



GREAT FALLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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NOVEMBER

11/26 **Early Dismissal – 1:05 p.m.**
11/27-28 Thanksgiving Holiday

DECEMBER

12/1 FLE Information Sessions
12/11-13 Barnes & Noble Book Fair
12/17 4th Grade Field Trip
12/24-1/2 Winter Break

JANUARY

1/8 JIP Information Night
1/14 GT Parent Info Meeting

Family Life Education

As a part of Family Life Education (FLE), Human Growth and Development classes for 5th and 6th grade will begin the week of Dec 15th. Parents will have the opportunity to review and ask questions about the curriculum and materials. Information sessions will be held on **Monday, December 1st**:

- 5th grade curriculum and videos will be presented in the library at **1:00 p.m.**
- 6th grade curriculum and videos will be presented in Ms. Rogers's classroom, rm. 12, at **1:30 p.m.**

If you would like to opt-out your child, forms will be provided at this time.

Newsletters to go Electronic

Beginning January 2009, we will start using electronic notification to send our school and PTA newsletters. The newsletters will be sent via "Keep in Touch" (KIT). This is the same system through which FCPS communicates emergency messages such as cancellations, delayed openings, and early closings.

We have e-mail addresses for most of our families and any updates can be made by updating your emergency care information through your parent view account.

Walk with the Principal



Recently, Principal Leighty enjoyed the company of all the students in a week long program called "Walk with the Principal." This idea was one of Mrs. Trautman's goals for the year, to get EVERYONE at Great Falls moving. Each grade level was assigned a day and time to walk with Mr. Leighty. Mr. Leighty was able to walk one mile with each group. As a school wide contest, the students were asked to guess how many miles Mr. Leighty would walk. The winning class was Mrs. Kelley's students with a guess of 8 miles. They will be able to have Mr. Leighty play a kickball game with them as their prize.



Winter Break

Tuesday, December 23rd, is the last day of school before winter break. **This is a full day of school.** We will follow the regular 3:05 dismissal time. Kindergarten will follow the normal Tuesday schedule as well.

Japanese Immersion Program Enrollment

Parents of 2008-2009 kindergarten students interested in having their child enter the Japanese Immersion Program for the 2009-2010 school year, are invited to attend an information night on **Thursday, January 8th at 7:00 p.m.**, in our school cafeteria. Applications for enrollment will be sent home in a January Tuesday Packet. If the meeting is cancelled due to inclement weather, it will be rescheduled for Tuesday, February 3rd.



BE PREPARED FOR 1:05 PM EARLY DISMISSAL ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Please be sure your child is aware of any special arrangements you have made for early dismissal. Does he/she have a key to get inside if you are not home? Plan Ahead! Children should know where to go if a parent will not be home. Use the Change of Transportation Form to notify the teacher of any change in your child's normal routine of going home.



On Veteran's Day, the 6th graders went on a field trip to the Grange to visit the *Friends of the Great Falls Freedom Memorial*. They attended the ceremonial events honoring all those who served in our country's Armed Forces and listened to a speech given by keynote speaker, Major General John Landry (USA, retired).



Lost and Found



The lost and found is overflowing with coats, hats, gloves and other items (two pairs of glasses, flash drive, lunch boxes, etc.). We will be donating all unclaimed items on December 18th. If you have lost an item, be sure to check the lost and found boxes, located in the cafeteria and girl's restroom by the gym.

Dress for Recess

Please make sure your student is properly dressed for outdoor recess. Classes go outside throughout the winter unless there is inclement weather. All students go outside; shorts and sweatshirts may not provide enough warmth on a cold winter day. Hats, gloves, and winter coats are highly recommended.

Bus 11 Change of Transportation

Bus 11 riders are now able to bring home visitors. Both parties must send in a signed COT form. Students may bring home only one friend. Please limit COT use to twice a month.



GIFTED AND TALENTED (GT) PROGRAMS-LEVELS OF SERVICE

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) offers a continuum of gifted services for all students in grades K-8. Learning experiences are designed to develop higher-level thinking through enrichment, acceleration, and extension of the Program of Studies. Teachers, administrators, and GT resource teachers work together to provide the following Levels of Service:

- > **Level I GT services** provide lessons in critical and creative thinking skills for all FCPS students in grades K-6.
- > **Level II GT services** include differentiated instruction at an advanced level for many FCPS students through collaboration between the classroom teacher and the GT resource teacher. The Young Scholars Model included in this level is designed to find and nurture gifted potential in students from historically underrepresented populations through more challenging curriculum and instruction. Middle school students who take one or two Honors classes are receiving Level II services.
- > **Level III GT services** for identified students include the GT school-based program in grades 3-6; in middle school, students take three Honors classes.
- > **Level IV GT services** are for those students found eligible for the full-time GT center program in grades 3-8 or taking full Honors at the middle school.

SCREENING

Multiple criteria are reviewed to determine eligibility for all FCPS gifted services. Formal identification begins with Level III services. The local school GT committee determines student eligibility for school-based GT services. The countywide GT Central Selection Committee determines eligibility for GT center placement.

TESTING

Each fall all FCPS second grade students, as well as students in third through seventh grade who are missing an ability test score, are administered the Cognitive Ability Test and/or the Naglieri Nonverbal Test. A second grade GT center screening pool is established using these test results. Students in the second grade pool are automatically screened for GT center placement. Parents may exercise their one-time retest option during the September/October testing cycle.

REFERRAL

Parents/guardians of students not in the second grade screening pool may initiate the GT center screening process by completing and submitting a **Gifted and Talented GT Center Referral form to the local school principal no later than February 6, 2009**. 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 GT web site and in the Parent Information Packet available at the local school.

A Gifted and Talented Parent Information Meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m., January 14th, in the GFES cafeteria.

For additional GT Programs information, visit the GT web site: www.fcps.edu/DIS/qt or contact the Lacey Center 703-846-8670.