

# Eagle Visions

The Gunston School and PTA  
Monthly Newsletter

Volume 6 Issue 3

November 6, 2009

## Principal's Perspective

by Tonya F. Cox  
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It is difficult to believe we are at the end of our first quarter!

Thank you to all parents who attended their scheduled parent-teacher conferences. It is important to make contact with your child's teacher. The relationship between home and school is most important for school success. As we enter the second quarter of school, we ask that you keep the lines of communication between school and home open. Please don't hesitate to call your child's teacher or the school with any questions that you may have.

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## Presidents' Message

by Beth Kyle & Kimberly Kern  
bthbest@yahoo.com or kern\_kimberly@bah.com

At our general meeting on October 15<sup>th</sup>, the PTA sponsored a fabulous program presented by Detective Sorentino of the Fairfax County Police. He discussed the potential areas of danger with regards to internet and cell phone use in our families. Our next general PTA meeting is planned for February 18<sup>th</sup> - look for details after the new year about the topic and plan on joining us for snacks and what promises to be an informative evening! Based on information collected from Gunston parents a topic of interest is how to help your child improve their study skills. If you have additional sug-

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## Volunteer Sightings

by Karen Snow & Dara Paul  
karpoe@aol.com or ddp8321@cox.net

Volunteering is vital to the success of our school! Do you have an hour a week to read in a classroom, make a few copies, or help at an after-school event? If you are available to help please contact your child's teacher or the volunteer coordinator for times. Studies show that the more involved you are in your child's education the better they do in school. Plus, it is a great way to meet the people, young and old, with whom your child spends the majority of the day. Gunston's PTA would like to thank everyone who helped with Picture Day, Halloween Bingo, Vision and Hearing screening, shelving books in the library, and/

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## Important Dates

Wed.	Nov. 11	Veteran's Day—Flag Ceremony on WGES	8:30 am
Fri.	Nov. 13	Report Cards Will Go Home	
Thurs.	Nov. 19	PTA Board Meeting	Library 6:30 pm
Tues.	Nov. 24	PTA Assembly— <i>James &amp; the Giant Peach</i>	Gym 2:00 pm
Wed.	Nov. 25	Early Dismissal—1:00 pm	
Thurs.-Fri.	Nov. 26-27	Thanksgiving Holiday	
Fri.	Dec. 11	Interims Will Go Home	
Mon.-Fri.	Dec. 14-18	Holiday Gift Shop	
Wed.	Dec. 16	Sing-Along, Band & Strings Concert	Gym 7:00 pm
Thurs.-Fri.	Dec. 24-Jan. 1	Winter Holiday	
Mon.	Jan. 4, 2010	Students Return to School	



## School and PTA News

### Tech Tidbits

By Anne Vietmeyer

There is a new initiative this year called the Global Awareness Project which all fifth grade students in Fairfax County Public Schools will be participating in. This project is a year long research process that explores the interdependence of countries and cultures throughout history. The goal of this project is to further each student's knowledge and understanding of their place in a global society. It emphasizes the importance of sound research and the application of technology for both learning and communication. The final project will be presented using the technology program of their choice. We are excited to be participating in this project and look forward to seeing what our students create.

Last month Internet Safety was the focus of the PTA's general meeting. All the teachers at Gunston have taken a four hour on-line course on Internet Safety. Starting this year, lessons on safety will be integrated into the curriculum at all grade levels. It's very important that you talk with your child and set up rules for going online. Teach them to never share personal information without your permission and to never meet in person with anyone that they first met online without checking with you. They also need to be reminded never to respond to any messages that are mean or would be hurtful to someone else. We recommend that you keep your computer in the kitchen or family room and limit the amount of time that your child can spend online. This will reinforce the safety lessons that we will be teaching at school.

