



# Mustang Message



Friday, October 29th, was no ordinary day at Franconia. It was the last day of the quarter, and students got to “shake a tail feather” with their teachers and other staff at a school dance. Why a dance? Students collectively earned over 400 Mustang Motivators; and to honor this amazing accomplishment, we had a dance. Congratulations to all our MOTIVATED Mustangs! Our next goal... 800 Mustang Motivators.

## From the Principal

When we talk to our students, they often say that one of their favorite things to do is read. They enjoy visiting the library, and going to the book store is always a treat. Sometimes parents are interested in learning more about the newly-published book choices to select for their children. Well, each year, the Children's Choices Project selects 12,500 school children from different regions of the United States to read newly-published children and young adult books and vote for the ones they like best. The October issue of *The Reading Teacher* has published the results in their “Children's Choices 2010” article. This interesting article not only gives the title and grade-level suggestion for the top choices, but also offers a brief description of the book for students in grades K-6. Interested parents can also find helpful reading tips like:

- Set aside a regular time and place for books so that reading becomes as natural as eating and sleeping.
- Use computer programs to expand a child's interest in specific topics and to provide valuable information for later curriculum study.
- Compare similarities and differences of children's books.
- Seek a balance between school book activities; home and school literature activities; and familiarity with newspapers, magazines and other text media that address contemporary social, cultural, and civic issues.
- Keep in mind that the most memorable conversations are often filled with anecdotes from literature.

For more information, go to <http://www.reading.org/Publish.aspx?page=RT-64-2-ChildrensChoices.pdf&mode=retrieve&D=10.1598/RT.64.2.9&F=RT-64-2-ChildrensChoices.pdf&key=ABACC926-58CE-49E7-86D9-0C4896CEAAA8> . Happy Reading!

Merrell V. Dade, Principal

## For Your Information

### Your views and opinions are important to us!

This spring, a random sample of Franconia's parents will receive the Parent Opinion Survey. This survey is part of the Principal Performance Evaluation Program and offers parents an opportunity to provide anonymous input about various issues related to our school. These include safety, parent involvement, curriculum, communications, and expectations for student achievement and behavior.

The survey will arrive in the mail early December 2010 and will be returned directly to the Fairfax County Public Schools' Office of Student Testing for processing. If you receive a copy of the Parent Opinion Survey, please take a few minutes to complete and return the survey. Your opinion does matter!

### Thanksgiving luncheon on November 11

We are looking forward to seeing our Franconia families for our annual Thanksgiving Luncheon and Open House on Thursday, November 11. Please remember that all lunches on that day must be pre-ordered, even if your child typically buys lunch at school. Complete the Thanksgiving reservation form located on the October 20th Take-Home link.

### Human Growth and Development preview night for grades 5 and 6

On Tuesday, November 16, in the Mount Eagle Elementary School library (6116 North Kings Highway, Alexandria, VA 22303) at 6:30 p.m., interested parents will have an opportunity to learn about the Human Growth and Development program for 5th and 6th grades and to preview materials that will be used. Franconia will be holding Human Growth and Development during the week of December 13th.

### Picture make-up day is November 17

If you would like to have your child's picture retaken on November 17, the original photos **must** be returned in order to get a new photo taken.

### Keep an eye on your child's lunch account

Once your child's lunch account gets below \$10.00, the cafeteria will give your child a sticker or a stamp on the hand. Typically, your child will have enough money for 2-3 more lunches, depending on what is purchased. If your child does receive a PTA-funded lunch, please make sure you directly reimburse the PTA. Donations to the PTA lunch fund are greatly appreciated. If you'd like to donate, please send your money directly to the PTA with a note indicating how you would like the money used.