



October 5, 2010

Principal's Message



Fall is here! It's been a great month, and now we're half-way through the first quarter. Kids are comfortable in their classes, making new friends, and learning a ton of new material.

One of our goals this year as teachers is to go beyond teaching information. We're actively trying to teach all students to think. While that may sound easy, consider this: when you ask someone HOW they solved a big problem, how often do you hear the replies "I don't know" or "I just knew"? It hap-

pens with kids and adults—we have difficulty explaining our thinking. This year Providence teachers received training on how to help students structure their thoughts when they learn something new. Using diagrams and concrete models to show relationships between ideas, different perspectives on the same idea, how systems work, etc. is becoming part of how we work and teach this year.

You may remember that last year I asked you to always ask your children "what did you learn today?" and to not accept "nothing" as a response. This year, please keep asking WHAT until you get something specific (fractions, water cycle, rivers in VA, etc.). Then ask HOW questions: (How does ___ work? How is ___ different from ___? How is what you know now about ___ different

Did You Know?

The Panther Press comes out monthly in both paper form AND online. Check out the Providence website (click on PES Newsletters) to read it online and see the pictures in full color

from what you knew before?). If both school and home work together to push students to focus on their thinking more than their recall of facts, we're really onto something!

We are planning a training for parents on more specific strategies for encouraging thinking. Watch Tuesday Folders for a flyer in the coming weeks.

And please continue to stay in touch with your child's teacher. Interims went home today and the quarter ends in one month.

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We Our Business Partners!



Providence is so fortunate to have the best Business Partners any school could imagine. For all or your work mentoring students week in and week out, we cannot thank you enough! Here's to another great year!



National Pest Management Association Inc. INTERNATIONAL



Need to Know

FCPS Holds Boundary Meetings

FCPS will hold six meetings as part of the Southwestern Boundary Study on Monday, October 25, and Tuesday, October 26. These meetings are open to parents and interested citizens and involve 23 elementary schools in the region: Bonnie Brae, Brookfield, Bull Run, Centre Ridge, Centreville, Clifton, Cub Run, Deer Park, Eagle View, Fairfax Villa, Fairview, Greenbriar East, Greenbriar West, Laurel Ridge, London Towne, Oak View, Poplar Tree, Powell, Providence, Sangster, Union Mill, Virginia Run, and Willow Springs.

In addition, potential elementary realignments could result in potential movement of students from Robinson Secondary to either Lake Braddock Secondary or Centreville High and its feeder, Liberty Middle.

The boundary meetings will be held on October 25 and 26 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the cafeterias of the following schools:

October 25

[Greenbriar West Elementary School](#), 13300 Poplar Tree Road, Fairfax
[Union Mill Elementary School](#), 13611 Springstone Drive, Clifton
[Virginia Run Elementary School](#), 15450 Martins Hundred Drive, Centreville

October 26

[Powell Elementary School](#), 13340 Leland Road, Centreville
[Fairview Elementary School](#), 5815 Ox Road, Fairfax Station

[Willow Springs Elementary School](#), 5400 Willow Springs School Road, Fairfax

Each meeting will feature an identical presentation followed by small group discussions of the options presented. Staff members from the departments of Facilities and Transportation and Instructional Services will be available to answer citizen questions.

The boundary study continues a community engagement process that began in October 2009 when the Southwestern Regional Planning Study Committee was formed to identify potential solutions to overcrowding and underutilization at several schools in the southwestern area. The committee identified boundary and program changes and possible building additions as possible solutions.

For planning purposes, those interested in attending the boundary meetings are asked to register at <http://www.fcps.edu/fts/planning/southwesternstudy/index.htm>.

New Process for Tuesday Folders

By now we've had our new Tuesday Folder process in place for a month. Remember, most flyers and school/PTA notices should only be going home with the "oldest & only" children who have YELLOW folders. If you are the parent of siblings at Providence and are still receiving duplicate paperwork, please let your child's teacher know ASAP so that we can correct any errors and conserve paper!

Hispanic Heritage Month

Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated from September 15-October 15. During that time we recognize Hispanic culture through student sharing on our morning broadcast, WPES.

Cell Phone Use in Kiss & Ride

Please do not talk or text on your cell phones or handheld devices while driving through the Kiss & Ride. We literally have hundreds of people ages 4-elderly adult walking alongside the parking lot, and we need EVERYONE'S cooperation to ensure a safe, accident-free arrival and dismissal procedure.

