



GREAT FALLS CURRENT

June 2011

Home of the Roadrunner
Main Office: 703-757-2100

24 Hour Attendance Line: 703-757-2111 Please leave a message: absence or tardy by 9:00 a.m.
Great Falls Elementary School Website: www.fcps.k12.va.us/GreatFallsES

6/1 SOL Testing: 4th Gr. Math

SOL Testing: 6th Gr. History

6/2 5th Gr. Field Trip-Medieval Times

6/6 PTA Golf Tournament

6/7 Strings Concert, 2:00 & 7:00 pm

6/8 Volunteer Tea, Library, 2:30-4:00 pm

6/10 **LAST DAY FOR C.O.T.**

6/14 Band Concert, 2:00 & 7:00 pm

6/15 Chorus Concert, 2:00 & 7:00 pm

6/17 6th Gr. Class Party

6/20 Awards Ceremony, 9:30 a.m., Gym. The Award Ceremony recognizes year long achievements, Grades 3-6 participate.

6/20 **Last Day for Kindergarten Students, 10:45 Dismissal Time**

6/21 **Last Day for Students Grades 1-6 *11:15 - Early release**

6th Gr. Promotion Ceremony:

8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast

JUNE

Schedule of Events



Special points of interest:

- ◆ School will close directly after early dismissal on June 21st. Now is the time to think about making arrangements for your child's early dismissal. Dismissal time will be approximately 11:15 a.m. We ask that all students, grades 1-5, ride their assigned school bus home this day, and not use Kiss & Ride. Plan ahead! Remember, Change of Transportation forms will not be accepted.
- ◆ **Change of Transportation Program Ends Friday, June 10.** Notes for students to go home with each other will not be accepted after this date. Please plan ahead and make arrangements for play dates after your children arrive home from school.
- ◆ **Medicine stored in the clinic needs to be picked up by parent/guardian no later than 10:45 a.m. on Tuesday, June 21st.** Students are not permitted to transport medications home. Any medicine left in the clinic after dismissal will be discarded. A new medication form is required for each new school year. Forms are available online: www.fcps.edu/forms.htm
- ◆ **Last call for Lost and Found items!** All unclaimed items will be discarded or donated to a local charity after the last day of school.
- ◆ **Cafeteria**— Any money left on your child's lunch card will remain on the card for the next school year. If your child will transfer to another Fairfax County School, the lunch card will be sent to the new school. If you will be leaving the county school system and have money remaining of the card, please see or call the cafeteria manager, 703-757-2121 before the end of this school year.
- ◆ **Library**—Reminder notes will be sent to all students with missing library books. Please return the books as soon as possible so your child's account can be closed for this school year. Please call Mrs. Soln in the library, 703-757-2126 with any questions.
- ◆ **School Supplies for 2011-2012**—Grade level supply lists are available on the school website, hard copies are in the school lobby. Remember to mention Great Falls Elementary School whenever purchasing school supplies. Many businesses offer our school financial rewards when parents purchase supplies at their stores.



STAFF GOOD-BYES AND WELCOMES

Farewell to First Grade Teacher, Annette Kelley. Mrs. Kelley has been a staff member at Great Falls ES for twelve years. She is transferring to Lake Anne ES and will be missed.

Farewell to Instructional Assistant, Tracey Maxwell. Mrs. Maxwell joined the Great Falls staff this school year and will be moving out of the area with her family. We wish her the best of luck.

Welcome to our new Office Assistant, Lori Grossman. Mrs. Grossman has been employed with FCPS as a teacher substitute. And we are excited to her welcome her as an official member of our staff.

Welcome Mr. Felicito Aranas, our new Building Supervisor. Mr. Aranas comes to Great Falls ES from Annandale High School where he worked as their Custodian and Building Supervisor Assistant for 17 years.



GREAT FALLS WOMEN'S CLUB POETRY CONTEST

This year marked the 30th anniversary of the Great Falls Woman's Poetry Contest. This contest is a partnership between Great Falls Elementary and the Great Falls Woman's club to foster the love of poetry and support the standards of learning.

Congratulations to our poetry contest winners, pictured with Mr. Leighty, Mrs. DeHart and Mrs. Schilling: Tasmia, Tattiana, Marissa, Lily, Bennett, Benjamin, Lauren, Parker, Martina

Congratulations All County Chorus Singers!

On Friday April 29th and Saturday April 30th Gemma, Will, John, Lauren, Kelsey, Elsa, Ally and Christina participated in the 2011 Fairfax County All County Chorus Festival. This year's festival took place at Hayfield Secondary School and showcased a chorus of over eight hundred dedicated sixth graders from across Fairfax County. The students were expected to attend monthly rehearsals and had to memorize a wide variety of music, they rose to the challenge and put on an incredible concert. Thank you all for your hard work, I am so proud of you!
Ms. Thoren



HEALTH ROOM INFORMATION: If your child is enrolled in a 2011 FCPS summer program, you may continue to use their current Medication / Inhaler / Epi-Pen Authorization form(s) for summer programs. Call the health room before June 21st to obtain a copy of your student's authorization form. Medications still need to be picked up by dismissal time on June 21st and brought to your child's summer program by a parent or guardian. Please contact your doctor's office for copies of your child's medical immunizations/physical.

Each year we look for a few volunteers to help out periodically in the Health Room. Volunteers don't dispense medications, but they do assist students with minor first aid needs, make phone calls to parents and help the School Health Aide with paperwork and annual health screenings. Mandatory training is provided by the Fairfax County Health Department, in cooperation with the Fairfax County Public Schools. To find out more about Health Room volunteer work, contact Dawna Poyner, School Health Aide at 703-757-2110 (during the school year) or call Erin Smith, Public Health Nurse at 703-481-4077 and leave a message.

