



GREAT FALLS CURRENT

MAY 2011

Great Falls Elementary School Website: www.fcps.edu/GreatFallsES

Main Office: 703-757-2100

Fax: 703-757-2197

24 Hour Attendance Line: 703-757-2111 Please leave a message: absence or tardy by 9:00 a.m.

MAY

- 5/6 6th Grade Class Photo
- 5/12 6th Gr. Field Trip to Pamplin, VA
Kindergarten Field Trip to Glen Echo
Field Day Grades 1-5
- 5/17-18 SOL Testing: 3rd Gr. Reading**
- 5/18 SOL Testing: 5th Gr. Reading**
- 5/19 SOL Testing: 4th Gr. Reading
6th Gr. Reading**
PTA General Mtg. 9:00 am
- 5/24 SOL Testing: 6th Gr. Math**
- 5/25 SOL Testing: 3rd Gr. Science
5th Gr. Science**
- 5/26 SOL Testing: 3rd Gr. History
SOL Testing: 4th Gr. VA Studies**
- 5/27 * 2 HOUR EARLY RELEASE @1:20 pm
Kindergarten dismissal 10:45 a.m.**
- 5/30 MEMORIAL DAY- SCHOOL CLOSED**
- 5/31 SOL Testing: 3rd and 5th Gr. Math**

*** FRIDAY, MAY 27
GRADES 1-6 WILL BE DISMISSED AT 1:20 p.m.
KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS WILL FOLLOW THE MONDAY SCHOOL BUS PICK-UP AND DROP OFF SCHEDULE.**

JUNE

- 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
- 6/10 **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
Last Day for Kindergarten Students
- 6/21 6th Gr. Promotion Ceremony:
8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast
9:00 a.m. Promotion Ceremony
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL- EARLY DISMISSAL

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.

SACC Parents: Please remember you are responsible for notifying SACC directly with any changes in your student's transportation, or absences. The telephone number is 703-757-2135.

The Last Day of School is Tuesday, JUNE 21.

We will have an EARLY DISMISSAL
Now is the time to think about making arrangements for your child's early dismissal on the last day of school. Dismissal time will be approximately 11:15 a.m. We ask that all students to ride their assigned school bus home this day, and not use Kiss & Ride. Plan ahead!

Remember, Change of Transportation forms will not be accepted.

School will close directly after dismissal on the last day of school, June 21st. Plan ahead and be prepared for your child's early dismissal.

CLASS PLACEMENT FOR 2011-2012

Our staff and administration feel strongly that through our collaborative efforts we can identify the best placement for your child. However, if you have a unique and sensitive issue, please put your concerns into writing to Mr. Leighty by Tuesday, May 31st.

Please be advised that WE DO NOT HONOR REQUESTS FOR A SPECIFIC TEACHER either by name, or gender, nor do we guarantee that a student can be placed in the same class as a particular friend.



The GFES staff would like to thank the PTA for the wonderful Appreciation lunch on Monday, May 2nd. Many thanks to all the parents who donated food and or gift cards. A very special thank you to Laurie Bennett and Teresa Blankingship for coordinating the event. The food was delicious and we all had a great time.

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.



4th GRADE COLONIAL DAYS

The fourth grade classes had a great Colonial Day celebration. They participated in various activities such as tin punch, candle making and making pomanders.



SUPPLY LISTS 2011-2012

Detailed school supply lists for each grade are posted on the Great Falls Elementary website: www.fcps.k12.va.us/GreatFallsES



The Great Falls Elementary PTA has once again partnered with School Tool Box to provide pre-packaged school supplies for the 2011-2012 school year. **Orders will be accepted online only.** To order a supply kit, use the following link: www.schooltoolbox.com. Parents will need to register at the School Toolbox website and enter the code: **1GREA22066**

Please remember to **order the kit for your child's grade NEXT YEAR.** Also, if your child is in JIP, they will need both the homeroom kit and the JIP kit for their upcoming grade. The **deadline for ordering is June 3rd.** No late orders will be accepted. The supply kits will be available for pick up on September 1, 2011 at Open House.

Great Falls Elementary School can benefit from many businesses that offer financial bonuses when parents purchase supplies at their stores:

Target - Take Charge of Education: To participate, use your REDcard and designate Great Falls ES online at Target.com/tcoe or call 1-800-316-6142. Target will donate 1% of every purchase to our school.

Office Depot 5% Back to School Program: Great Falls Elementary School ID# 70103839

Please mention Great Falls Elementary School wherever and whenever purchasing school supplies.



