



December 7, 2011

Mustang Message

We're Building Tomorrow

Franconia Elementary



Hello Franconia Family,

We would like to announce an upcoming event consisting of a clothing drive to help out our community this upcoming winter. We would like for as many people as possible to participate. This year, the SCA wants to make this a fun competition. The grade level that collects the most gently-used winter garments (gloves, hats, scarves, jackets, and blankets) will win an extra P.E. day with Franconia's very own Mr. Aracich and Mrs. Collins. We hope your grade level wins, and thank you for your participation.

Yours Truly,

Omar Ashraf, President; Grant Holder, Vice President; Leigh Abell, Recorder; Ariana Chavez-Padilla, Secretary

A Message from the Principal

This is my favorite time of the year because it is our opportunity to enjoy time with family and friends and appreciate those special people in our lives. During this time, many families look for ways to make this season of giving more meaningful by giving to others. There are thousands of families in the Fairfax area who are still struggling to make ends meet. With the upcoming holiday season, stress and worry are increased as families think about providing gifts or a holiday meal to celebrate this special time.

If you are looking for ways to help families in need, the local non-profit Our Daily Bread (ODB) has a holiday program that matches families in need with members of the community who can help. Families are referred to the program by social workers, counselors, and local services agencies. In fact, many of the families that ODB serves work multiple jobs to make ends meet, but are still unable to manage the high cost of housing, food, transportation and utilities.

ODB is a great holiday program for your family to participate in as your help goes directly to a local family in need. Families can sponsor a family by purchasing a holiday meal or gifts. They can become a virtual donor by donating funds to be used for a specific family, or they can provide a donation directly to ODB. For more information, go to info@ODBFairfax.org.

If you are looking for a way to support families a little closer to home, Sofia Echaide, our school counselor, is also looking for donations to support families who have requested holiday assistance through the school. Currently, she is in the process of contacting interested families; and if you would like to help, just call the school at 703-822-2200.

Merrell V. Dade
Principal

Holiday support available

If your family needs assistance during the upcoming winter holidays, schools can help. Contact the guidance counselor, Sofia Echaide, or parent liaison, Odette Boyce, at 703- 822-2200. Requests are confidential.

No early dismissal on Thursday, December 22

Unlike recent school years, the students will not be dismissed early on December 22. It is a full day, and students will be dismissed at 3:35 p.m.

Franconia office closed, Dec. 23- Jan. 2

The Franconia School office will be closed from December 23 to January 2. The office will reopen on Tuesday, January 3, 2012.

2012-2013 School Year Calendar

Start planning for next year now. The 2012-2013 School Year calendar is now available at <http://www.fcps.edu/about/12-13cal.shtml>.

Need medication sent to school? Know the FCPS policy

As cold and flu season arrives, please be aware of the policy regarding medication administration during school hours. A parent or guardian must transport medication to and from the Health Room; a “Medication Authorization” form must be completed by the parent for any over-the-counter medication and include the name of medication, dosage and frequency to be given; and medication must be in the original container and labeled with the student’s name. Prescription medications must also have a doctor’s signature on the form. “Medication Authorization” forms are available in the Health Room or at <http://www.fcps.edu/it/forms/se63.pdf>. If you have any questions, contact Debbie Quinn at 703-822-2210.

Away from school?

Whenever you know that your child will be out of school, please notify the school about the absence as soon as possible. You can send a written note, email the teacher, leave a phone message on the school office phone (703-822-2200), or absentee line (703-822-2222). Please include the date(s) and reason for the absence. If a child is absent and the school has not been notified, the office will make every effort to contact the parents.



These sixth grade students in Ms. Moorstein’s class are studying the 8 body systems. Quick, do you know what they are? Take the quiz.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

Answers: Immune, Muscular, Excretory, Cardiovascular, Digestive, Nervous, Skeletal, Respiratory