



The Graham Road Runner

Graham Road Focus School for Language & Fine Arts

Principals' Newsletter, September 30, 2010

Terry Dade, Principal

Aileen Flaherty, Assistant Principal

Main Office: 571-226-2700

Attendance Line: 571-226-2727

www.fcps.edu/GrahamRoadES

Back-to-School Night Review

The Graham Road staff wishes to thank the many families who came to Back-to-School Night to learn about their children's educational endeavors for the year, and to meet the staff. Ms. Bath, technology specialist, captured the night in photos, and students enjoyed a photo show the next morning.

If you were unable to attend, please contact your child's teacher or the parent liaisons to set up a parent-teacher conference. Conferences will be held on November 1 and 2.

PTA Events

The first PTA event was a 6th Grade Car Wash which was held on September 25. The goal of the event was to raise money for 6th grade activities. This event was organized by Carola Valdez, PTA Vice President. Ms Valdez was joined by about 25 6th graders and a few staff members, all of whom spent the afternoon washing and drying cars. Approximately \$250 dollars was raised at this event. Thank you to Ms. Valdez, the PTA, and all others who participated in the 6th Grade Car Wash!

The next PTA event is a Fall Festival. This event will be held on Friday October 29 in the evening. Please come to the next PTA meeting on Tuesday October 12 at 7 p.m. in the library to learn more!

Meet the Parent Liaisons

Graham Road has two staff members serving as parent liaisons this year. Ms. Jackie Camargo, who is new to GRES, is our full time liaison. Ms. Rodriguez, who is a returning staff member, divides her time between the Parent Center and the library. Ms. Camargo and Ms. Rodriguez are both English and Spanish speakers, but they are here to help ALL parents who wish to have their assistance. Ms. Camargo and Ms. Rodriguez can be reached at 571-226-2755.

Primary Testing

The month of October brings different types of testing to the primary grades. All kindergarteners and third graders will participate in vision and hearing screenings which are carried out in all FCPS schools at these two grade levels. Ms. Valdez, clinic assistant, will contact parents if follow-up is needed.

During the week of October 4, first and second graders will take the Naglieri Nonverbal Abilities Test (NNAT). This test is a measure of general ability and a predictor of scholastic achievement for children in all grades. During the week of October 18, second graders will take the Cognitive Abilities (CogAt) test. This test, which is also a predictor of scholastic achievement, has verbal, nonverbal and quantitative batteries. Either the NNAT or the CogAt will also be given to students who are new to FCPS. The tests are scored offsite. Results of these tests will be sent home when they are returned to us in early winter.

Forms and More Forms

The opening of school is marked by lots and lots of forms and papers that require parent/guardian signatures. Please ensure that you have signed Emergency Care and Health Information forms, the Home-School Compact, and the Student Responsibilities and Rights (SRR) sheet from the SRR booklet. Also, please be aware that Free and Reduced Meal Applications must be submitted each year. These forms were mailed to homes in early August, but they are also available in the office.

Please contact the office throughout the year as needed to update phone numbers and other contact information.

October 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 <i>1st Grade NNAT Testing</i>	6 <i>2nd Grade NNAT Testing</i>	7	8	9
10	11 <i>COLUMBUS DAY HOLIDAY</i>	12 <i>PTA Meeting 7 p.m.</i>	13	14	15 <i>Kindergarten Field Trip to Old Mine</i>	16
17	18	19 <i>2nd Grade CogAt Testing</i>	20 <i>2nd Grade CogAt Testing</i>	21	22 <i><u>2nd Gr. Testing</u> <u>1st Gr Field Trip</u> <u>4th Gr. Field Trip</u> Percussion*</i>	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 <i><u>1st Qtr. Ends</u> <u>Fall Pictures</u> <u>Walk for Homeless</u> PTA Fall Festival</i>	30
31					<i>*Percussion Ensemble performs at the Museum of American History</i>	

November Preview

November 1st-2nd

- *No School—
Parent Teacher Conferences*

November 2nd

- *PTA Election Day Bake Sale*

November 9th

- *Percussion Ensemble performs
at GMU*

November 24th

- *2-hour Early Dismissal*

November 25th-26th

- *No School—
Thanksgiving Holiday*