### Early Dismissal for Thanksgiving Holiday:

1:00 pm  
Wed., November 25



### Save the Dates!

**November 19<sup>th</sup>**

Pick up Sally Foster Orders in the cafeteria

**November 25<sup>th</sup>**

Limo Ride/Pizza Party for Sally Foster prize winners

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Domino's 'Dough Raising Night'

### STUDENT-PARENT SURVEY

It is time for the annual Student Parent Survey. Also known as Impact Aid since that is what this form addresses, this is an extremely important form and we **MUST** have a form from each student. Because we are so close to many federal agencies, the government pays FCPS for the "impact" on our schools. This amount is determined by the Student-Parent Survey form. This form was sent home with your child on Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. If you have not filled out your Student-Parent Survey please do so as soon as possible. With Fairfax County facing a budget crisis, the monies we receive from the Federal government from this survey is more crucial than ever. Thanks for your help in supporting your child's education.

### Principal's Perspective

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We hope that everyone has had a chance to view the new standards-based progress report that is being field tested. Although, teachers are only field testing this report with 8 randomly selected students in their classroom, we are seeking input from all stakeholders regarding the progress report. Please stay tuned for information on parent focus groups and information sessions that will continue to be conducted throughout the year.

Once again, FCPS faces difficult budget decisions to make for the FY 2011 year. With that in mind, our superintendent is beginning discussions to prepare our budget for next school year. In addition to the cuts that have already been made within our school system, deeper cuts are being considered for next year. There is no way around it; these cuts will be deep and will be felt. I urge each of you to visit the FCPS website ([www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu)) frequently to keep current on the budget as it is developed.

Later this month, on November 25 and 26, school will be out for Thanksgiving vacation. We will dismiss two-hours early on Wednesday, November 24. Thanksgiving is a special time of the year when we gather to reflect on all that we are grateful for. At Gunston, we have much to be thankful for, from our wonderful students and staff to our caring community. On behalf of the entire Gunston staff, I wish every Gunston family a wonderful and safe Thanksgiving holiday. Enjoy your time with family and friends.

## School and PTA News

### Sally Foster Success!

Thanks to all of the Gunston students and families who participated in the Sally Foster fundraising program this fall! 110 students took part in this fundraising effort and raised over \$8600 for important school activities and programs. Lots of hard work and creative selling made this fundraiser such a big success.

The following students sold 30 or more items and qualified for our big prize--the Limo Ride and Pizza Party!

Ariana Perez	Roger Mailsog
Gene Ricks	Blake Ayres
Wynn Brenner	Taylor King
Stella Lommasson	Jayla Muse
Tim Stierle	Dominique Rice
William Prioleau	Casey Pollard
Dean Spears	Amanda Ferguson
Alexis Elliot	Brandy McMillan-Prewitt
Cole Hunt	Sara Mills
Charlie Gorham	Christian McFarland
Jahvon Hutchinson	Sarah Delaney
Conor McFarland	Brandi Hutchinson
Kelly Robinson	Sagar Sharma
Lauren Proctor	Tyler Milhon
Hunter Wertz	

The date for this event will be announced soon! Thanks to everyone for supporting Gunston!

The Gunston PTA

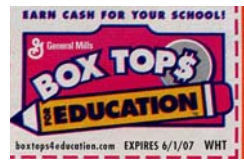


### Labels and Boxtops

**CAMPBELL'S SOUP LABELS FOR EDUCATION:** The PTA encourages everyone to participate in the Campbell's Soup Labels for Education program. The Labels for Education program is a great way to get FREE merchandise for our school. Simply save the UPC codes or lids from Campbell's, Pepperidge Farm and V-8 products and send them to school. Contact Karen Snow, [karpoe@aol.com](mailto:karpoe@aol.com) for more information.

**GIANT:** While the PTA doesn't manage the Giant education donation fund, Gunston will receive a check at the end of the school year. All you have to do is register and do your regular shopping at Giant! So far we only have 30 families signed up. Gunston's A+ Bonus Bucks ID Code is: **01975**. Visit [www.giantfood.com/aplus](http://www.giantfood.com/aplus) to register.

**BOX TOPS:** Simply clip the 10¢ Box Tops coupons from hundreds of your favorite products such as **Cheerios®**, **Betty Crocker®**, **Juicy Juice®**, **Ziploc®**, **Kleenex®**, **Hefty®** and more! Send in the Box Tops with your student on Feb 10<sup>th</sup> where he/she will put them in the class collection box. The class that brings in the most Box Tops earns an ice cream party.



