

# HILL HIGHLIGHTS

## "WE GO THE EXTRA MILE!"

Freedom Hill Elementary



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

### **We're Going Paperless!**

We have decided to print copies of Hill Highlights through the first quarter. Future issues will be emailed to families every other Tuesday and back issues can be found on our website. Please make sure you have signed up for *Keep in Touch*, FCPS's automated notification system. *Keep in Touch* can be accessed at [www.fcps.edu/kit/](http://www.fcps.edu/kit/). If you do not have an email account, we will be happy to print a copy for you. Just let us know.

### **Elementary School Attendance and Engagement**

FCPS is using a new **Automated Attendance Calling system** this year. Attendance will be checked daily here at 9:30 a.m. **It is critical that parents call our attendance line before 9:30 a.m. to report your child's absence.** Calls and e-mails will follow via the Automated Attendance Calling system. Freedom Hill's attendance line number is 703-506-7878.

### **565**

I am excited to announce that our enrollment has climbed to 565 students, the highest total since 1990. I want to thank all of our parents who attended Back To School Night and I wanted to share some of what I said when I addressed parents and teachers in our school cafeteria. "Tonight is a special night – my wife and I loved attending as parents. We got to see and hear my daughter's teachers. We got to hear the caring and hard work of teachers. We got to see the classrooms. We would race home to wake our daughter up. As she got older we would sit down with her and turn off the TV to talk about the teachers and the work she was doing in school. Always, always we kept it exciting and positive. Now, she did not always like every class and sometimes she said she was bored – those were teachable moments as parents. Back to School Night was just another great opportunity to reinforce our values that a good well-rounded education will help our children enjoy an enriched, successful and happy life.

"Parents, tonight, is about you, our community, and our teachers AND the precious children that you entrust with us for their elementary education. We share a symbiotic relationship – we work together, home and school, to guide our students to be intrinsically motivated to become lifelong learners and contributing members of society.

"Thank you for believing that Freedom Hill will help your children reach his or her highest potential. That belief makes a BIG difference! Each year your children wonder - Does that teacher believe in me? The answer here is YES! Does this teacher believe that I can do anything? Be anything? Create anything? Dream anything? Become anything? YES, here at Freedom Hill we believe in each of our 559 children! This staff surrounding you now makes this a safe and good place for your children every day – it is my honor to introduce them to you now."

### **Parent Information Nights – Advanced Academics**

REMINDER! On Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup> we will be hosting our Parent Information Night regarding our Advanced Academic Program (previously known as the Gifted & Talented Program). The evening will begin in the cafeteria at 7:00 p.m. Please come meet our new Advanced Academic Resource Teacher (AART), Theresa Nolan, and hear about the referral process as well as an overview of the levels of service provided to students.

Each year, the county offers parents an opportunity to hear this same information from the Advanced Academic Programs Office first hand. These large group meetings are held in area high schools, so please feel free to attend any of these sessions as well. All sessions run from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. and are open to the public. No registration is necessary.

- October 8 McLean High School
- October 13 Oakton High School
- October 15 Annandale High School
- October 19 West Potomac High School

### **Breakfast and Lunch**

Fairfax County Public Schools is pleased to announce that it now offers three ways to pay for school meals:

1. **Online**—Using [www.myLunchMoney.com](http://www.myLunchMoney.com). The service is easy to use, convenient, private, and secure. There is a convenience fee of \$1.95 per transaction. Once the account is open, parents may check the fund account at any time from computer or phone.
2. **Check**—Write a check, made out to *Freedom Hill Food and Nutrition Services*, and bring the check to the food service manager's office. A parent who wants his or her check payments to be for meals only (no à la carte items) should write it on the check or tell the manager.
3. **Cash**—Cash may be brought to the food service manager's office for deposit in student accounts, or students may pay cash for breakfast and lunch on a daily basis.

### **FCPS, Fairfax County Government to Hold FY 2011 Budget Community Dialogues**

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) and the Fairfax County government are teaming up again this year to solicit community input to help meet a significant projected budget deficit for FY 2011. Fairfax County is in the midst of a multi-year cyclical downturn requiring that county and school decision-makers continue to make expenditure and revenue adjustments.

The school system's ongoing challenge is to develop a budget with an appropriate level of services that is both sustainable and acceptable to the community. As part of the budget process, FCPS and Fairfax County are hosting a series of budget community dialogues in September, October, and November. Citizens are invited to engage in facilitated small-group discussions to help find solutions to close the FY 2011 budget gap. Registration is required.

Community dialogue meetings will be held as follows:

- **Tuesday, September 29**, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the McLean Community Center.
- **Wednesday, October 14**, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Marshall High School cafeteria and the South County Secondary School cafeteria.
- **Saturday, October 24**, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Centreville Regional Library, the Reston Regional Library, and the John Marshall Library.
- **Thursday, October 29**, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the South Lakes High School cafeteria and the Woodson High School cafeteria.
- **Saturday, November 14**, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Kings Park Library, the Sherwood Regional Library, and the George Mason Regional Library.

FCPS and Fairfax County officials will give budget presentations, followed by small-group discussions facilitated by staff members. To register, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget) or call 703-324-2391, TTY 711. Citizens who are unable to attend the community dialogues are welcome to pass along their comments and suggestions by calling 703-324-9400 or completing a budget feedback form at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget).

**Flu Update**

FCPS would like to remind you of the everyday steps that can help prevent the transmission of flu viruses:




- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. If hands are not visibly soiled, hand sanitizers containing at least 60 percent alcohol are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you are sick with a flu-like illness, the CDC recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. (Your fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.) Keep away from others as much as possible to keep from making others sick.

**Arrival-Dismissal**

School hours have changed slightly from last year. Classes begin at 9:15 a.m. and dismissal is now at 1:25 p.m. on Monday and 3:55 p.m. on Tuesday-Friday. Students should arrive at school between 9:00 a.m. and 9:10 a.m. To ensure the safety of our students please plan ahead so that children do not get to school before 9:00 a.m. Bus arrival/dismissal will function as it did last year, and we will use our new Kiss and Ride plan, which is similar to last year.

# SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
28	29	30	1	2  Assembly "Furia Flamenca" 1:45 K-3 <sup>rd</sup> 2:45 4 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup>
5	6	7	8 Advanced Academic Parent Information Meeting 7:00 p.m.	9
12 <b>COLUMBUS                      DAY                      HOLIDAY</b> 	13 CUSTODIAN APPRECIATION WEEK 	14 <b>SCA                      SPEECHES                      AND VOTING</b>	15	16