



# Mustang Message

*We're Building Tomorrow*

January 11, 2012

Franconia Elementary



*Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up.*

*~Pablo Picasso*

## A Message from the Principal

Vacationing in a new culture and language can be exciting. Raising a school-aged child in a new culture can be exhausting. The never-ending papers and requests can confuse and overwhelm families. Who can you call?

Our part-time parent liaison, Odette Boyce, helps us link home with school. She can explain school communications and forms and acquaint families with school and community services. Mrs. Boyce works diligently with everyone in the school to support all of our students. She speaks Spanish and can arrange for interpreters, when needed.

In some cultures, parent participation in schools is neither expected nor encouraged. We want all of our families to feel welcome and valued at Franconia. For help, call our parent liaison at 703-822-2204!

*Merrell V. Dade*  
*Principal*

## Resources for preschool children

All children grow and develop at different rates. However, the sooner a delay in development is discovered, the sooner we can offer help. Developmental screening is the first step in identifying students **who** may need special services. Screening is FREE. Interpreters are available to help parents and children with the process. For preschoolers 20 months to 5 years, call the Virginia Hills Child Find office at 703-317-1400. You can also go to <http://www.fcps.edu/dss/sei/ecids/overview.shtml> to find out about the early intervention services offered in the county.

## Full-time Advanced Academic Program Screening Information Session and Workshop

Planning to refer your child for the 2012-2013 full-time Advanced Academic Program (level IV) at Springfield Estates? Come to this information session and workshop on Thursday, January 26, 2012, from 8:30-9:30 a.m. in the Franconia ES library. Find out about the screening process, deadlines, and information needed. Examples of past screening files will be shown, and time will be provided to complete your referral or parent questionnaire. This is open to parents of current 2nd-6th grade students only. Please contact Linda Simon, at [lesimon@fcps.edu](mailto:lesimon@fcps.edu) or 703-822-2263 for more information.

## Found but not claimed items

If you have not seen your child's coat/hat/glove/sweater/ boots/lunch boxes/etc., the mystery of the missing items might be at your fingertips—in the school's "Lost and Found" box. Clothing will be available for viewing during upcoming Movie Night and at the Band and Strings concert on January 26. Please take a moment to check for your child's missing items. Unclaimed items will be donated to the Koinonia Foundation.

## Magnet School Applications

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) is currently accepting applications for its elementary magnet school programs for Bailey's Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences and for Hunters Woods Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences for the 2012-2013 school year. Selection for available magnet school spaces is based on a lottery.

To be eligible for the magnet school lottery, students must be working at or above grade level in language arts and math and must demonstrate positive interpersonal and school behavior. An information night will be held for families interested in the elementary magnet school program at Bailey's on **February 9, at 7 p.m.** at the school; the snow date is February 16. An information night will be held for families interested in the elementary magnet school program at Hunters Woods on **February 7, at 7 p.m.** at the school; the snow date is February 15.

More information about both programs, including an online application form, is available at <http://www.fcps.edu/is/magnetschools/index.shtml>. Applications must be postmarked no later than **March 1**.