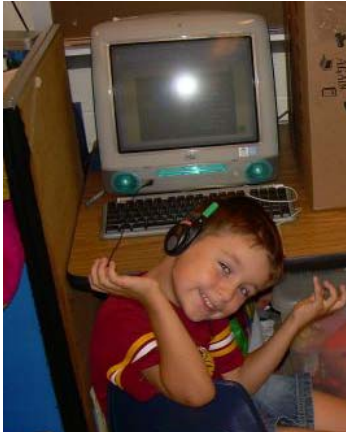




Mustang Message

January 16, 2009

Franconia Elementary School



BRB, PAW, POS, ROFL, SYS, F2F *

What could these possibly be? New educational acronyms? Actually, it's on-line lingo that your child could be using when talking to others while on the computer, cell phone, or other Internet capable device. Be in the know and find out the risks and dangers your child may face when using the Internet. Parents can go to www.netsmart411.org and www.isafe.org for helpful information and strategies to use at home to make the Internet experience safe and fun for all.

*Key: Be Right Back, Parents are Watching, Parents Over Shoulder, Rolling on Floor Laughing, See You Soon, Face to Face

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 parent liaison at 703-822-2204!

Merrell V. Dade

For Your Information

Intersession was pretty sweet

Even though there was a chill in the air during the January intersession, students in *Mother Nature's Bounty* enjoyed the 'fruits' of warmer weather when they decorated their cookies with edible flowers. Students in *Back in the Day* created butter and horn books. *Capital Currency* students learned fiscal responsibility while they dreamed about what they would be able to do with their money someday. *Count Your Pennies* participants recognized whether they were being a producer or consumer while *Franconia Fitness* participants learned about the importance of nutrition, relaxation techniques, and how to read food labels. All this and more occurred during the one week intersession. Brochures for the spring intersession will be sent home on February 20. Registration will follow February 23-27, 2009.



This cookie decorated with edible flowers by students looks good enough to eat.

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 screening of children younger than 20 months, call 703-246-7121. For preschoolers 20 months to 5 years, call the Lorton Preschool Child Find office at 703-446-2100 (TDD 703-446-2006). You can also go to <http://www.fcps.edu/ss/preschool/childfd1.htm> to find out about the early intervention services offered in the county.

It's not too late to sign up for FLEX

Take advantage of the Foreign Language Experience (FLEX) and sign your child up for French or Spanish. There's still space available in many classes. Go to <http://www.fcps.edu/FranconiaES/> and click on the FLEX registration link on the right. Classes are scheduled to begin in February.

Franconia Elementary School

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