

February 11, 2009

FRANKLIN SHERMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
6630 BRAWNER STREET
MCLEAN, VA. 22101



Pandagram

Vicki P. Duling, Ph.D., Principal

Eileen Czarnecki, Assistant Principal

Dear Parents,

We are pleased to announce that we are now able to lock the interior doors to the front entrance of our school. Beginning this week, you may have noticed that the inner doors are locked at approximately 9:15 a.m. and remain locked until dismissal at the end of the day. This safety method was incorporated as part of our renovation design to provide enhanced security throughout the day. Please know that if you arrive after 9:15 throughout the day that you will need to enter the front office to gain access to the rest of the building. As you enter the office, please sign in as always, obtain your visitor badge and exit through the office door into the main hallway to gain access to the school. We will continue to ask our staff to maintain their vigilance in questioning any adults in the building without guest badges. We appreciate your partnership in helping us to maintain a safe and secure school for our children.

Morning and afternoon kindergarten parents are reminded to be sure to accompany your child to the front lobby area where you must remain with your child until our school PM kindergarten personnel arrive to assume adult supervision for your child. We have observed parents dropping off students from cars stopped on Brawner Street and allowing students to walk across the bus loop. PLEASE know that although we know many parents are juggling various schedules, the safety of our students is top priority for all. If your PM kindergarten student does not ride the mid-day bus to school, all parents must accompany their student to the front lobby until they are received by a school member of the kindergarten staff. Thank you for understanding, respecting, and following this policy.

Until next time,

Vicki Duling, Principal
Eileen Czarnecki, Asst. Principal

Upcoming School Events

Monday, February 16th
Tuesday, February 17th
Monday, February 23rd
Wednesday, February 25th
Monday, March 2nd
Tuesday, March 3rd & 4th
Friday, March 6th

Holiday—No School
2nd grade field trip and 3rd grade field trip
Longfellow registration fair for rising 7th grade students
PTA meeting
Read Across America Day
5th grade SOL writing test
5th grade field trip



**Encouragement...The Water that Makes Us Grow
How Parents and Teachers Can Foster Growth**

By

Ramona McCullough, FCPS *Responsive Classroom*® Resource Teacher

Rudolf Driekurs, author of Children: the Challenge said, “Children need encouragement like a plant needs water. Discouragement is at the root of all misbehavior.” Children are always making decisions about themselves based on their perceptions of their experiences in life. These subconscious decisions become their beliefs that affect their behavior. Based on these beliefs, they either thrive or survive.

There is continuous debate between encouragement and praise. The difference is encouragement teaches children to manage their weaknesses and soar with their strengths. Praise is an evaluation by others and based upon outside approval.

An example of this difference:

PRAISE: “I’m proud of you for getting an A in math.”
(Ownership of achievement is not given to the person)

ENCOURAGEMENT: “That A reflects your hard work.”
(Recognizes ownership and responsibility for achievement)

As we take time to reflect upon our children’s learning, how can we use our words to encourage instead of praise or punish? How can we encourage solutions to problems and support continuing effort?

Consider some of these questions to check, explore, and invite children to reflect upon their progress:

“How do you feel about your grades/work?”

“What might you do differently?”

“What do you think about...?”

“You must feel proud about your work. What did you do to get that result?”

Our goal is to inspire and strengthen children through supportive feedback. As we reflect upon our choice of words, are we helping others to grow or wilt? Let’s work together to fill each other’s bucket with the water of encouragement.

Community Meeting Regarding Bell Schedule Changes

A report from the School Board’s Transportation Task Force offers recommendations to change school start and dismissal times and to improve the overall effectiveness of Fairfax County Public Schools’ (FCPS) transportation system. The changes would affect elementary, middle, and high school students. Because changing school start and dismissal times could affect work schedules, child care arrangements, and after-school activities—including athletics—the School Board wants to hear from the public about the pros and cons of the changes.

Seven community dialogue meetings will be held in February:

Tuesday, February 24, 7 to 9 p.m.

Annandale High School, 4700 Medford Drive, Annandale
Longfellow Middle School, 2000 Westmoreland Street, Falls Church
Oak View Elementary School, 5004 Sideburn Road, Fairfax

Wednesday, February 25, 7 to 9 p.m.

Herndon High School, 700 Bennett Street, Herndon
Rocky Run Middle School, 4400 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly

Thursday, February 26, 7 to 9 p.m.

Providence Elementary School, 3616 Jermantown Road, Fairfax
Whitman Middle School, 2500 Parkers Lane, Alexandria

In the event of inclement weather, a makeup dialogue session will be held on Tuesday, March 3, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road in the Falls Church area of Fairfax County. Citizens are encouraged to complete an online survey, available beginning Monday, February 9, at www.fcps.edu, to share their opinions about school start and dismissal times.

Additional information about the proposed changes to school start and dismissal times and the Transportation Task Force’s recommendations may be viewed at www.fcps.edu.