



Mustang Message

March 13, 2009

Franconia Elementary School



It's all about the arts! Franconia celebrated its collaboration with the Kennedy Center through the CETA (Changing Education Through the Arts) program with fabulous student performances this week. These sixth grade students commanded the stage as they sang "Greased Lightning." The captivated audience was also treated to poems, original songs, and dance. Wow, it's great to see just how talented our students are!

From the Principal

Internet safety is a priority for us all. At Franconia, we are working to help children know how to use the internet safely by teaching them proper use and reinforcing the FCPS Acceptable Use policy. Students are also given access to databases for safe internet searching.

Communication is the most effective tool for parents and guardians when helping children avoid the dangers that exist on the internet at home. Here are a few suggestions from iSAFE, an on-line site dedicated to providing information to parents and educators, about Internet safety:

- **Put computers in common areas.** Computers should not be left in a child's bedroom.
- **Explore the internet together.** It can be fun, and you could learn a thing or two from your child.
- **Talk with your child about his/her user name, profile and downloading.** Lots of personal information could attract predators. Create a family profile instead.

For more information on how you can learn more about keeping your child safe, go to www.netsmartz411.org or www.isafe.org.

Merrell V. Dade

Franconia Elementary School

6043 Franconia Rd.
Alexandria, VA 22310 703-822-2200
www.fcps.edu/FranconiaES
Merrell Dade, Principal
Nancy Mercer, Asst. Principal

For Your Information

Franconia closed 4/6/09—4/10/09

Due to Spring break, Franconia will be closed from April 6-10. We will have Spring Intersession March 23—April 3, 2009. Regular classes will resume on Monday, April 13, 2009.

Look for Intersession confirmation letters

Intersession confirmation letters went home today. If your children are attending intersession classes, have them bring the letter to school on the first day of intersession, March 23. The confirmation letter includes the room number for their class and a school map on the back to assist in getting to the correct classroom. The last day to request a refund of the intersession fee is March 17, 2009.

If your children are enrolled in intersession classes and are absent, please be sure to call the attendance line (703) 822-2222 to report the absence. The morning (AM) class of *Test Taking Tips for the SOL* for grade 6 has been cancelled.

We are still collecting plastic gallon jugs with caps, onion bags, plastic egg cartons, ribbon, lace, small yogurt cups, sour cream and margarine containers.

The PTA is looking for new officers

If you've been looking for a new way to support Franconia students, why not consider becoming a PTA officer? The positions open for the 2009-2010 school year are: President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer. If you have more questions or would like express your interest in a position, contact Laura Lawrence at lhines4424@aol.com or 703-719-0223.

Thanks for participating in the PTA Reflections Program

Thank you to all the students at Franconia who participated in this year's Reflections program. We had two students, Zoe Joyner and Tamara Bowman, who won the award for Outstanding Interpretation at the district level and have been invited to a special awards ceremony that will be held on Thursday, March 19. These students have advanced to the state level for judging.

Next year's theme is "Beauty is..." We encourage your child(ren) to participate next year as Reflections is designed to provide students an opportunity to express themselves and to receive positive recognition for their artistic efforts. Students are encouraged to create and submit works of art in six areas: dance choreography, film production, literature, musical composition, photography, and the visual arts. It's another great way to show their "smarts in the arts." If you have any questions, please contact Shelly Edenhart at sedenhart@yahoo.com.