General Safety—Bus Riders

Please remind your children to go directly home from school each day when they are dismissed. Bus riders should go directly home from their bus stop. The safest time to walk through the neighborhoods is when there are groups of students and parents present.

Advanced Academic Programs

Last Wednesday evening, Mr. Borhauer, our Advanced Academics Resource Teacher gave a presentation to parents on Advanced Academic Programs at Providence and the referral process for full-time programs (Advanced Academic Center placement). If you missed the presentation or would like more information, please contact Mr. Borhauer or go to <http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/gt> This site includes a wealth of information including the different levels of service FCPS provides, testing information, and downloadable Parent Referral Forms, which are due Feb. 4, 2011 for those who are interested.

Want to Know What's Going on at
Providence?
Check out the

Principal's Blog

Linked to www.fcps.edu/ProvidenceES
New Posts every Friday afternoon!

PTA Connection

Hello Panther Families!

We really started out the school year right and I have so many people to thank on behalf of the PTA. We had many volunteers for delivery of school supply packs, open house, back to school nights, and early Tuesday folder stuffing. One of my goals is to get better at thanking those who help the PTA by offering their time. Here's a list of helpful Panthers. If I've forgotten you in this list, please know your help was not forgotten!! **Thank You!**

Claudia Grimmell
Beth Donohue
Sue Kelley
Tara Rivera
Carlos Helena
Sue Elgart
Donald Vaughn
Purvi Desai
Grandpa Almond
Sheila Carney
Susan Smullen
Cynthia and Charlotte Cute
Dyan and Juliana Schumack
Kathy and Connor Kirley

Deb Hertz
Becky Whitacre
Eileen Cytryn
Linda Remkes
Deborah Smith
Annmarie Moshos
Beverly Redler
Anita Flob
Kerrissa Watson-Hevia

MariAnn Seybold
Susan Randolph
Tina Kilts
Beth Intermill
Beth Young
Susan Kahn
Lisa Klisch
Lisa Schauss
Bridget Parr

Stacie, Jim, Shauna, Sierra and Elana Kaplan
Richard, Janet and Rachel Pace
Susan, Steven, Jake and Bella Sawyer
Christie, Nathan and David Johnson



Normally the PTA hosts the Sock Hop in October. This year, we're moving the Sock Hop to February and adding in a family **Movie on the Lawn!** We are still working through some details for the evening but hope to host movie night on October 15th with a rain date of October 22nd. Mark your calendars for this FREE event and look for more details in the coming week.

The PTA is desperately looking for someone to serve as the **Yearbook Chairperson**. We are looking for someone creative who might enjoy working with page layouts and graphic ideas for our yearbook. The yearbook is done online through our new photography company. They are very helpful in making the process of putting together the yearbook easy. If you're interested, please let me know! This kind of work can be done at home on your own time. The work can also be spread out among several people who can each be responsible for a set of pages in the yearbook but we need one person to act as the lead. Please help out if you can!

Our **Innisbrook Fall Fundraiser** is over. If you still have order forms and money at home, please get your orders entered online if you can and send your money to Providence. If you can't enter your orders, you can send those in with your money and the PTA can enter them for you. If you have any questions or problems, please contact Becky Whitacre at 703-352-1708 or becky.whitacre@verizon.net or Cara Radoll at 571-345-4801 or info@ptaprovidence.org.

Our next **PTA meeting** is scheduled for October 18th at 9:00am in the conference room down the hall from the clinic. I encourage you to come if you can! We want to hear from you!

Have a great week!

Cara
PTA President

FCPS Parent Resource Center

Free Resources!

Parents did you know there is a FCPS resource center just for you? The Parent Resource Center (PRC) is a free lending library with 4 thousand titles, CD's, and DVD's covering topics from parenting skills, behavioral issues, learning disabilities and much, much more. They have popular authors/speakers such as Kirk Martin, Celebrate Calm, Jonathan Mooney, Learning Outside of the Lines, and Jim Fay and Foster Cline, Parenting with Love and Logic. There are also children's books covering a wide variety of difficult topics and learning disabilities.

The PRC is staffed with caring and knowledgeable parent liaisons that can answer your questions about a wide range of topics and if needed, can help you navigate the special education process. Workshops are held throughout the month at various location and times. Many of the workshop topics can benefit all parents and some cover topics more specific to parents of kids with special needs. Upcoming workshops are listed below. For more information about resources and workshops go to: www.fcps.edu/ccopr. The Parent Resource Center is for you! Don't miss this terrific opportunity for free re-

sources, information, and workshops to help you and your child.

