



Mustang Message

May 29, 2009

Franconia Elementary School



Mustang Book Swap is Back!

Franconia ES is hosting its second children's book swap during the week of June 8, 2009. Students are invited to bring to school gently used books that they are interested in swapping. All contributions should be sent to school by Monday, June 8. Books can be dropped off in book collection boxes in the lobby or hallway. Please encourage your child to participate in the Mustang Book Swap! Take a look at the flyer at the end of this newsletter for more information!

From the Principal

While many children would be happy spending summer breaks watching television, hanging out with friends, or sleeping late, their minds and bodies need daily exercise. Here are some ideas to help your child and family have a fun and engaging summer break.

- **Look for educational moments in routine outings.** Going to the park is a great time to talk about nature. You can focus on math and nutrition at the grocery store.
- **Try new sports together.** Bond and get in shape. Look for opportunities for the whole family to enjoy. Volleyball is one of my favorites!
- **Dust off a board game.** When was the last time you played a board game? When it's too hot to go outside, have some board games and puzzles on hand. They teach math, motor skills and social skills.
- **Volunteer.** Helping others is a great learning opportunity and builds empathy for others.
- **Go on an adventure.** When was the last time you visited Huntley Meadows, Hidden Pond, Mason Neck State Park or Pohick Bay Regional Park?

Remember, children also need time to relax. So when planning your summer fun, don't forget that time spent together can be fun, educational, and most importantly, can create wonderful memories for you and your child.

For Your Information

Last day of school, June 17. Students dismissed at 11:30 a.m.

The end of the school year is a busy time for all students and their families. Please make note that Wednesday, **June 17** is the last day for Franconia—one day earlier than standard calendar schools. School will dismiss at 11:30 a.m.

We want pictures of your child reading

This summer, Franconia Elementary wants you to "Catch your Child Reading!" Send us a photo of your child reading anywhere, anytime this summer with a caption that includes your child's name, where he/she was reading, and what he/she was reading (book, magazine, newspaper, comic, cookbook, etc.). We will create a summer reading photo wall to greet our Franconia readers when they come to school in August.

We encourage families and Franconia staff to participate! Send photos by email to FranconiaReads@gmail.com. Send photos by U.S. mail to "Caught Reading" c/o Franconia Elementary, 6043 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA 22310.

Virginia's Standards of Learning tests continue

Students in grades 3-6 will continue Virginia's Standards of Learning (SOL) tests through June 4.

Make sure your children get plenty of rest and eat breakfast on test days. Try not to schedule appointments on test dates. The tests are not timed, so we cannot guarantee that your children will be finished in time to leave for an appointment. Help your children relax as they prepare for these tests. Encourage them to do their best and praise their 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

June 4—Social Studies

Grade 5

June 3—Science

Grade 4

June 2—Math

Grade 6

June 1—Social Studies

Franconia Elementary School

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Merrell Dade, Principal
Nancy Mercer, Asst. Principal

Last chance for Box Tops

It's your last chance to submit Box Tops for the school year. Please send them to school with your child by Monday, June 1. Remember, the class with the most box tops submitted will win an ice cream party. For multiple children, divide the box tops among each class. The PTA thanks you for supporting this great program.