



# Mustang Message

October 20, 2010



Franconia Elementary School

These students have spirit and are proud to be members of Mustang country! You can show your school spirit throughout the community by showing off your new Franconia spirit wear. If you haven't done so, it's not too late. Spirit wear orders are being accepted until Thursday, October 21. You can find the order form on Franconia's website at <http://www.fcps.edu/FranconiaES/paperless.html>.

## From the Principal

Who's nervous at conference time? Parents, students....and, yes, teachers and administrators! We all want conferences to be a positive experience for all. Here's what you can do to make the best of your conference time with the teacher in November.

- **Talk with your child before the conference.** Ask what he/she thinks the teacher will say. Talk about any likes, dislikes, problems, and successes.
- **Think about what you want to learn from the conference.** Make a few notes. They help all of us stay focused!
- **Ask the teacher to explain anything you don't understand.** We are a profession of acronyms—EIT, SOLs, POS, IEP, DRA. No question is a foolish one.
- **Be prepared to talk and listen.** Tell the teacher what you see at home. Talk about your child's interests. Tactfully talk about any concerns. Let us know about anything that might affect your child's learning at school. Sometimes the smallest changes at home have an impact on your child at school.
- **Follow up. Stay in touch.** If you think of a question you didn't ask, write a note to the teacher. Remember that the teacher is also anxious to please. Try to mention a bright spot in your child's program. If there are issues, listen carefully to the concerns and ask probing questions. Sharing issues can be difficult for both teachers to convey and parents to hear.

As you know, when parents and teachers work effectively together, they make an unbeatable team!

Merrell V. Dade  
Principal

## For Your Information

### Purchase Thanksgiving Luncheon ticket in advance

Turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, a little pumpkin ice cream, and the company of your child? Sounds irresistible! Join us on **Thursday, November 11**, for our *Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon and Classroom Open House*. To save you time and help our lines move quickly, purchase your lunch tickets, including tickets for your Franconia student(s), in advance. Return the invitation with your method of payment by **Friday, October 29**.

Tickets purchased for adults or siblings who do not attend Franconia will be sent home with confirmation that payment has been received. Tickets purchased for Franconia students will be given to the classroom teacher to distribute on the day of the luncheon. We hope to see you there!

### Franconia students walk for the homeless on November 5

Franconia is participating in a "Help the Homeless Walkathon" in partnership with New Hope Housing on November 5. On that day, students will listen to an educational presentation regarding homelessness and participate in a "mini-walk." There is no cost involved in participating. To raise money, New Hope Housing only asks that all participants complete a registration form. For each form collected, the organization receives a donation from supporters and donors. This year, the goal is to get 3,000 walkers, earning the program a \$50,000 walker incentive bonus! Additionally, registered participants receive a free *Help the Homeless* t-shirt on the day of the walk.

We would like to get 100% participation at Franconia! Just sign the registration form and return it to school. Forms went home last week, but if you need another, look on today's take home link. **All forms must be returned to Franconia by Friday, October 29.**

Franconia families will also have an opportunity to help New Hope Housing at the PTA's 3rd Annual 3K Run/Walk on Saturday, November 13 starting at 8:30 a.m. The registration price for families is \$10.00. Check the Franconia School website for forms to participate in this fun day!