If you pre-ordered a GFES yearbook for your child, he/she will receive it the end of June.

Non Profit Fliers:

Twice a year FCPS offers non-profit organizations the opportunity to send promotional materials home with students. Interested parties should call the school for details. The distribution date for these materials is Tuesday, May 17th.

Promotional materials are due to the school office by Friday, May 13th.



BAND NOTES:

It was an award winning day for EIGHT students who performed in the District 12 Solo & Ensemble Festival held at Kilmer Middle School on Saturday, April 2nd. Congratulations to:

Arthur Kennington
Lauren Nickles
Sabrina Barker
Jessica York

Melissa Shuey
Lauren LaTeef
Nicole Medina
Sophie Young

All of these students received the highest rating of Superior. Congratulations, and thank you for representing your school and the Great Falls Elementary Band!



PTA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

WOW-what a way to end a busy month! Last Saturday night's Talent Show – "Cirque de Solei the Great Falls Way" was a homerun!!! I wished I could have gotten up there to dance with our 6th graders at the 6th Grade song. Words cannot express my gratitude to all the performers, parents and volunteers who made this event possible. Karen McPhail, Rachel Rothstein, Heather Femia and Tina Woolston have outdone themselves AGAIN!

The 2nd Annual Courtney Schilling 1 mile Fun Run and 5k was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who came out and ran, walked, watched and volunteered for this event.

Talent Show, Fun Run....but wait there's more!!! With only 36 days of school left, we still have some things on our to do list! Our last PTA Meeting will be held on May 19th. Please join us as we discuss and vote on next year's budget. **At this meeting we will also elect our new PTA Board Officers.** See the proposed slate below.

President: Linda Campbell / Caroline Divone

Treasurer: Kristen Lentine

Membership Director : Teresa Blankingship

Vice President: Laurie Bennett / Lysa VanBeuren / Marissa Fallon / Lizanne Youngblood

President-elect: Jennifer Sobich

Treasurer-elect:

Secretary: Brandy Morgan

- **Golf Tournament "Fore" the benefit of our students**

Please join us for 2011 Celebrate Great Falls Golf Tournament at Hidden Creek Country Club on June 6, 2011.

The AFTERNOON SELLS OUT QUICKLY first come first serve. We will have a great day of golf and even more important FUN. Proceeds to benefit Great Falls Elementary, Colvin Run and Forestville Elementary schools. If you have already registered thank you for your support and make sure that you tell your friends. You can register now on-line by going to: <http://golfdigestplanner.com/18271-2011GFGolf>

Register now and remember to invite your friends to play. Just click on "Tell A Friend" and you can send them a link to this site automatically. See you on June 6, 2011.

- **Courtney Schilling 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run**

Thanks to all for another incredible GFES/Courtney Schilling 5K and 1 mile FunRun! It was great weather as a sea of blue t-shirts headed out on the run. The roadrunner, along with Mr. Leighty, Mrs. DeHart and many other teachers were there to cheer over 200 runners on! We are proud of all the participants- from Kindergarten to sixth grade. The run helps GFES PTA projects and the charities of the Courtney Schilling Foundation. Courtney was the daughter of our fabulous reading specialist, Joanne Schilling, who passed away in October 2009. Courtney was a young FCPS teacher and avid runner. We are proud to support the people and things she loved. Thank you GFES students and parents!

- **Art Enrichment**

This month, students will be finishing up their bird campaign posters and voting in the school-wide election on May 11th that is part of the wider community-wide effort to elect a Great Falls bird. All other Great Falls residents can vote online at any time until May 15th at www.GreatFallsStudios.com -- Have the whole family cast a vote!

For the final art enrichment project of the year, students will be making colorful creations inspired by American artist Elizabeth Murray, whose work can be seen in the permanent collections of the Phillips Collection, the American Art Museum and the National Gallery.

- **After School Programs a Great Success!**


Thanks so much to our parents, students and staff for supporting our After School Programs this year. The response was tremendous, and we are already planning Fall After School program offerings.

Your feedback is very helpful. Please send comments about courses you would like to see repeated, or new courses that haven't been offered. We will consider this feedback as we plan for Fall. Send comments to Marissa Fallon and

Lisa Hodge at aspgfes@gfepa.org.

A SPECIAL THANKS to several faculty and parents who helped make our After School programs more personal and enriching for our children. We really appreciate the time and talent you brought to Great Falls Elementary: Jeannie Trautman, Michelle Truong, Akiko Bentz, Sheena Whetstine, Jenny Anderson, Asra Nomani, Jennifer Sobich, Katherine Quinn, Lisa Medici.

