



# Mustang Message

February 13, 2009

Franconia Elementary School



This fourth grader is deepening her “math smarts” with *Calendar Math*. This program provides lessons and activities for students to preview, review, practice and discuss critical math concepts. New kits are coming to each teacher thanks to our business partner CALIBRE. In December, Franconia was the recipient of a \$5, 000 dollar donation from the company to benefit our school. In these tight budget times, we truly appreciate CALIBRE’s continued dedication to our Franconia Family. Thanks, CALIBRE!

## From the Principal

The Fairfax County School Board is currently considering recommendations to change school start and dismissal times to improve the overall effectiveness of the county’s transportation system. Studies have also shown that later start times improve adolescent health and behavior. These changes would impact elementary, middle, and high school bell schedules. The proposed morning bell schedule for Franconia will change from 8:30 to 7:50 a.m.; afternoon from 3:20 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Go to <http://www.fcps.edu/news/start.htm> for more information.

The School Board is interested in hearing from you as changing the school start and dismissal times could affect work schedules, child care, and after school activities. Seven dialogue meeting will be held in this month.

**Tuesday, Feb. 24, 7-9 p.m. —**  
Annandale HS, Longfellow MS; Oak View ES

**Wednesday, Feb. 25, 7-9 p.m. —**  
Herndon HS; Rocky Run MS

**Thursday, Feb. 26, 7-9 p.m. —**  
Providence ES, Whitman MS

You can also go to [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu) to take an online survey to share your opinions.

*Merrell V. Dade*

**Franconia Elementary School**  
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[www.fcps.edu/FranconiaES](http://www.fcps.edu/FranconiaES)  
Merrell Dade, Principal  
Nancy Mercer, Asst. Principal

## For Your Information

### Immunization requirement for 6th graders

**NEW!** Beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, three doses of properly spaced HPV (human papillomavirus) for female students will be required. The first dose is required for female students entering sixth grade. However, parents or guardians may opt out of immunizing their child for the HPV vaccine. HPV is the only immunization for which an opt out does not require a medical or religious exemption.

Prior to entering 6th grade, all students are required to receive a booster dose of Tdap vaccine if at least five years have passed since the last dose of tetanus toxoid-containing vaccine (DTP, DTaP, DT, or Td).

The Tdap booster can be obtained from your child's physician or the Fairfax County Health Department. Students without proper documentation of having the Tdap booster or having the tetanus-containing vaccine within the last five years cannot begin school in August. Go to <http://www.fcps.edu/ss/StudentServices/StudentRegistration/healthservices.htm> for more information. Or, you can contact the school public health nurse, Carol Hutchinson, at 703-569-1031.

### Turn in items for The PTA Family Fun Night

Join us for *Family Fun Night* on Friday, February 27 at 6:30 p.m. You’ll enjoy exciting bingo games, bid on your favorite silent auction items, and eat pizza—all in the name of helping our school. It’s not too late to help us make the night a rousing success. If you still need to send in bingo basket items, the deadline has been extended to Friday, February 20!

Remember, all pizza orders must be made prior February 27th. See the bright green flyer in today’s Take Home Friday envelope.

**No pizzas will be available to sell on the night of the event.**

### WANTED for Intersession

We are collecting clean gallon plastic jugs...we need 150!