

# Mustang Message

## *We're Building Tomorrow*

September 28, 2011

Franconia Elementary



In the beginning of the school year, your children are not only learning new classroom material and routines, they are practicing how to be safe in an emergency.

In the first weeks of school children learn about fire drills, tornado drills, what to do in the event of a lockdown and much more. Know that safety comes first at Franconia and that our students are prepared for an emergency.

### The rain has not stopped us!

#### **A Message from the Principal...**

Where did the time go? We cannot believe that it's the end of September. This first month of school has been filled with learning routines, making new friends, and learning about new and exciting things in the classroom. In the midst of all our beginning of the school year activities, we enjoyed a successful Back-to-School Night, kindergarten students celebrated A Day of Peace, and we have all braved more rainy days than we anticipated!

Come rain or shine, when you walk through Franconia's doors, there is a special synergy. Our team works together to ensure the best for Franconia students, staff and families academically and socially. This is one of the reasons Franconia is so special to so many people the community. The experiences, the friends, and the potential for the future all contribute to create fond memories that will last as our students grow into adulthood. In a recent Kingstowne Patch article, Robert Riccio wrote a wonderful article about the school we all love so much. His story not only captured Franconia's humble beginnings as a four room school built in 1932, but he also talked about our renovation, the staff, and the best educational practices Franconia strives to deliver to its students. While the renovation may be sad for some, Riccio writes:

*For long-time neighbors, the old building's demise comes at a cost in memories lost, but for their children its passing signifies the renewal needed to continue being the educational compass for an extended community....*

Check out this wonderful article at <http://kingstowne.patch.com/articles/deconstructing-franconia-elementary-b7582a71>.

Merrell Dade  
Principal

#### **School Picture Day is scheduled for October 12**

School pictures are provided as a service to our families, and these portraits will also be used in the school yearbook.

Your child was provided with a Picture Order Envelope. Complete the envelope and have your child bring it to his or her teacher before picture day. If you did not receive a flyer or have misplaced it, extra flyers are available in the school's main office.

#### **FCPS 24-7 Learning/Parent View**

[FCPS 24-7 Learning](#) is the online resource that allows Fairfax County Public Schools students to extend learning beyond the traditional school day and beyond school facilities. A log-in username and password are required to access the online resources. FCPS 24-7 Learning allows parents to:

- to access homework and classroom assignments
- view class calendars
- explore links to enrichment activities
- update emergency contact information

Parents can create and validate Parent View accounts on October 5 in the school office during our Book Fair/Pizza Night.

#### **What do I do if my child forgets his homework?**

As homework increases, your child may forget homework and materials and ask you to come back to school to pick them up. It's important to remember that the school building closes at 4:30 p.m., and students or parents cannot be let into classrooms after hours to get homework.

If you notice your child is having difficulty remembering to get all of his or her homework, please let the teacher know. The teacher will be happy to problem solve with you to ensure a more relaxing homework experience at home.