



Mustang Message

May 15, 2009

Franconia Elementary School



Tents set up in the library? Did your child come home and talk about how our library has been transformed? Well, it's all true!

It's Children's Book Week and Franconia students celebrated reading in a "campy" way. Students visited Camp READ a LOT on Thursday and Friday this week. They crawled in tents and curled up on sleeping bags and bean bag chairs to read books of their choice. Just look at those faces. Fun was had by all!

From the Principal

We've known for awhile how important reading is for children. Now researchers have found that the amount of print children are exposed to has consequences. It is reading volume, rather than oral language, that is the primary source of differences in children's vocabularies. For vocabulary growth to occur, children must be exposed to words that are relatively rare. Children's books have 50 percent more rare words in them than adult prime-time television or the conversation of college graduates. If we want children to improve their vocabulary and reading fluency, they need to read – a lot!

So, whether you're dashing off or staying home on these busy almost summer days, don't forget to read a book or two...maybe even more. Access to a wide variety of literature counts; so, visit your local library or book store. Don't forget to model reading for your child. Like us, do you have novels collecting dust on your nightstands? Why not dust them off and enjoy! Our students love opportunities to enjoy reading. Just take a look above. As we heard from many students in the hall this week, "reading rocks!"

Merrell V. Dade

For Your Information

Franconia keeps its calendar for the 2009-2010 school year

It has been a tough budget season and lots of families have been wondering what calendar we will be on for the 2009-2010 school year. We are happy to report that we have received funds for extended learning opportunities for our students in the upcoming year. What does that mean for you and your family? School will still begin on August 3, 2009, and we will have extended learning opportunities for students at the end of each quarter. See the attached calendar for the 2009-2010 school year.

Over the next school year, FCPS is planning to revamp formerly modified and excel calendar schools. While we are unsure of how this will impact Franconia's school calendar, families should plan for students to return to the standard calendar in the 2010-2011 school year.

Virginia's Standards of Learning tests begin

It's hard to believe we are about a month away from the last day of school. As the year closes, testing begins for all students in both primary and upper grades. Students in grades 3-6 will begin taking Virginia's Standards of Learning tests on Monday, May 18. Testing will continue until Friday, June 4.

How can you help your child to do his/her best? Make sure your child gets plenty of rest and eats breakfast on test days. Try not to schedule appointments out of school on test dates. The tests are not timed, so we cannot guarantee that your child will be finished in time to leave for an appointment. Help your child relax as he/she prepares for these tests. Encourage your child to do his/her best and praise your child's efforts.

Testing is done to let the school see how well a child is learning. Thanks for helping us promote success through your support and encouragement at home!

Grade 3

- May 18—Reading
- May 22—Science
- May 29—Math
- June 4—Social Studies

Grade 4

- May 20—Reading
- May 27—Social Studies
- June 2—Math

Grade 5

- May 21—Reading
- May 28—Math
- June 3—Science

Grade 6

- May 19—Reading
- May 26—Math
- June 1—Social Studies

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