Parent Resource Center

2334 Gallows Rd. #105
Dunn Loring, VA 22027
(703) 204-3941

Hours: Mon.-Fri., 8 am to 4 pm, (open until 7:30pm one night a month)

Oct. – Nov. Workshops:

Oct. 13 - PRC is open late until 8:30 pm – Focus on Bully Prevention

Oct. 21st –The ABC's of Good Behavior, 7-9pm, Centerville Elementary School

Oct. 26th –Recharge Reading, 7-9 pm, Robinson Secondary School

Nov. 5th – PRC First Friday: Anxiety Issues, 10 am -12 pm PRC, room 1

Nov. 10th – PRC is open late until 7:30 pm – Focus on Behavior, psychologist and social workers available to answer questions.

Nov. 11th – SOL's and Alternative Assessments, 7:30-9 pm, PRC



Counselor's Corner

Welcome to the 2010-2011 school year at Providence Elementary School! Sarah Rupp is a full-time counselor working with grades K, 4, 5 & 6 and Jaime Stanton is our other full-time counselor working with grades 1, 2, 3 & 6. Our job is to meet the needs of our students and families in order to help our children be successful and do their best learning.

How can I contact the counselor?

Sarah Rupp at 703-460-4424 sarah.rupp@fcps.edu

Jaime Stanton at 703-460-4426 jaime.stanton@fcps.edu

What does the counselor do?

It is important that a counselor establish a trusting relationship with the children. The child needs to know that she will be there to listen and reflect his/her feelings, thoughts and concerns. Initially, the counselor's role is to listen and convey understanding. Subsequently, the goal is to guide the child towards working on new solutions that will help them deal with their concerns.

What are some of the services the counselors will offer?

This year, our counseling program will offer a number of services to meet the needs of our students and families. Counselors can meet with students for individual and group counseling. We will also visit the classrooms monthly to talk about different topics such as friendship, bullying, and how to handle certain feelings. For more information on the counseling program at Providence, you may contact either School Counselor or pick up a brochure in the front office.

This month's counseling topic: BULLYING

We will be visiting each classroom this month to talk to students about bullying. Bullying among children is aggressive behavior that is intentional and usually involves one student gaining power over another student. Bullying can take many forms, such as hitting or punching (physical bullying); teasing or name-calling (verbal bullying); intimidation using gestures or social exclusion (nonverbal or emotional bullying); and sending insulting messages by phone or computer (cyber bullying).

What your child should do if they are being bullied or witness bullying:

- Stay calm and alert; be assertive and strong.
- Use an I-Message (I feel _____ when you _____.)
- Tell the bully to stop.
- Walk away.
- Take a non-violent stand. Respectfully say, "I don't want to fight with you."
- Talk to an adult.

How you can help your child:

- Help your child understand that physical or emotional abuse is never acceptable.
- Talk to your child, other parents, and teachers about what is going on. The more you know about your child's everyday activities, the better you can prevent at-risk behavior.
- Don't tell your child to ignore the behavior. He or she likely came to you because it was too difficult to ignore it.
- Listen carefully to what your child tells you about the bullying.
- Empathize with your child. Tell him/her that bullying is wrong, not their fault, and that you are glad that he/she came to talk to you about it.
- Do not encourage any kind of retaliation.
- Talk to your child about how to handle a bully.
- Contact your child's school and give factual information about what occurred.

Help your child become more resilient to bullying by helping them develop talents or positive attributes. Getting involved in other activities may help your child be more confident among his/her peers.

October 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 <i>Fairfax City School Bd Mtg, 7:30 City Hall</i>	5 <i>Interims go home</i>	6	7	8	9
10	11 <i>Columbus Day No School</i>	12	13 <i>School Picture Day</i>	14	15 <i>PTA Movie Night</i>	16
17	18	19 <i>Title I Parent Night</i>	20	21	22	23
24	25 <i>Southwest Boundary Change Mtgs—various FCPS locations, see p. 2</i>	26	27	28	29	30
31	Nov. 1 & 2: Parent/Teacher Conferences. Student Holidays					

Providence in Pictures: (Clockwise from top) Mr. Dredge’s class begins the day with a morning meeting; Mrs. Jelinek and Mr. Winokur meet with parents; students pulled veggies from our courtyard garden (which was incorporated into lunch!); 1st graders work in groups; WPES anchors rehearse for the broadcast.

