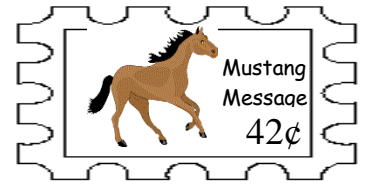


# Hunters Woods Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences

2401 Colts Neck Road, Reston, VA 20191



School Phone: 703-262-7400

October 7, 2008

Attendance Line 703-262-7474

Olivia M. Toatley, Principal

Avis Russell, Assistant Principal

Gail Porter, Assistant Principal

## Principal's Message

Dear Hunters Woods Families and Friends:

It is really beginning to feel like fall outside. Mornings are crisp and cool, leaves are slowly beginning to change color, and children are well-settled into the routines of school. With the cooler temperatures outside, we ask that you remind and encourage your children to dress appropriately for the weather.

It is hard to believe that we are nearly half-way through our first quarter. Interim reports will be sent home later this week. This is a good time to begin thinking of our upcoming parent-teacher conferences the first week in November. I've included a few tips for consideration before you meet with your child's teacher:

1. Listen to what your child says about school, what he or she likes best. Let them know that you and the teacher will meet to discuss how the year is going.
2. Prepare questions about your child's progress, strengths and weaknesses, homework, how he or she gets along with classmates.
3. Focus on academic and social progress and your child's strengths.
4. Share concerns openly, honestly, and with respect for the role played by both you and the teacher.
5. Select the most important points to discuss - prioritize your concerns.
6. Ask about feedback from other educators, such as special education teachers, art, music, and physical education teachers.
7. Let the teacher lead the discussion, allow the teacher to express his or her view, and make sure your priority concerns are addressed.
8. Ask the teacher how you can work together to address concerns that you and the teacher agree upon.
9. Remember, your child may be different at home and at school; both the parent and teacher gain new understandings from the conference.

And should you arrive without questions, here are some good ones to consider:

1. Should I help with homework?
2. Does my child follow directions?
3. Does my child participate in class discussions?
4. Is my child prepared for class?
5. How does my child get along with other children?
6. What is my child reluctant to do?
7. What is a goal you would like to see my child achieve?
8. What can I do at home to support what is being done at school?

We are enjoying working with your children. Hunters Woods is very fortunate to have such a strong parent/teacher partnership.

Sincerely,

Gail Porter  
Assistant Principal

## School Visitors

To maintain a safe environment during school hours, all parents must check in the office, sign in on the computer, and take a visitor sticker. School safety and security personnel will be checking for ID badges/visitor stickers.

## Classroom Interruptions

In order to minimize interruptions to the precious instruction time, parents need to make sure that their children have **homework, lunch, lunch money, instruments, bus notes**, etc. before they leave home. Also, please try to make doctor's appointments after school.

## Absence Messages

Parents can leave messages on the absentee line if children are sick, tardy, or can't come to school for some other reason. We prefer you leave message before 9:00 am. **Our absentee line number is 703-262-7474.**

## Going Home with Friends/Early Dismissals

If your child is going home with a friend or bringing friends home, **please send a note to the office.** In order to issue a bus pass, office staff needs notes from **both parents.**

For early dismissals, please send a note to school with your child giving the teacher advance notice. You will need to leave enough time to find a legal parking space, come to the office, and allow us to call the student from their classroom. Remember, education takes place throughout the building. Please help the office staff to locate your students more quickly by learning which specials and teams they are on and being aware of their daily school schedule.

## Tardy Pass

If a student arrives to school after 8:35 am they must stop by the office and get a tardy pass. Parents should not take their children to the classroom without a tardy pass.

## Homework Request

For homework requests, please leave a message or send an e-mail to your child's teacher and allow teachers enough time to gather the homework.

## Birthday Celebrations

Please make arrangements with your child's teacher for birthday celebrations. Because some students have allergies (i.e., latex, peanuts), we ask that you not send in balloons, flowers, or stuffed animals.

## Emergency Care Cards

The office is still missing several emergency care forms. If you have not done so, please send your signed emergency care form to school as soon as possible. These forms contain vitally important safety and contact information.

## Clinic Corner

### Medications



All medications require a medication authorization form filled out before medications can be kept in the clinic. This includes prescription medication as well as over the counter (OTC) medications such as Tums, Tylenol and Benadryl. Forms may be downloaded at [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu) or picked up in the school clinic. The clinic room aide can help you with any questions that you may have.

When dropping off any medication, including OTC's, the following policies apply:

1. Children may **not** bring medications to school. A responsible adult must drop them off in the school clinic.
2. All medications must be in the original container.
3. Medication may not be shared by siblings. Each student must have his/her own bottle of medication.
4. Cough drops may be carried by students with a medication authorization form on file as long as they are in the original package and are not shared with other students.

## Fall Picture Day is Coming

- Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, individual student photos will be taken at Hunters Woods Elementary.
- If you wish to order Fall Photos, please complete an order form and return it with payment to school before October 15<sup>th</sup> (order forms were sent home via Tuesday folder). Additional forms may be picked up in the school office.
- The individual student photos taken on October 15<sup>th</sup> will be printed in the school yearbook if you purchase photos or not.

