

# Franklin Sherman Elementary



## **FRANKLIN SHERMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER**

**AUGUST 30, 2009**

Welcome to the **2009 – 2010** school year at Franklin Sherman Elementary School! We are excited about the first day of school, on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. Over the summer, the administrative and support teams have been at work preparing for an outstanding year. We are looking forward to meeting our new students and becoming reacquainted with students returning to Franklin Sherman. In an effort to continue to assist you and your students with a smooth transition to the new school year, we wanted to provide you with the following information:

### **FRANKLIN SHERMAN NEW BELL SCHEDULE WILL BE 9:15- 3:55**

Due to the change in bell schedule, students will not be permitted to enter the building until **9:00 a.m.** The change will impact our Kiss and Ride schedule as well. Parents will not be able to drop their children off at school until **9:00 a.m.** There will not be adequate supervision in the building until this time. We appreciate your cooperation to help **keep our children safe** in the mornings.

### **PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF SCHOOL:**

- **On Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4 PM class lists will be posted on the front doors.** Lists with student first names and last initial will also be listed on the front page of the school web page at [www.fcps.edu/franklinshermanes](http://www.fcps.edu/franklinshermanes)
- **On Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> from 2:00-3:00 p.m.,** we will host our annual open house. This is an opportunity for students and parents to stop by and find their classroom and have a brief time to meet and greet with the teachers. This will be an opportunity for students and parents to add money to lunch cards, bring by medications to our School Clinic Aide, purchase PTA sponsored Supply kits, sign up for Parent View and become more familiar with the building. Students must be accompanied by their parents.

### **COMMUNICATION IS KEY:**

Communication is important and a renewed focus for us this school year. The following are some of the efforts your principals have planned to keep you informed:

- **Newsletter and Web Page:** The biweekly newsletter will keep you informed about what is happening at school. This newsletter is just one avenue we will use to share important information with you. The newsletter will be posted on the Franklin Sherman webpage.
- **Principal's Blog:** This communication vehicle is located on our front page of the school's website and is a format for interaction discussion and learning for all. Entries are posted when we have information to share and you will be alerted with a message that a new blog entry has been posted via a short KIT message. You may access our blog at: <http://principalsblog.edublogs.org/>.
- **Keep in Touch:** You no longer have to register; parents are automatically registered through our Student Information System. Therefore, it is very important to update your information on your Emergency Care Form or you can update through Parent View, [weCare@schools](mailto:weCare@schools).
- **Principal's weekly message:** A brief update usually sent out on Fridays through Keep in Touch sharing school news.
- **Parent View:** The Parent View account gives parents the opportunity to view their child's homework and other assignments online. Parent accounts will also give parents access to other important features like [WeCare@schools](mailto:WeCare@schools). [WeCare@schools](mailto:WeCare@schools) is the online system that allows parents to submit emergency care

information for their children online. This is a new component to our communication system and is a tremendous resource for students, teachers and parents.

The communication link can only be completed when we hear your questions and concerns as well as what works. Please feel free to contact teachers, counselor, or administrators if you are concerned about your child's adjustment to school.

*Vicki Duling*  
*Principal*

*Eileen Czarnecki*  
*Assistant Principal*

**A MESSAGE ABOUT KISS AND RIDE**

We are thrilled to share with you that our new and improved kiss and ride parking lot will make arrival and dismissal run smoothly and safely for our students and parents. The traffic flow and process will be changed slightly and the details and hopefully a map or diagram are coming soon. Please check back to the website for further information over the next few days.

**Franklin Sherman Front Office Staff**

703-506-7900

**New Office hours – 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

Vicki Duling.....Principal  
Eileen Czarnecki.....Asst. Principal  
Deborah Henderson..... Administrative Assistant  
Kathy Murphy.....Student Registrar  
Kathy Adams.....Office Assistant  
Ashley McKibben..... Counselor  
Lauren Forsythe.....Psychologist

**Franklin Sherman Elementary SCHOOL Website**

<http://www.fcps.edu/FranklinShermanES/>



We are looking forward to meeting you and introducing you to our wonderful school. Back to School Night for our **preschool -2<sup>nd</sup> grade** parents is **Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>**. For our **3<sup>rd</sup> grade through 6<sup>th</sup> grade** parents, Back to School Night will be Wednesday, **September 16<sup>th</sup>**. Both evenings' events will begin at **7:00 p.m.**

During these evenings, you will have a chance to meet some PTA members, meet your child's teachers and counselors as well as our administrators. You will also learn about classroom and school policies in addition to the curriculum to be studied in each class.

Take a moment of your time to join the PTA. Your support is appreciated.



