

- **How single parents can balance home and work.** One tip we found there is to talk with your children to see how they are doing.
- **A weekly parent quiz.** This week's quiz helps you figure out if you are helping your child discover his/her interests.
- **Ask the experts.** This week, a parent has a 4-year-old who will be old enough to start kindergarten in the fall, but she wonders if she should keep her child in preschool for another year.
- **School success library.** Peruse through over 100 articles for parents to help children succeed in school.

So, take a look at the **Strategies for School Success** site. If you cannot find what you are looking for, go ahead and use the search link to find topics of interest. We hope you enjoy this valuable resource!

Merrell V. Dade
Principal

At Franconia, we're building tomorrow!

For Your Information

Kindergarten drop-off policy update

Fairfax County has updated the kindergarten drop-off policy to the following:
*All kindergarten students riding regular afternoon school buses **are to be met at their bus stop by the parent, day care provider, designated adult or a sibling in 7th grade or higher**, or the driver will ask that the school be notified by transportation of the student's return to school and provide an estimated return time.*

Help us make dismissal at Kiss & Ride even better

It has been a month since we opened our new Kiss & Ride lane, and we are happy to report that things are going well. We are able to load students faster in the afternoons at dismissal and Kathmoor is less congested. However, we still need your help to ensure a safe and quick dismissal for all students.

- 1) Use the Kiss & Ride lane to pick up your students. Parking is limited in the back parking lot, and we need spaces available for Franconia visitors.
- 2) If you do not have the appropriate documentation, please do not park in the handicap spaces to wait for your child at dismissal. Those spaces are limited, and Franconia has individuals who need and use those spots regularly.
- 3) If cars are loaded behind you but your child has not arrived to Kiss & Ride, we ask that you exit the lane and pull around for a second time. This will allow us to get everyone through the line more quickly.
- 4) If you arrive early and want to pick up your child, please do not go through the back construction gate. Your child will exit through the Kiss & Ride door by the temporary office, Exit 6.

Picture day is on March 9, and we need volunteers

Spring pictures are right around the corner, and we need your help. If you would like to volunteer to help on March 9 from 9:00 a.m.–1:30 p.m. please call Martha McCash at 703-822-2200.

Help us and earn a little extra money as a cafeteria hostess

We are currently looking for a parent who would like to job-share our cafeteria hostess position. If you are interested, contact Wiatta Padmore at Wiatta.Padmore@fcps.edu, or call her at 703-822-2200 for more information.