

Dear Parents:

Here's the latest news from Lanier:

*Progress Reports Will be Emailed Home for Select Students: Teachers will email home grade reports tomorrow for students that have D, F or I (Incomplete) grades. In the future, we will be sending home similar reports every few weeks in between the dates that reports cards and interim reports cards are sent home. While certain teachers are already emailing home grade reports, this is the first time that we are attempting to do so across the entire school. We would like to email home grade reports for all students, but doing so is especially problematic unless we know that we have correct parent email addresses in our database. The challenge is both logistical and technical. With 1,150 students taking 7 classes each, emailing home grade reports to all students would necessitate the sending of at least 8000 grade reports at one time. By conservative estimates, approximately 15-20% of the parent email addresses on file are not working or out of date--which could cause 1200-1600 emails to be bounced back to the school. In addition, our technology support team is concerned that this high volume of email traffic at one time could crash teacher email accounts. Rather than risk these problems, we want to start small by emailing home progress reports only to the families of students that are most at risk or still missing assignments. If your child is not in this group and you have particular concerns about his or her grade, please contact teachers directly. Thanks for your patience as we work out the kinks in this new procedure.

*Early Closing Planned for 11/13/09 and 01/08/10: For your planning purposes, please be aware that Lanier will be closing school three hours early (at 11:55 a.m.) on Friday, November 13, 2009 and Friday, January 8, 2010 for staff development. Please know that regular bus service and lunch will be provided. Thank you for your time and assistance.

Reminders:

*Picture Day will be held on October 26th and 27th; pictures will take place during your child's PE class.

*The October PTA newsletter is posted on Lanier's homepage. The link is:

<http://www.fcps.edu/LanierMS/pta/oct09.pdf>

*LMS Car Decals: BRAND NEW! Show your school spirit! Only \$2.00! Send a request and \$2.00 in an envelope marked "Lisa Mountjoy - Decal" to the school office. Decals will be delivered to your student by their 5th period teacher.

*The Lanier Library needs volunteers! Some of the tasks include shelving returned books, cataloging/processing new books into the system, cataloging new magazines, removing old magazines, helping students locate books, helping students use the online catalog, etc. Hours are flexible, and any help is greatly appreciated. Ideally, we will have a couple of volunteers helping in the library each day. For more information, contact Kim Thompson at kimberthompson@earthlink.net or 703/273-3487. Thanks!

In the Community:

*Budget Discussions Begin: The following is a message from Deputy Superintendent Richard Moniuszko: Reading the tea leaves regarding the FY11 budget, we're going to have to be assertive to ensure that the community is aware of the impact of another year with no increase. Dr. Dale and Leadership Team continue to work on the Superintendent's budget for FY11, and it's not a pretty picture. It's still a work in progress, but this budget will contain another round of cuts similar to those in FY10. For the second year, FCPS will participate with Fairfax County government in communicating the serious nature of our budget situation, and participate with them in community dialogues. *It's important for parents and staff to participate*, as these meetings will be the first step in communicating the impact of FY10 budget cuts, and potential harm of further cuts in FY11. Format will be similar to last year, with participants attending a staff presentation followed by focus groups where they can express their opinion.

Saturday, October 24, 10:00 a.m.

Centerville Library, Reston Library, John Marshall Library

Thursday, October 29, 7:00 p.m.

South Lakes HS, Woodson HS

Saturday, November 14, 10:00 a.m.

Kings Park Library, Sherwood Library, George Mason Regional Library

*The City of Fairfax School Board will hold its monthly work session on Monday, October 19, 2009. The meeting will be held at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, in the George E. Stepp Library and will begin at 7:30 p.m.

The following topics will be discussed:

- Membership Report: Laura Robinson and Stephanie Haynos, Decision Support, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS)
- Student Achievement Update: Linda Burke, Cluster Superintendent and Rebecca Pearson, Cluster VII Director, FCPS
- Legislative Program: Jon Buttram and Janice Miller, City School Board Members
- Communications Plan/School Board Outreach: Janice Miller and Toby Sorensen, City School Board Members

PLEASE NOTE: AGENDAS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. For the most accurate, up-to-date information about what will be discussed at a public meeting, feel free to call the School Board office for details, Thank you.

*The Fairfax High School Theatre department is offering a one day drama camp for grades 1-8 on the upcoming teacher workday, Tuesday, November 3rd from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The cost is \$40. All proceeds support the FHS theatre students. Please see www.fxplayers.org for full details and a registration form.

*Learn How to Pay for College: Fairfax County Adult and Community Education will be offering a workshop entitled, "Little Known Secrets of Paying for College" from 7-9pm on Wednesday, November 4th and 11th at Woodson HS (9525 Main Street in Fairfax) and

from 7-9pm on Wednesday, December 2nd and 9th at Fairfax HS (3501 Run in Fairfax). Register today by calling 703-658-1201. Tuition is \$39.

Have a good weekend,

Scott Poole, Ph.D.
Principal, Lanier Middle School