**'KEEP IN TOUCH'**

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) offers an e-mail update service for parents, students, and community members interested in receiving timely information from the school system. Parents no longer have to update or subscribe to Keep in Touch. They are automatically enrolled from the information entered in our Student Information System. It is therefore, very important that all information (phone numbers and email are correct). You can update your information in Parent View or on the Emergency Care Form that is sent home in your child's first day packet.

The following information will be sent out in our email messages:

- Emergency announcements, including school closures due to inclement weather
- Monthly calendar press releases
- School Board business meeting agendas and summaries
- Events specifically for Franklin Sherman parents & students

As always we will continue to utilize the principal's blog, KIT messages and BlackBoard.com to assist parents in keeping abreast of important information that will help their children succeed.

**Parent View, weCare@school**

Our school participates in an online tool in FCPS 24-7: Parent View, weCare@school. The weCare@school provides a secure means to view, update and submit emergency care information for your child. It is fast, easy and safe. The weCare@school eases the burden on parents and schools to

collect and maintain emergency care information and improves the accuracy of this important information.

**How to access information on your FCPS student.**

1. Open Internet Explorer, 2. Go to <http://fcps.blackboard.com>,
3. Log in as the following: username: parentreg, password: newuser, 4. Click login. This gives you access to the FCPS 24-7 Parent Portal module. 5. Registration module, to register follow the onscreen instructions. *Help is available online and by phone at 1-866-434-8880.*



## OPENING OF SCHOOL INFORMATION

- o Tuesday, September 8th is the first day of school. It is a regular, full day: 9:15-3:55p.m.
- o A list of bus stops and first stop pickup times for regular education students entitled to school system transportation is provided and has already been mailed to you. Some students in preschool special education programs will receive transportation information in the mail or by phone. Please be patient during the first weeks of school while the Transportation Office adjusts bus routes and pick-up times.
- o **Students who are driven or walk to school should not arrive before 9:00 a.m.** Parents who drop-off students in the morning and pick them up in the afternoon, please watch for details coming soon about our new kiss and ride procedures. Keep in mind that if you need to pick up your student before the 3:55 dismissal parking in the bus loop is not permitted. Parking in the lower lot can possibly be blocked by the kiss and ride flow and new patterns. The church lot across the street is often used for overflow parking.
- o Questions about class procedures, activities, or a grade should be addressed to the individual teacher before calling a counselor or administrator.

## SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

The goal of our clinic is to ensure that each student will enjoy a healthy and safe school year. Our School Health Aide, Ms. Deb Marlette, may be reached at 703-506-7910/12. She is available to answer your questions and provide guidance.

Advise Ms. Marlette of any special health concerns for your child. Keep a sick child home; it is difficult to concentrate on learning when one is ill. Generally, a parent will be called for any potentially serious illness at school or if the child remains in the clinic longer than fifteen minutes.

Please complete all parts of the **Emergency Care Form**, which will be sent home with your child on the first day of school. It includes information that allows us to call you in case of an emergency. If at any time during the school year parents will be away from home for an extended period, please advise the school of an alternate adult contact who will have the legal authority to make medical decisions in an emergency.

## H1N1 Update from FCPS

Guidelines from Fairfax County Public Schools pertaining to the H1N1 concerns are updated daily on the public web located at this address.

<http://www.fcps.edu/news/swineflu.htm>

**We will continue to teach and remind children how important it is to wash their hands and to use the guidelines listed below.**

## **Stay home if you're sick**

The [Fairfax County Health Department](#) recommends that students or staff with influenza-like symptoms (fever with a cough or sore throat) stay at home and out of school until at least **24 hours** after they are free of fever, or signs of a fever without the use of fever-reducing medicines. If students have flu-like symptoms, they should not participate in any school activities, in school-aged child care (SACC) or be out in the community except to seek medical care. If a child appears to have an influenza-like illness when he or she arrives at school, a parent or guardian will be notified and asked to pick up the child.

Parents should ensure that their emergency information is up to date and that they pick up their children when notified. When calling the school attendance line to report your child's illness, parents should provide specific information about their child's reason for absence. If the child is ill, please be specific as to a physician's diagnosis or the symptoms your child is having such as fever, cough, sore throat, headache, and diarrhea or vomiting.

## **Wash your hands and cover your cough**

Protect yourself by following standard disease prevention recommendations. Use tissues and dispose of them properly. Cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing, or cough into your upper sleeve, not into your hands. Wash your hands regularly with soap and water for 15-20 seconds. Alcohol-based sanitizers (containing at least 60 percent alcohol) are also effective. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth to prevent spreading germs. Parents should model this behavior to their children.