



# THE GREAT FALLS CURRENT

Great Falls Elementary School Website: [www.fcps.k12.va.us/GreatFallsES](http://www.fcps.k12.va.us/GreatFallsES)  
Main Office 703-757-2100 Fax 703-757-2197 Fairfax County Public Schools: [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu)

24 Hour Attendance Line: 703-757-2111 Please call by **8:40 a.m.** whenever your child will be absent or tardy

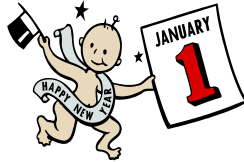


Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> is the last day of school before winter break. This is a full day of school.

**WINTER BREAK- 12/23/11 – 1/2/2012**

Students return to school on Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## JANUARY 2012



- 1/3 Students Return to School
- 1/6 Geography Bee, Grades 4-6
- 1/13 PTA Skate Night, 7:30 p.m., Skatequest
- 1/16 MLK Holiday – SCHOOL CLOSED**
- 1/20 6th Gr. Field Trip- Building Museum
- 1/23 JIP Information Night, 7:00 pm
- 1/26 Snow Date for JIP
- 1/27 End of Second Quarter
- 1/30 -31 Teacher Workdays – SCHOOL CLOSED**

## FEBRUARY 2012



- 2/1 Begin Third Quarter
- 2/3 AAP Parent Referrals Due
- 2/7 Progress Reports Sent Home
- 2/10 PTA Bingo Night and Bake Sale
- 2/15 Scripps National Spelling Bee, Grades 4-6
- 2/16 Strings Concert, 2:00 & 7:00 p.m.
- 2/20 President's Day Holiday-SCHOOL CLOSED**
- 2/29 4<sup>th</sup> Gr. Field Trip- NSO

Reminder: Grades 2-6 parent referrals for AAP Center program are due by February 3, 2012

### KINDERGARTEN PARENT ORIENTATION

**MARCH 29, 2012, 9:00 am.** Please pass this date on to friends, neighbors, etc., who may have a child eligible for kindergarten next school year.

### HAPPY RETIREMENT MRS. MILLER!

Please join us in congratulating Mrs. Faye Miller on her retirement from Fairfax County Public Schools. Mrs. Miller has been employed with FCPS for 20 years, and has been a staple in our front office for over 15 years. She began her career with the Office of Food and Nutrition Services working in various school cafeterias until she joined the staff of GFES as cafeteria manager. In 1995, she joined our office staff as a Student Information Assistant. Her last day will be January 31, 2011.



The Millers plan to retire to West Virginia, and look forward to spending time with their family, including six grandchildren, and traveling the country in their new RV.

We will miss Faye, and wish her a joyful future of health and happiness.



### STAFF HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

We would like to thank the PTA Hospitality Committee, and all the parents who volunteered their time and culinary expertise for the staff holiday luncheon. The food was delicious, and everyone was grateful for the gift cards donated by so many of our wonderful GFES families.

The time and effort put into this luncheon was very evident and very much appreciated by the staff.

**Dress For Recess** – Please make sure your child is prepared and dressed properly for outside recess. Classes may go outside throughout the winter months, and shorts, t-shirts, sweatshirts, etc., will not provide enough warmth on cold winter days. Hats, gloves, and a winter coat are highly recommended for all students.



## TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS/STUDENT APPLICATIONS

If you would like your child's teacher to complete recommendations for private testing or private schools, please bring these requests directly to the main office, not the teacher. It is necessary to complete a Release of Confidential Information form before the paperwork can be forwarded to the teacher. Envelopes, stamped and pre-addressed to the receiver are also required.

### THE BUZZ ON THE BEES

During the month of January, Great Falls Elementary students in grades 4-6 will participate in the **National Geographic Geography Bee**.

Students will participate in class and grade level geography bees. The winners from each classroom will meet at a school wide geography bee on January 6<sup>th</sup>. The winner will represent GFES at the National Geographic Geography Bee

GFES students in grades 4-6 will also participate in the **Scripps National Spelling Bee** on February 15th.



### Bailey's Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences and Hunters Woods Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences Information Nights

FCPS magnet schools Bailey's Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences and Hunters Woods Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences **will be holding information nights** to inform parents of the process for applying for admission.

