

June 10, 2009

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



Pandagram

Vicki P. Duling, Ph.D., Principal

Eileen Connor Czarnecki, Assistant Principal

June 10, 2009

Dear Franklin Sherman Families,

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some of my personal thoughts about the occurrences of the past three months. Each of us has played a part in what has transpired and I acknowledge that I have made missteps along the way which I am working hard to repair. I appreciate each person's heartfelt thoughts and am working each day to broaden my listening skills and subsequent actions with an open heart. We may not be able to agree with each person's unique perspective about issues, but we can determine ways to acknowledge their importance, respect each person's feelings, and agree to move toward planning ways for our school community to unite and ultimately become stronger than ever. I am committed to helping us move forward.

I believe our teachers and staff are an incredible group of people who feel passionately about their school and love our children. I see parents who work as partners with our school and who are committed to providing an outstanding learning opportunity. I believe that each and every person on our staff is talented, dedicated, and work hard each day to provide the best educational opportunity for our students. Change has come at us fast and furiously, not only from adjusting and readjusting to the physical surroundings, but also in adapting and accepting ongoing instructional changes. At the same time, we were all finding our way...with a new principal at the helm and new staff members joining each year. All of this has challenged us as individuals and members of a team ~ yet all the while our children and their education always came first---this is the true hallmark of each of the outstanding professionals that are the Franklin Sherman Elementary School staff!!!

Where do we go from here? Although several outcomes are possible, I am dedicated to making the last days of this year an opportunity for us to begin important planning for the future ~ one that helps to heal the hurt that has occurred, re-establishes trust, unites our school, and helps to propel us into an exciting future...where we may move forward as a united, stronger group of dedicated community...To this end, I invite you to join me in working for supporting and providing tolerance of each person's viewpoint, acceptance and forward thinking in our actions.

Community committees are being formed and teacher meetings are underway to structure avenues for all of us to work together to unify. I will share with you ongoing details and information as we plan for ways that all of us can share important thoughts and open dialogue for restoring our community of trust. Lastly, my door is always open and I encourage you to stop by and discuss any issues of concern you may have with me. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter ~ I look forward to working together with you and hope and dream for a positive future for us all.

Respectfully,

Vicki Duling

Thank you to all the planned, attended and helped to celebrate some wonderful events that have taken place in the last several days to include but not limited to:

- Field Day with fantastic shirts for all
- A fabulous first annual FLES concert on Monday morning with almost our entire school in attendance
- Presentations in many grade levels with culminating reader's theatre, geo cities, debates, presentations, Medieval fair research and designs...
- Rising kindergarten family play date on the FSES playground with another one organized for August
- A heart warming staff farewell luncheon for our beloved retiring teachers, Ann Soldz and Edwina McElroy
- End of the year celebrations and thank you's



Upcoming Dates

August 31, 2009	Teachers return for preparation week
September 3, 2009	Open House 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.
September 8, 2009	First Day of School 2009-10 school year
September 15, 2009	Back to School Night for preschool through 2nd grade
September 16, 2009	Back to School Night for 3rd grade through 6th grade

Have a great summer!