### The Flu Season Is Here!

As you may know, flu can be easily spread from person to person. Fairfax County Public Schools is taking steps to reduce the spread of flu. It is the school system's goal to keep schools open to students and functioning in a normal manner during this flu season. But, FCPS needs your help to do this.

Symptoms of the flu include fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit, 37.8 degrees Celsius, or greater), cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, and a very tired feeling. Some people may also vomit or have diarrhea.

Any child who is found to be sick while at school will be sent home. It is also important to keep sick children at home for at least 24 hours after having a fever or showing signs of a fever, without the use of fever-reducing drugs.



School and PTA News

Are You Ready For Winter Weather?

Some are predicting an early winter and some a winter with more snow. Due to inclement weather or other emergency situations, it may be necessary to close schools for the entire day, to open schools late, or to close early.

Parents are urged to make arrangements now for the care of their children when schedule changes are made (and to provide for the rare situation when it is necessary to close an individual school because of a power failure or other circumstances). Children should know where to go if a parent will not be home.

Decisions on schedule changes are made after careful study of

the best information available from many sources including weather services, the highway department, the police, and FCPS transportation staff members who are out checking the roads. FCPS will make every effort to decide, before 5 a.m., whether to close or delay schools and will begin communicating the decision once it is made. The 5 a.m. decision time is a goal. Weather conditions can deteriorate after 5 a.m., which means that it may not be possible for FCPS to meet that goal. While no sources dealing with weather predictions can be infallible, decisions are made with one overriding consideration—the safety of all students—those who ride buses

and those who walk to school each day.

FCPS has several schedules set up to deal with inclement weather; these are put into effect when conditions threaten the safety of children who are walking or riding school buses to schools. These schedules are:



- (1) Keep schools closed.
(2) Open two hours late.
(3) Close two hours early.

Local news and radio stations, cable Channel 21, and www.fcps.edu will all provide you with the information.

Please do not call the school.

Eagle Visions Is Going Electronic!

Beginning in January, Gunston Elementary's monthly School & PTA newsletter, Eagle Visions, will be going electronic and will be posted on our school website at: http://www.fcps.edu/GunstonES/pta.htm. (Click on the Eagle Vision Newsletter link in the left column.)

A monthly reminder with the link will be sent to all Keep In Touch users. If you would like to register for Keep In Touch, please go to the following link: http://www.fcps.edu/kit/

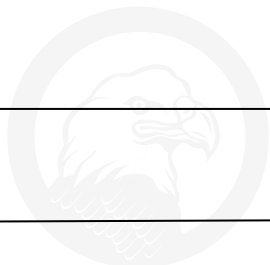
Those who wish to continue receiving a paper copy, please fill out the bottom of this page, detach and send it back to your child's classroom teacher.



I would like to continue receiving Eagle Visions on paper in my child's Friday folder.


Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_





# November 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	Book Fair in Library All Week					7
	Teacher Workdays Student Holidays		PTA Assembly 9:00 am <i>The Magic is Real</i>	Parent Meeting 7:00 pm Elementary Progress Report	Picture Make-up Day	
8	9	10 PTA Afterschool Program	11 Veteran's Day  WGES Flag Ceremony 8:30 am	12	13 Report Cards go home	14
15	16	17 PTA Afterschool Program	18	19 PTA Board Meeting 6:30 pm	20	21
22	23	24 PTA Assembly 2:00 pm <i>James and the Giant Peach</i>	25 Early Closing 1:00 pm	26 Thanksgiving Holiday 		28
29	30					



# December 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 Picture Day (Candid, Teams)  Interims Go Home	12
National Inclusive Schools Week						
13	14	15	16 Sing-Along, Band & Strings Concert 7:00 pm	17	18	19
FLE-HGD Grades 5 and 6						
Holiday Gift Shop						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Winter Holiday						
27	28	29	30	31		
Winter Holiday						