

A LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Many of you have stopped in or emailed asking about the impending budget cuts. As you might have heard, the initial estimates are that FCPS will have an approximate \$170 million deficit for next school year (assuming county funding remains equal to this year). Although next school year is many months away, we're all asking what we can do NOW to appropriately advocate for London Towne and its programs.

At this point, it is important for all of us to understand the budget development timeline. Presently, the county is concluding its "Dialogue meetings" that have been held throughout the region over the last few weeks. The purpose of the meetings has been to begin gathering perspectives and information from various community members. In early January the Superintendent will officially present his proposed budget. The School Board will then hold hearings for the public to give input. In March, the School Board will finalize its budget based on the Superintendent's recommendations and public input. The County Board of Supervisors will, in turn, hold public hearings in March-April to finalize how much money will be provided to the school system. After receiving this amount, the School Board will revisit the budget and finalize it in late May, with additional public hearings held (usually in May).

As I learn more, I will keep you updated. It is important to stay educated as to the impact these cuts will have on London Towne. Although I cannot advocate for any one program or initiative over another, I can answer questions and help us understand how the deficit will affect our programs and students. As I communicated to the staff, we will continue to focus on what we do have control over, and that is to provide high-quality instruction to our children every school day. We have had an extremely successful first quarter and we will carry on the good work together. Continue to partner with us through positive communication and involvement.

On a lighter note, we are looking forward to seeing everyone at our Thanksgiving Luncheon on November 19th. It is one of the most important community events of the year here at the 'Towne, and one of my personal favorites! (You can't miss seeing Mr. Mitchell, Mrs. Fennessy, or myself in a hair-net serving up mashed potatoes! Now THERE's a lovely holiday sight! ☺) Truly, I appreciate this event because it signals the beginning of an important holiday, Thanksgiving. I believe that gratitude is one of the most important virtues we can teach our children and I want to begin by thanking each of you; for your support, (your patience with me as a new principal!), your contributions and insights that help us understand our students better, your professionalism, but most of all for allowing us to teach your children! Thank you!! See you all at the luncheon!

Gratefully yours,
Sigrid Ryberg



IMPORTANT! EARLY CLOSING

Please mark your calendar for Wednesday, November 11. London Towne will dismiss 2 hours early (12:45 p.m.). This is for staff development for teachers. Please make arrangements for your child.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 11	Veteran's Day School is <u>OPEN!</u>
November 11	2 hour early closing Staff Development 12:45 p.m. dismissal
November 18 – November 25	Book Fair
November 19	Thanksgiving Luncheon
November 25	2 hour early closing 12:45 p.m. dismissal
November 26 & 27	Thanksgiving Holidays (No School)
December 2	Picture Make-ups
December 17	2 hour early closing Staff Development 12:45 p.m. dismissal
December 23	2 hour early closing 12:45 p.m. dismissal
December 24 – January 1	Winter Vacation (School is closed)
January 6	Spanish Immersion Information Night 7:00 p.m. (January 27 – snow date)
January 18	Martin Luther King Birthday Holiday
January 29 & February 1	Teacher Workdays
February 15	Washington Birthday Holiday

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

We are in need of volunteers for the Thanksgiving Luncheon on Thursday, November 19. Opportunities would include selling tickets, hostess, serving, etc. If you are interested, please email:

volunteercoordinator@londontownepta.com

6TH GRADE PANORAMIC PICTURE

The 6th grade panoramic picture has been rescheduled for April 28.

PLEASE REMEMBER!

If your child is going home with another student, we need notes from both parents. Thank you for your cooperation.



THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON

Don't forget to attend our Thanksgiving Luncheon on Thursday, November 19. Tickets should be purchased in advance as the cafeteria does not accept cash for payment on that day due to the volume of lunches that will be served. Tickets will be given out in your child's classroom the day of the luncheon. The price for adults and children not enrolled in London Towne is \$3.65. The price for London Towne students is \$2.65 and they may use their lunch account to pay for that day. We hope to see you at this special event for our school.



INCLEMENT WEATHER

Please make sure your children know what to do in case of an early closing, delay, or if school is cancelled! In case of inclement weather, please listen to your local radio stations, local television stations or cable channel 21. **PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE SCHOOL!** We need to keep our phone lines open during these times for emergency calls.