Don't flush unused medications ~ They might end up in our drinking water! SAFE DISPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Keep medicines in their original containers (for identification in case of accidental ingestion).
2. Cross out any names or identifying information on the label (for privacy).
3. For pills: add salt & water to bottle to dissolve pills. For liquids: add inedible cat litter, ash or dirt. **SHAKE.**
4. Break tip off inhalers, discard in trash. Put expired EpiPens/glucagon kits into 'Sharps' container unopened.
5. Seal the medicine container and secure with duct tape or packing tape so it can't be opened.
6. Double-bag these items in a separate bag and place in the outgoing trash - NOT IN RECYCLING BINS!!

Save the Date – Thursday, September 1st
GFES Open House (8:30 a.m. – new families; 9:30 a.m. – returning families)

Parents or guardians can drop off student medications for the 2011/2012 school year during Open House on Thursday, September 1st. Bring your completed authorization forms and properly labeled medications to the Health Room to be checked in. Authorization forms for inhaler (SS/SE65), Epi-Pen (SS/SE64) and prescription/OTC medications (SS/SE63) can be found at: <http://www.fcps.edu/forms.htm>.

ATTENTION PARENTS OF 5th GRADERS:

All fifth grade students are required to receive a booster dose of Tdap vaccine prior to entering 6th grade. Sixth graders cannot begin school in the fall without documentation of having the Tdap booster or having a tetanus-containing vaccine within the past five years. Please check your child's immunization records and if the booster is necessary, provide proof of immunization to the school no later than June 21, 2011. Contact school public health nurse, Erin Smith, RN at 703-481-4077 with any questions.

NEW STUDENT ENROLLMENT

A reminder to all families that students new to our school must be registered using the official Fairfax County Public Schools Registration Forms. Completion of the Fairfax County Census and/or Student Preschool Surveys does not constitute enrollment of your child.

Registration materials may be found online at: www.fcps.edu and hard copies of all registration forms are also available in the school office.

Kindergarten for the 2011-2012 school year will be a full day program. Please help us spread the word to the community to register their rising kindergarteners as soon as possible.



Special thanks to Mrs. Kristen Kahn who spent countless hours organizing and editing our terrific 2010-2011 year-book.

SALUTE TO DISNEY! June 2nd & 3rd

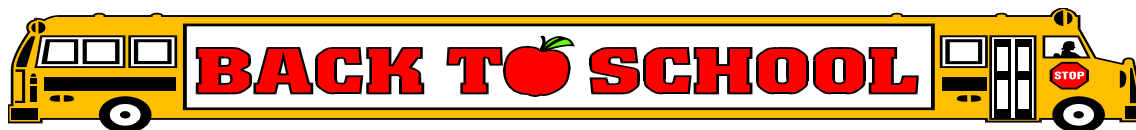
Bring your family to share in the fun at the **Langley Choral Spring Show**. This year's extravaganza features songs from your favorite Disney shows including *Tangled*, *Toy Story 2*, *The Princess and the Frog*, *Mulan*, *Tarzan*, *The Lion King* and more.

Thank you parents, PTA for your support

Mr. Leighty, Mrs. DeHart, and the faculty and staff of Great Falls Elementary would like to thank our wonderful PTA and volunteers for all their hard work this year. We are grateful to our PTA Board members, headed by Mrs. Karen Collazo, and the committee chairpersons who go above and beyond every year.

Thank you parents for preparing your child for school each day, and all you do to support Great Falls Elementary School. Your continued support and dedication are always greatly appreciated!





GREAT FALLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 2011-2012

Notification of student classroom placement for the 2011-2012 school year will be sent via Keep in Touch e-mail notification system the end of August. Please **do not call the school office for student placement information, or to ask if a child's friend is in the same classroom.** We cannot disclose this confidential information over the telephone.

It is important all parents update their children's contact information. The KIT system uses your child's student registration information. If updates are necessary, families have two options:

1. Update your child's emergency care information form and return it to school.
2. Update your child's emergency care contact information via weCare@School (you must have a Parent View account).

Families new to Fairfax County Public Schools will complete the emergency care information form when you register your child.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL: Tuesday, September 6, 2011

OPEN HOUSE: Thursday, September 1, 2011, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Open House is an opportunity for your child to come to school, find their new classroom and meet their teacher.

NEW FAMILY ORIENTATION: Thursday, September 1, 2011, 8:30 -9:30 a.m.

Students and their parents new to Great Falls Elementary School are invited to attend a new family orientation prior to the Open House event. Students will be taken on a tour of the school while their parents meet with school administrators in the cafeteria.

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHTS 2011-2012

Monday, September 19:

Kindergarten #1	6:30-7:15 p.m.
Fifth Grade	7:30-8:15 p.m.
JIP Fifth Grade	6:30-7:15 p.m.
First Grade	8:30-9:15 p.m.
JIP First Grade	7:30-8:15 p.m.
Third Grade	7:30-8:15 p.m.
JIP Third Grade	8:30-9:15 p.m.

The addition of full day kindergarten may change the Kindergarten Back to School Night schedule. Parents will be Notified of any changes in the fall.

Tuesday, September 20:

Kindergarten #2	6:30-7:15 p.m.
JIP Sixth Grade	7:30-8:15 p.m.
Sixth Grade	6:30-7:15 p.m.
Second Grade	8:30-9:15 p.m.
JIP Second Grade	7:30-8:15 p.m.
Fourth Grade	7:30-8:15 p.m.
JIP Fourth Grade	8:30-9:15 p.m.

The complete 2011-2012 school year calendar is available Online: www.fcps.edu