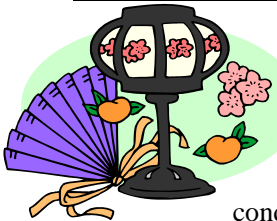
For details, including registration and applications, visit the school websites:

Hunters Woods: [www.fcps.edu/HuntersWoodsES/](http://www.fcps.edu/HuntersWoodsES/)  
Bailey's : [www.fcps.edu/BaileysES/](http://www.fcps.edu/BaileysES/)

### MRS. McELHINNEY'S 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS BY CREATING BEAUTIFUL GINGERBREAD HOUSES.



### JAPANESE PARTIAL IMMERSION PROGRAM



Partial-immersion is a means of acquiring a foreign language through content matter instruction. Students spend half of the day studying the regular grade level curriculum in classes conducted in Japanese. These classes

include science, math, health and Japanese culture. The other half of the day is conducted in English.

Students begin the Japanese Immersion Program in the first grade. Parents of 2011-2012 kindergarten students interested in having their child enter the Japanese Immersion Program for the 2012-2013 school year are invited to attend an information night on **Monday, January 23 at 7:00 p.m.** in our school cafeteria. If the meeting is cancelled due to inclement weather, it will be rescheduled for January 26th. Applications will be accessible on-line at: [www.fcps.edu/DIS/OHSICS/forlang/partial.htm](http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/OHSICS/forlang/partial.htm).

**Registration for First Grade Partial Immersion Lottery**  
**Registration will open January 3, 2011 and close February 18th, 2011 at 4:30 PM.**

Students who reside outside the attendance area are also eligible but parents must provide transportation. Parents will be notified by mail about selection or placement on a waiting list.

Parents, please call in cases of **EMERGENCY ONLY** in the afternoon to change children's transportation. The end of the school day is hectic, and there is limited time to track down the teacher and to notify your child of the change. Last minute changes are confusing for children and staff. Please use the Change of Transportation forms sent home the beginning of the school year for any changes in your child's daily transportation.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY**



# PTA Newsletter

## Art Enrichment

This month, students (and hopefully, their families!) are being introduced to one of DC's hidden treasures: James McNeill Whistler's Peacock Room, which is a permanent part of the Smithsonian's Freer Gallery. Decorated in rich hues of blue, green and gilt gold, with a peacock theme, a Chinese porcelain collection, and a Whistler masterpiece inside, and with a fascinating story of clashing personalities behind it, the room is one of the most glorious in Western culture. Students will be acting as artist, architect, collector and decorator as they create their own porcelain collection and build a peacock room to house it.

addition to some never before seen offerings. The calendar of offerings will be posted soon at [www.gfepta.org](http://www.gfepta.org). Registration will open at 8pm on Wednesday, January 4th. With the exception of Chess Club, Go Club and Girls on the Run, all classes will begin the week of February 6th.

Questions? Please contact Marissa Fallon or Lisa Hodge at [ASPGFES@gfepta.org](mailto:ASPGFES@gfepta.org).

## School Board News:

During its Dec 15, 2011 meeting, the Fairfax County School Board voted 8-4 to allow schools to install indoor video surveillance cameras as a tool to deter theft and bullying. The Washington Post reported "High school principals who can demonstrate community support for surveillance cameras can install them in cafeterias, hallways and other gathering places. The devices won't be mandated countywide, and they will not be permitted in locker rooms, restrooms or classrooms." However, this vote will likely be revisited next year, as half of the current board's 12 members are retiring and will be replaced next week by winners of the November 2011 elections, several of which had campaigned against the cameras.

On another issue, the school board approved on a consent agenda two mathematics textbook series that schools may choose to use: (1) a continuation of the Scott Foresman series currently used, or (2) an alternative published by Houghton Mifflin. Both sets of books were on display for community review in Falls Church at the Leis Center from Oct 18 - Nov 30.

For more information about school board activities, see <http://fcps.edu/schlbd/index.shtml>



Save the Date!!! **Skate Night**  
**January 13, 2012**

**7:30 to 9:30 pm**

Skatequest

1800 Michael Faraday Ct, Reston, Va

\$10.00 per skater  
**FREE RENTALS!**

Save the Date!!



**Bingo Night and Bake Sale**  
**Friday, Feb 10th**

## After School Programs Winter/Spring Session

Thanks to everyone who supported our Fall After School program. Plans are almost finalized for the Winter/Spring session. Several favorites will return, in