



Mustang Message

May 1, 2009

Franconia Elementary School



Fantastic! Incredible! Impressive!

These fifth and sixth grade students receive accolades from the folks at CALIBRE following a lively strings concert this week. The concert attendees were treated to *Good King Wenceslas*, *When the Saints Go Marching In*, and other lively tunes. Our strings teacher, Ms. Fredericks, even provided the attendees with a little background on how the students learned to play as well as a little trivia. Did you know a violin and a fiddle were the same thing? Go figure!

From the Principal

Kiss & Ride is an alternative to bus transportation or walking, but it can also add to the morning and afternoon congestion. Franconia now provides bus transportation for all of its students, and FCPS encourages all students to ride the bus. If you opt to drive your child to school, please keep safety in mind and be patient.

Franconia uses its fire lanes to discharge and load students daily. The lane parallel to Kathmoor Drive is our Kiss & Ride. If driving your child to school, please remember our little ones do not always pay attention to traffic; therefore, it is your responsibility to follow our safety rules. We understand that the morning can be a busy time, but it takes time to load and discharge our students. So, your patience is essential during these busy times.

Have you noticed the increased congestion on Kathmoor in the morning with folks parking alongside the road to cross their children? We have! In fact, we are very worried about the increased potential for a serious accident. If you are not sure what to do, no worries. We've included the Kiss & Ride procedures in this newsletter. Or, better yet, avoid the congestion and put your child on the bus.

Please take a moment to review the safety rules at the end of this newsletter. Working together as a team is the only way we can ensure safety for all!

Merrell V. Dade

Franconia Elementary School

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www.fcps.edu/FranconiaES
Merrell Dade, Principal
Nancy Mercer, Asst. Principal

For Your Information

School starts at 8:40 a.m.

The number of students arriving tardy is increasing every day. If you are driving your child to school, please make sure he/she is in the school building before 8:40 a.m. to avoid being tardy.

Proposed bell schedule change

The Office of Transportation Services proposes adjustments to the **2009-2010** bell schedules that are projected to result in annual savings of more than 4.6 million. These adjustments are separate and apart from the proposal to change school start times that the Fairfax County School Board considered and voted to reject in early 2009. The adjustments focus on achieving efficiencies within the current bell structure, which the Fairfax County School Board voted to retain.

Proposed New Hours for Franconia:

Kindergarten – Grade 6

Monday (early closing): 8:55 a.m. – 1:05 p.m.

Tuesday-Friday: 8:55 a.m. – 3:35 p.m.

Go to <http://www.fcps.edu/schlbd/AttA2009-10BellScheduleProposal.pdf> for more information.

Field Day May 14

Field Day is a school-wide activity of fitness, team-building, enrichment, and enjoyment in which students participate. **The schedule is: Grades 4-6 from 9:30-11:00 a.m.; Grades K-3 from 1:30-3:00 p.m.** Parents are invited to volunteer. We will need two parents per classroom, please contact your child's teacher to volunteer.

Submit info about your child for class groups by May 29

Creating class assignments requires careful consideration and the involvement of many staff members. We know that a good teacher-student match and a productive mix of children are ingredients for success.

If you feel that you have information about your child that the school staff may not know, particularly regarding friendship or neighborhood factors, please submit it to the principal in writing by Friday, May 29. Our teachers use this information to create preliminary class groupings in June. We also ask that you do not request specific teachers for this does not take into account the many variables to be considered. It's far more valuable to share particular academic or behavioral concerns. Be assured that, with or without a parent letter, each child's strengths and needs are considered in this lengthy and complex process.