

Mustang Message

Franconia Elementary School
May 4, 2011



These kindergarten students in Ms. Owens' class took advantage of the windy days recently to celebrate Kite Flying Day. They read about kites, talked about shapes, made kites, and then spent some time flying their kites on a sunny afternoon.

From the Principal

Today's classrooms may seem very different from when we were in school, and for good reason. Within the last decade, researchers have learned much about the human brain. As schools continue to look for ways to promote student achievement, brain research may hold promise for classrooms.

The standard fare of our own classroom days — lecture, a reading assignment, and perhaps a film or science demonstration — may have seemed effective. However, we now know that other strategies may be even more powerful. Today's classrooms still include large group teacher presentations/demonstrations, reading assignments, and audio-visual materials. However, parents may notice many more opportunities for children to engage in discussions about learning through hands-on activities, creation of projects, interactive technology, and teaching others through buddy reading, think-pair-share, and summarizing out loud.

The study of the brain is fascinating, particularly in education, as the knowledge gained helps our children learn. At Franconia, it's an area we are dedicated to learn more about and to expand our expertise as adult learners.

Merrell V. Dade
Principal

At Franconia, we're building tomorrow!

For Your Information

Plan ahead for Memorial Day

There will be no school on Memorial Day, Monday, May 30. There will be a 2-hour early dismissal on Friday, May 27. On that day, Franconia students will be released at 1:35 p.m.

Virginia's Standards of Learning tests begin

Believe it or not, we are about a month away from the last day of school. As the year closes, testing begins for all students in both primary and upper grades. Students in grades 3-6 will begin taking Virginia's Standards of Learning tests beginning on Monday, May 16. Testing will continue until Thursday, June 2.

How can you help your child to do his/her best? 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/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!

Grade 3

May 16 – Reading
May 20 – Math
May 27 – Science
May 31 – Social Studies

Grade 5

May 18 – Reading
May 25 – Math
June 1 – Science

Grade 4

May 17 – Reading
May 24 – Math
May 31 – History

Grade 6

May 19 – Reading
May 26 – History
June 2 – Math