

Mosby

Mahri Aste, Principal
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Matters

PARENT NEWSLETTER
October 5th, 2011

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MOSBY WOODS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Back to School Nights

Thank you for joining us for two very successful back to school nights. We were very excited to see new faces as well as welcome back so many members of our Mosby Woods family. A significant goal for our school is to foster ongoing positive communication. Our staff is committed to providing timely information that will help support student learning. Communication is a two-way street and so we invite you to also provide any information that you feel will help us support your child's learning. Please, don't wait until there is a problem. Consider starting off the year by conveying positive messages as well. Teachers love to hear that students are enjoying the year, a special day or a particular lesson.

Internet Access for Low Income Families



Comcast just announced its Internet Essentials program to try to assist families facing financial struggles in areas that Comcast provides Internet service. If a family has at least one child eligible for federal free lunch program, they may qualify for \$9.95 per month pricing on a broadband plan. This price includes all required equipment, and the price will not rise as long as the family continues to meet eligibility requirements. Comcast also has an option for a family to purchase a computer for \$149. For more information please visit: <http://www.internetessentials.com/>

Custodian Appreciation Week



Mosby Woods has designated the week of October 10th as Custodian Appreciation Week. Mosby Woods is most fortunate to have a **GREAT** custodial team who has done an outstanding job in preparing this building for opening in September, and maintaining it daily to provide our students and staff with a well-maintained school. We are lucky to have such friendly, competent people who take good care of our building. A special thank you to:

George Hwang
Nafashir Aban
Khiem Ngo
Esperanza Marca
Chanh Tran
Nana Adonteng

Walk for the Homeless



We are so proud to participate in the upcoming Walk for the Homeless, Friday, Nov. 4th at 1:45 pm at Mosby Woods. Thanks to sponsorship from the community and Fannie Mae, our school will raise over \$20,000 for Mount Carmel House, a homeless shelter, by our walkathon. Selected student readers will share their poems and writing about the problems of being homeless. Residents and former residents of Mount Carmel House and representatives from Fannie Mae will also join us. Permission slips will be going home soon.

Volunteers are Needed for Innisbrook Sales Fundraiser



When: Friday, November 4th at 9:30 -1:30 approximately

We are asking for volunteers to help unload the Innisbrook orders from the delivery truck. The meeting place will be in front of trailer one. Following unloading, we will begin to deliver to the classrooms. If you are able to help out for all or some of the time, please contact Ellen Hildbold at 703-255-6268.

Dealing with Back to School Routines

As school begins you may have noticed your child's energy level change. Many parents report their children are quiet when they get home or are not interested in physical activities. They are going through an adjustment period and learning new school routines. They may seem exhausted, but keep in mind they have been mentally challenged for 6 1/2 hours. The good news is that children are resilient and they do adjust. There are a few ways you can help to make that adjustment even smoother. By setting up consistent routines at home, they will quickly learn expectations and responsibilities that will continue through the school day. Here are a few tips for implementing routines at home:

- 1) **Make homework a priority:** Set a specific time and place for doing homework each day. Homework should be a review of concepts as well as reading. If your child is having great difficulty completing their homework, contact their teacher to set up a conference and together find a solution.
- 2) **Plan regular mealtimes:** Sitting together at the dinner table gives children the opportunity to share their day's experience and get support for whatever they're feeling. It also is an ideal time to introduce routines that give children responsibility, such as setting or clearing the table. Older children can be pre-dinner helpers and washer-uppers.
- 3) **Limit activities:** It is wonderful to provide opportunities for students to do activities after the school day, but limit the number of activities so that they do not become overwhelming and interfere with a student's academic priorities. Having a laundry list of after-school activities defeats the purpose of enjoying extracurricular experiences
- 4) **Wind down before bed:** Consistent nightly rituals are soothing and take the battle out of bedtime.
- 5) **Be consistent:** Routines are essential, and only work if they are consistent. It is often tempting in our busy lives to skip routines and procedures because of time. Remember that the time you spend now is an investment in your child's future.

School Facilities Council Opportunity Open

Area residents have until Friday, October 7, to apply for the Providence district vacancy on the Facilities Planning Advisory Council (FPAC) and advise and the School Board on facilities issues that may impact our area schools. The Providence district contains portions of our school boundary area. The School Board established FPAC last year to advise the Board and staff in developing comprehensive, long-term plans for Fairfax County Public Schools facility needs. Among the issues council members will be considering are school program capacity, transportation and operating efficiencies, financing and construction strategies, school renovations and closures, and planning for new buildings and boundaries. More information about the Providence district and the council is available at www.fcps.edu.

Dates to Remember



October 6th – AAP Parent Information Night at 7:00 pm

October 10th – Columbus Holiday – **NO SCHOOL**
Custodian Appreciation Week

October 18th – PTA Meeting at 7:00 pm

October 27th – 3rd Grade Field Trip to Washington, DC

November 4th – Walk for the Homeless at 1:45 pm
End of 1st Quarter

November 7th & 8th – Teacher Workdays – **NO SCHOOL**
Parent – Teacher Conferences

Mark your calendars!
Thanksgiving lunch
November 17th