THE GREAT FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Warmly Invites You...




To Celebrate the 200-Year Old Colvin Run Community!

COLVIN RUN HISTORICAL STREET FAIR

The Story of "Industrious" Neighborhood Character: 1811 to 2011

FREE ADMISSION
SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2011
12 NOON TO 4 PM



COLVIN RUN ROAD
GREAT FALLS, VA
22066

Colvin Run Mill.....Colvin Run Road.....Colvin Run Schoolhouse

ENJOY DAILY LIFE, 1811 TO 2011, AT THE COLVIN RUN SCHOOLHOUSE
A School Reenactment...Descendants Reflect...Historic Artifacts...The Story in Photos...Local Historians

DELIGHT IN COLVIN RUN TODAY, 2011, ALONG COLVIN RUN ROAD
Face Painting...Balloon Animals...A Magic Show...Old Fashioned Games...A Historic Costume Competition...
Food...Popcorn...Ice Cream...Local Merchants...Country Music...

EXPERIENCE MILLING, SINCE 1811, AT THE COLVIN RUN MILL
Watch a Grind...Shop at the General Store...Speak with Historic Interpreters...Enjoy the Dulcimer Band

Camp Grow! at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens

There is an exciting new children's summer camp program at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens. Camp Grow takes place from 9-4, Monday through Friday, during five sessions throughout the summer. Meadowlark's ninety-five acres of flowers, trees, and trails provide an expansive outdoor setting for discovery, investigation, gardening, games, and all sorts of fun.

A copy of the 2011 camp brochure attached. If you would like more information about the camp or Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, visit web site: Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority www.nvrpa.org or call 703-255-3631

Old Firehouse Teen Center Events for Rising 7th Graders

Old Firehouse Teen Center
1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
McLean, VA 22101

703-448-8338 **Open House for Rising 7th and 8th Graders**
Tuesday, May 17, 6-9 p.m.
No registration necessary.



OFTC
TUESDAY, MAY 17,
6-9 P.M.
OPEN HOUSE
FOR RISING 7TH AND 8TH GRADERS

The Old Firehouse Teen Center (OFTC) will host an open house for prospective new members (rising 7th and 8th-graders) and their parents.

- Membership
- Dances
- Summer Programs
- After School Programs
- Community Service

Memberships available at 10% off for those attending. For more information, call 703-448-8336; TTY: 711

1440 Chain Bridge Rd., McLean, VA 22101
www.mcleancenter.org/kids-teens



Rising 7th and 8th graders and their parents are invited to visit the Old Firehouse Teen Center. Staff members will give you a tour and explain all of the Teen Center programs. Memberships are 10% off if purchased at the Open House. [Memberships](#)

will be valid from the date of the Firehouse Luau (aka Rising 7th Grade Dance) on June 10 until September 3, 2012.

Firehouse Luau aka Rising 7th Grade Dance: Friday, June 10, 7 -10 p.m.

No registration. Open to first 200 people.

\$5 Members/ \$10 Non-Members, Non-Member waiver required. Exact change appreciated.

The Old Firehouse Teen Center invites all rising 7th graders to join us for the first time at our rising Firehouse Luau Dance! All of our usual activities will be available plus we'll have a photo booth to capture all the smiles! Bring a little cash for carnival food concessions.

All participants must have either a current [Membership](#) or a completed [Non-member Waiver](#) to enter the dance. Please download the Membership or Non-Member Waiver form from our webpage and complete it prior to arriving so your child can get into to the party quickly. [Memberships](#) may also be purchased prior to the party at the Open House (see

above) or Monday- Friday from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. at the Old Firehouse.



OFTC
7-10PM
FRIDAY, JUNE 10
FIREHOUSE LUAU
A DANCE FOR RISING 7TH GRADERS

\$5 MEMBERS
\$10 NON-MEMBERS

Come experience the Old Firehouse Teen Center for the first time at our Firehouse Luau Dance to our live DJ and have your picture taken in the photo booth. If dancing isn't your thing, we also have a game room stocked with table tennis, pool, air hockey, and all the latest video games. Be sure to bring some extra cash for hot dogs, popcorn, soda and snacks from Brad's Concessions!

Old Firehouse
teen center

Forms can be printed at www.mcleancenter.org/kids-teens/old-firehouse.asp
This dance is limited to the first 200 participants.