



Mustang Message

February 27, 2009

Franconia Elementary School



There's lots to accomplish every day in the classroom at Franconia, and we need students to be in school to help them stay on track. Teachers' lesson plans are carefully constructed to introduce new concepts, reinforce them with learning activities, and then move on to new skills and idea. And, the learning starts the moment students arrive at school. Help your children get the most out of their learning experience by getting them to school on time. We begin at 8:40 a.m.!

From the Principal

The week of March 1-7, 2009, is School Social Work Week. School social workers in Fairfax County will be celebrating the role they play in ensuring a successful school experience for students. In FCPS, school social workers are assigned to every public school and special education center with most social workers covering two or three schools. Additionally, school social workers are assigned to the Preschool Diagnostic Center (PDC), the preschool program, the alternative schools, and the department of social work services supports a liaison for homeless families.

In these difficult times, more and more students face issues of poverty, physical and mental illness, family conflict, acculturation, social and life skills deficits, and other stressors that impact upon their learning. School social workers are trained mental health professionals who provide direct and indirect services to help counteract these forces and help students achieve their educational potential. Student success is heightened when families, teachers, and school social workers work collaboratively to provide positive school-home communication.

The school social worker at Franconia Elementary School is Haleh Royanian. She is here on Tuesdays and is available on Thursdays, if needed. She can be reached at 703-822-2208.

Merrell V. Dade

Franconia Elementary School

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Merrell Dade, Principal
Nancy Mercer, Asst. Principal

For Your Information

Reading, jumping, and ARTS for ALL

Franconia's "Read Across America" celebration takes place this year on March 2, the birthday of children's author Dr. Seuss. The day-long program includes special guest readers, along with members of the Franconia staff, and focuses on how important it is to encourage children to read.

On Friday, March 6, students will participate in a "Read In." For more information, go to www.nea.org/readacross/

To commemorate art appreciation month, our students have teamed up for a one-day "ARTS for ALL" celebration. On March 3, an afternoon assembly is scheduled, as well as an evening event at 7:00 p.m. for parents. The evening will include performances and a collaborative weaving activity to create a textile work. The piece will be displayed in the school office.

Then, on Thursday, March 5, and Friday, March 6, Ms. Hunter will hold a General Music Open House for parents.

Forgot something? After-school policy

Forgetting items at school can be stressful for everyone. Please keep in mind:

- Students should not be in the building after dismissal, except for pre-arranged meetings or activities (i.e. clubs, special projects).
- If a student returns for a forgotten item, he or she must be accompanied by a parent and must report to the office.
- The office will call the teacher to request permission for the student to go to class. If there is no reply to the phone call, the student will be asked to retrieve the item on the following school day.
- Most teachers leave school by 3:45 p.m.; the office closes at 4:30 p.m.

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

We're collecting for the heart

"Jump Rope for Heart" and "Hoops For Heart" take place throughout the week during P.E. classes. Students jump rope or shoot baskets. To support their effort, family and friends can donate money to the American Heart Association. For more information, go to www.americanheart.org/.

It's not too late to register for intersession

Intersession registration took place this week. If you still want to register your child, you may do so next week by sending the registration fee, registration form, plus a \$10 late fee. Students may not register after March 13.

We still need gallon size plastic jugs with caps, milk caps, small yogurt cups, round lids, plastic egg cartons, plastic eggs, and dishwasher-sized cardboard boxes.