

GREAT FALLS CURRENT

Principal, Ernest Leighty

Assistant Principal, Barbara DeHart

Main Office: 703-757-2100

Attendance: 703-757-2111

Fax Machine: 703-757-2197

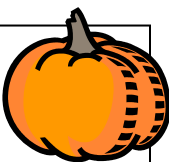
Clinic: 703-757-2110

Cafeteria: 703-757-2121

Websites: Great Falls Elementary School:

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

OCTOBER 2011



- 10/4 3rd Grade Field Trip
 10/6 PTA General Meeting 9:00 a.m.
 10/10 Columbus Day Holiday – School Closed
 10/19 AAP Parent Information Mtg., 9:00 a.m.
 10/20 Kindergarten Field Trip
 10/21 Student Individual Photo Day
 10/28 PTA Costume Dance

NOVEMBER

- 11/4 End of First Grading Period
 11/7-8 Student Holidays-Teacher Workdays
 11/10 6th Grade Field Trip-Innerquest
 11/11 PTA Adult Mixer/Fundraiser
 11/15 Naglieri Testing - 1st Grade
 11/16 Naglieri Testing – 3rd-6th Grades
 11/17 PTA General Meeting, 9:00 a.m.
 11/23 2 Hour Early School Closing- 1:20 p.m.
 11/24-25 Thanksgiving Holidays

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

If your child will be staying after school for an activity, please remind your child the morning of the scheduled activity. Please do not call the office requesting we remind your child to stay. We cannot call into children's classrooms, disturbing instructional time, to remind children stay for an after school program. We highly recommend you have a back up plan in case you are not home, and your child rides the bus home. Does he/she have a key to get inside? Should he/she go to a neighbor's house?
Please be prepared and discuss this with your child.

A copy of the 2011-2012 Parent/Student Handbook was sent home with the oldest or only child in Great Falls Elementary. The handbook is also available online. Visit the school website www.fcps.edu/GreatFallsES and click on the link .

KISS & RIDE AM DROP OFF: 8:15-8:35 am

Please do not drop your child off before 8:15 am. Staff members are not available until this time and students are not permitted inside the building without adult supervision.

Kiss & Ride ends at 8:35 am. At this time the doors are locked as our staff members must be in the school building to begin the instructional day. **If no adult is present at the drop off point, please park and walk your child into the school.**

Call the school's attendance line, before 9:00 a.m., when your child is absent or tardy.
703-757-2111 is a voicemail service and available 24-7.

HOMEWORK REQUESTS: If you would like to request homework for your child, leave a message at this time. Homework will be ready for pick up in the main office at the end of the school day. If you prefer the homework be sent home with another student, leave the student's full name and teacher's name.

Assignments are also posted online on the 24-7 Learning website, also known as Blackboard.

FROM THE OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION

- Students are limited to 1 friend on the bus, and are limited to 2 transportation changes per month to avoid overcrowding.
- Bus 9 is currently filled to capacity and cannot accommodate visiting students.
- Students who participate in Band or Strings may bring their musical instrument on the school bus as long as they can hold the instrument on their lap. Instruments cannot be placed in the walkway or on the floor as this poses a safety hazard.
- **If you have concerns or problems relative to the transportation of your child, please contact the Transportation Office (703-249-7100) The office is open until 5:00 p.m. After 5:00 p.m., emergency calls will be handled by the Office of Safety and Security at 571-423-2000.**

Changes of Student Transportation

Monday, October 3, is the first day students may go home with one another directly from school, by school bus or private transportation. Changes of Transportation forms were sent home, along with instructions on how to use them. **Please use the Change of Transportation (COT) Forms whenever your child has a change in their normal routine of going home, or if they would like to bring a school friend home.** Please limit COT usage for play dates to twice a month.

Many thanks to COT Chairperson, Judy Meeks, for preparing the COT forms for our families, and for coordinating a schedule for our parent volunteers.

Earn Money for Our School by Shopping at Your Favorite Stores



Target Take Charge of Education: Up to 1% of every purchase made with a Target REDcard is donated to the school. Designate Great Falls as your school by going to: www.Target.com/tcoe, or call 1-800-316-6142.

Office Depot: When purchasing school or office supplies at Office Depot give them our ID # at the register (70103839). We will earn 5% of the purchase.

Inkjet Recycling: Send in your empty inkjet cartridges for recycling. Great Falls earns up to \$1.50 per cartridge. A great way to help the environment and earn money for our school!



**Community
USE™**

Effective October 17, 2011 at 5:00 p.m., the building use application (ADM-20) will no longer be submitted for community use requests. The public will apply online through a system appropriately called "Community Use". Detailed information will be available on the FCPS Community Use website www.fcps.edu/fts/comuse beginning October 17.



Welcome our new Preschool Special Education Staff Members

The preschool program is a special education, class based, half day program. It is designed to help children participate in age appropriate activities which can be a struggle for children with learning and/or physical disabilities.

Pictured left to right; teacher, Lauren Pinkston, aide Logan Parcells, and teacher Jennifer Spohn.

ADVANCED ACADEMIC PROGRAMS (AAP) CONTINUUM OF SERVICES

PARENT INFORMATION MEETING AT GREAT FALLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

A parent information meeting will be held at Great Falls Elementary School on October 19, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. The advanced academic resource teacher will provide information about levels of service and examples at Great Falls Elementary School as well as explain and answer questions about the screening processes for part-time school based and Level IV services. The meeting is open to all K-6 parents.

SCREENING

Multiple criteria are reviewed to determine eligibility for all FCPS Advanced Academic Programs. The local school committee determines student eligibility for part-time school-based services. The countywide central selection committee determines eligibility for full-time AAP (Level IV) placement.

TESTING

Each fall all FCPS first grade students are administered the Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT). Students in second through seventh grades who do not have an NNAT score may also be administered the NNAT. Each fall all FCPS second grade students are administered the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT). Students in third through seventh grades who do not have a CogAT score may also be administered the CogAT. A second grade screening pool is established using the test results from first and second grade testing. Students in the second grade pool are automatically screened for full-time AAP (Level IV) placement. Parents or guardians may exercise a one-time retest option during the fall testing cycle.

REFERRALS for FULL-TIME ADVANCED ACADEMIC PLACEMENT LEVEL IV (Grades 2-7)

Parents or guardians of students not in the second grade screening pool may initiate the full-time AAP (Level IV) screening process by completing and submitting an **AAP Level IV Referral Form to the local school principal no later than February 3, 2012.** No late referrals will be accepted. Second graders **not** in the pool and **all** third through seventh graders are screened only by referral. Forms are available on the AAP website (www.fcps.edu/DIS/aap) and in the *Parent Information Packet* available at the local school. (Please note: Parents or guardians of students who are in the 2nd grade pool will be notified by the school. Students who are not in the 2nd grade pool will not receive notification. The benchmark score used to create the 2nd grade pool will be published on the Advanced Academic Programs website mid-January.)