

# HILL HIGHLIGHTS

## "WE GO THE EXTRA MILE!"

Freedom Hill Elementary



Tim Stanley, Principal  
Jessica Lewis, Acting Assistant Principal

November 10, 2009  
<http://www.fcps.edu/FreedomHillES>

### **This is Really It! We've Gone Paperless!**

This our first copy of Hill Highlights online as we are going green! Future issues will be emailed to families every other Tuesday. Please make sure you have registered for *Keep In Touch* at [www.fcps.edu/kit/](http://www.fcps.edu/kit/) and provided the office with your current email address(s). If you do not have an email account, we will be happy to print a copy for you. Just let us know.

### **Parent – Teacher Conferences**

It was wonderful to see many of you here recently to participate in parent-teacher conferences. These meetings are an opportunity for teachers to get to know more about our students, and for parents to hear about the academic and social progress of your child. This is a chance for parents to talk with your child about their academic work and work habits, and then to set goals for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. Your sincere interest and support of what goes on in the classroom and around our school contributes in a most positive way to the academic success of our students. Thank you!

### **Veterans Day**

On Veterans Day, Wednesday, November 11, we pay special tribute to America's 25 million living veterans. We honor them for exemplifying the true character of the American spirit. Freedom Hill will honor veterans with a program on Wednesday, November 11. We will hold a short program in the gym from 9:40 to 10:10. The children will sing and we are delighted to have one of our parents as our guest speaker. **Please get this invitation out to all Freedom Hill family members who are veterans.** Thanks!

### **Best Wishes**

I am writing to inform you that Mrs. Julia Savia, office assistant, has left Freedom Hill as of this week to care for her family. Many of you know Mrs. Savia as the person ultimately responsible for the Freedom Hill calendar, building usage, school pictures, volunteer hours, and our Thanksgiving Lunch. I cannot imagine our school without Mrs. Savia but we wish her only the very best. We thank her for all she has given to our Freedom Hill students and community.

### **Your Views and Opinions Are Important to Us!**

This winter a random sample of Freedom Hill parents will receive the Parent Opinion Survey. This survey is part of the Principal Performance Evaluation Program and offers parents an opportunity to provide anonymous input about various issues related to our school. These include safety, parent involvement, curriculum, communications, and expectations for student achievement and behavior.

The survey will arrive in the mail in early December 2009 and will be returned directly to the Fairfax County Public Schools Office of Student Testing for processing. If you receive a copy of the Parent Opinion Survey, please take a few minutes to complete and return the survey. Your opinions do matter.

### **Telephone Parent Information Line Available in Korean and Spanish**

Parents who speak Korean or Spanish can call a telephone information line to help them learn general information about FCPS and to receive support if they are having difficulty communicating with their child's school due to a language barrier. The Parent Information Line numbers are:

- Spanish 703-764-7361
- Korean 703-764-7363

A parent may call at any time, leave a message in his or her language, and receive a return phone call in that language from an FCPS staff member within 24 hours.

### **Office of Transportation Services After-Hours Emergency Telephone Number**

We know that your number one concern as a parent is your child's safety. We also know that it is frustrating—or even frightening—when you need to call someone for information about your student's whereabouts after school hours and the phones are not being answered. **If your child normally rides a bus home** and you cannot get in touch with him or her, contact the transportation office at **703-446-2000 until 5:00p.m.** After 5:00 p.m., or **if your child normally walks home**, contact the FCPS school security office at **703-764-2400**. In an emergency, the dispatcher can contact a school or a transportation staff member to help you.

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

FCPC is using a new **Automated Attendance Calling system** this year. Attendance will be checked daily here at Freedom Hill by 9:30 a.m. **It is critical that parents call our Attendance line at 703-506-7878 before 9:30 a.m.** Calls and e-mails will follow at approximately 10:30 a.m. via the Automated Attendance Calling system.

### **Parent Tip Sheet: How to Talk So Kids Will Listen . . . and Talk . . . to You**

Parents can do a number of things—especially when they're upset—that cause kids to tune them out. Heeding these do's and don'ts will help you get your child's attention and cooperation.

- **DON'T lecture.** Nothing makes a youngster's eyes glaze over faster than a long-winded, one-way monologue.

- **DON'T moralize.** When you say things like—"Don't you understand? If we expect people to be polite to us, we have to be polite to them. You wouldn't want anyone doing that to you, would you?"—kids feel you're talking down to them. Why should they listen to someone who thinks they're dumb and worthless?
- **DON'T use clichés.** Lines like, "This is for your own good" and "You'll thank me for this one day" draw attention away from the real issues. Kids want to hear the specific reasons you have for a decision.
- **DON'T try to make your child feel guilty.** It's good to let children know how their actions affect you. But they'll feel manipulated if you say things like, "How could you!" and play the martyr—"You're putting me in my grave!"
- **DON'T speak in extremes**—saying things like, "I'll never trust you again" or "You're always late."
- **DO get your child's attention.** Stop what you're doing and focus on him or her. Get close to your child. Touch your child on the shoulder. Look your child in the eye.
- **DO reduce noisy distractions** when you are talking to your child. Turn off the radio and the TV.
- **DO show an interest** in what your child thinks and feels. Give reasons for your decision or position. Check to see if your child understands. Ask your child to share her side of the issue. Acknowledge what your child says and try to empathize—even if you disagree.
- **DO ask specific concrete questions.** Not, "How was school today?" but "What do you like best in math?"

**Note:** Copyright 2009. Reprinted with permission from the Parent Institute. Additional tip sheets and other resources for parents can be found on the Family and School Partnerships web site at <http://www.fcps.edu/ccofam/ptips.htm>.

**SCHOOL—VISION STATEMENT**

Freedom Hill Elementary School is developing into a community of continuous inquiry and improvement--a Professional Learning Community. We are dedicated to guiding our students to be intrinsically motivated to become contributing members of society. This goal is becoming embedded in our school culture and increasingly drives the work we do everyday.

**SCHOOL—MISSION STATEMENT**






Freedom Hill Elementary School creates and develops students who:

- thrive and grow academically
- respect community
- become lifelong learners

**SCHOOL—CORE VALUES/BELIEFS**

Our students will exhibit self-esteem and perseverance. Our students will take risks, volunteer and love learning.



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9	10 Progress Reports Distributed to Students 	11 <b>VETERAN'S DAY ASSEMBLY</b> 	12	13
16	17	18	19 <i>Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon</i> 	20
 <b>BOOK FAIR WEEK!</b> 				
23	24	25 Students Dismissed 2 Hours Early	26 Thanksgiving Holiday 	27 Thanksgiving Holiday 