If you **do not** want your child's photo to be put in the school yearbook, please contact Mary D'Amico at 703-262-7400 or e-mail her [mary.damico@fcps.edu](mailto:mary.damico@fcps.edu).



## PRIMARY SCIENCE NIGHT!

Please support our Super Scientists and join our committee.

We will have our first meeting on Tuesday, Oct 28 at 3:30 p.m. in room 257.

PRIMARY SCIENCE NIGHT 8 IS ONLY 234 DAYS AWAY!!

## SCA SPOTLIGHT

SCA is collecting Yoplait Yogurt pink lids through December 15<sup>th</sup>. Yoplait Yogurt will donate 10 cents to the Susan G. Koman Foundation for every lid collected. Please clean your pink lids and write your teacher's name on the lid. Lids can be turned into the collection box outside Miss Leniart's door (room 251). In September, October, November and December there will be a raffle drawing for a jar of THINK PINK M&M's.

Last year we collected over 2,500 lids! Our goal this year is to collect 5,000 lids. You can make a difference, one lid at a time.

SCA Spirit Days:

10/31- Favorite Character Day

11/28- Twin Day

## Sign Up Now for FCPS 24-7 Learning



All parents, legal guardians, and foster parents of FCPS students are eligible to receive their own user accounts for FCPS 24-7 Learning

(Blackboard). Since the program was made available to parents in March 2007, more than 29,000 parents have already signed up for their own accounts.

Registration provides several benefits. With their own accounts, parents no longer have to share account information with their children in order to visit their online class sites in FCPS 24-7. An account, which provides access to the **Parent View** page in FCPS 24-7, allows parents to directly access all their children's class sites from this one location. This allows parents to view class announcements and materials shared with students and, in most cases, provide a direct link to each of their children's teachers' FCPS e-mail addresses for easy communication.

## weCare@school and Family Connection Tools

### Included

Additionally, registration provides access to the weCare@school and Family Connection tools. weCare@school provides parents a secure capability to review and electronically update each child's emergency data information. Parents who take advantage of this service can now only update those fields that require a change, such as contact phone information or home address, without manually completing a new form. This up-to-date information can be rapidly included in the FCPS student information system and allows each school's first responders to electronically access this information should the need arise.

### Signing Up Is Easy

To sign up for an FCPS 24-7 Learning account, parents need only complete a simple two-step process. First, they register online through FCPS 24-7 Learning. The site can be accessed by either selecting the FCPS 24-7 Learning link on the FCPS public web site or by going directly to <http://fcps.blackboard.com> and entering **parentreg** as the username and **newuser** as the password.

This login provides access to step-by-step instructions, a toll-free number for assistance, and the online registration form. After completing the online registration, which requires school directory-type information and a valid e-mail address, parents receive a validation code that must be taken to one of their children's schools in order to validate and enable the account.

Schools provide opportunities for both registration and validation at parent-oriented activities such as Back-to-School Nights, orientations, and other activities. They also have the ability to support walk-in validation requests. As a courtesy, it is best to call the school ahead of time for walk-in validation.

The registration and validation process is a one-time requirement. No annual update or other update or additional registration is required while parents have students enrolled in FCPS.

Parents are encouraged to contact their children's schools to find out their plans for registration activities and validation opportunities over the coming months.

## Food Service Corner

### Three Ways to Purchase School Meals: Online Payment, Check, or Cash

Fairfax County Public Schools is pleased to announce that it now offers three ways to pay for school meals:

- **Online**—Using [www.myLunchMoney.com](http://www.myLunchMoney.com)—The service is easy to use, convenient, private, and secure. There is a convenience fee of \$1.95 per transaction. Once the account is open, parents may check the fund account at any time from computer or phone.
- **Check**—Write a check—made out to (School Name) Food and Nutrition Services—and bring the check to the food service manager's office. A parent who wants his or her check payments to be for meals only (no à la carte items) should write it on the check or tell the manager.
- **Cash**—Cash may be brought to the food service manager's office for deposit in student accounts, or students may pay cash for breakfast and lunch on a daily basis.

### Parents—Please Note!

- Parents may ask for a printed summary of their child(ren)'s account at any time by contacting the food service manager (or by signing on with [myLunchMoney.com](http://myLunchMoney.com)). You don't need to use the online account for this service.

### 2008-09 School Meal Prices

The prices for school meals during the 2008-09 school year will be as follows:

	<b>Breakfast</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
Elementary School	\$1.50	\$2.40
Reduced-Price Meals	\$0.30	\$0.40
Adults	\$1.95	\$3.40
Kindergarten Snack— Milk or Juice		\$0.60
Milk or Juice Plus Snack		\$0.95

School lunch menus, updated monthly, are available at

<http://www.fcps.edu/parents/schlunch.htm>.

## PTA Fall Book Fair



Mark your calendars for the Fall Book Fair. This PTA sponsored event will take place November 17th-21st. Look for more information to come in your child's upcoming Tuesday folders. If you are interested in volunteering for this event, please e-mail us at [bookfair@hunterswoodspta.org](mailto:bookfair@hunterswoodspta.org) Thanks from the Book Fair Committee.