

MANY FACES,
ONE SCHOOL

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

- Teacher Appreciation Week
- Orchestra and Chorus Concerts
- Art Night!
- SOLs begin for 3rd – 6th graders.
- PBIS Pep Rally
- PTA Elections

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Memorial Day Holiday	May 28
Field Day 4-6	June 5
Field Day 1-3	June 7
Field Day K	June 8
5th Grade Medieval Day	June 13
Evening Band Concert	
Day Band Concert	June 14
6th Grade Ceremony	June 15
Last Day	

The Robin's Review

ROLLING VALLEY ES

MAY 18, 2012

Planning for Next Year

As parents begin to think about the end of the school year, thoughts inevitably turn toward next year's classes, teachers, and student groupings. One of the most popular questions that arises at this time of year concerns how students are placed in classes for the next year.

The process for class assignments actually begins before staff members leave for the summer, as teachers work together to determine student needs and develop initial class constructions. Teachers look to form classes that have a balance of abilities, ethnicity, and gender. They also look to create a class that has a good learning dynamic, with a mix of student relationships that enhance learning. In addition to classroom teachers, counselors, special educators, and other specialists also provide input.

Parents are invited to provide information which may be unique and significant to their child(ren) and may be helpful in making these class assignments. You may consider sending a letter (or e-mail) describing the type of classroom learning environment and teaching style.



Our Fifth Grade Team

Please include any specific information (learning style, child's background, favorite subjects or interests, school history, etc.) that you believe will assist us in creating the most successful learning environment for your child.

Please do not request a particular teacher for a number of reasons.

Staff changes mean that teachers are not neces-

sarily teaching the same grade the next year, and sometimes information gathered about a certain teacher could be inaccurate or based on one child's or family's unique circumstances and opinion.

If you wish to send in information about unique needs we need to know about your child(ren), please do so to mbo-land@fcps.edu by **Friday, June 15th** (by e-mail or letter). We will not consider the information presented if the e-mail comes after the June 15 deadline. I will respond to your e-mail to let you know I have received it. If you do not hear from me, please send it again.

While we may or may not be able to honor the request, the information will receive full consideration as viewed in the context of other needs.

Providing Service While Learning

On our recent parent survey, many parents indicated that they were not aware of the service learning efforts of RVES students. Rolling Valley has always been a school that is committed to community service. Many years ago, Rolling Valley had a Community Involvement Program that organized community service events and tracked student involvement by logging hours of service. FCPS recognized that many schools were making the effort towards giving back to their communities; however there was a lack of connection between the service and learning. As an effort to bridge the service to learning, the idea of Service Learning was embraced at our school. Service Learning as defined by FCPS is a teaching method designed to involve students in authentic and meaningful service to their communities. Service Learning

connects classroom content to the community in a way that is helpful to others. The primary emphasis of Service Learning is on enriching the learning that happens as students apply their knowledge to a community context.

A Service Learning Committee of teachers, specialists, instructional assistants, and administrators at Rolling Valley meets monthly to enhance service learning efforts at every grade level. They work together to identify curriculum objectives for each grade level and to facilitate the development of research and standards-based projects that will address a community need.

The following Service Learning projects are taking place at Rolling Valley:

- K and First: Recycling
- Second: Going Green and its impact on animals

- Third and Fifth: International Night
- Fourth: School Garden
- Sixth: Biographies with Seniors

Rolling Valley is committed to providing service learning opportunities for all students that are authentic, meaningful, and reflective to their learning. As a result, students will be able to make connections between the classroom and the community through service learning experiences linked to the FCPS Program of Studies.

Please feel free to contact your child's teacher to learn more about the Service Learning projects happening in their classrooms. If you have any additional questions and/or suggestions about Service Learning at Rolling Valley, feel free to contact Semi Tseggai at sktseggai@fcps.edu.



4th Graders Work on the Native Plants Habitat



Mrs. Dalton contemplating her role as Testing Coordinator

Spring = Assessments

The last nine weeks of school always prove to be a very busy time for everyone. In addition to continued teaching and learning, the Standards of Learning (SOL) tests and other assessments happen during this time frame.

The dates have been communicated for the SOLs in grades 3-6. Please avoid making any appointments, trips, etc., during the time your child is taking the SOL. If an absence is unavoidable, please contact our testing coordinator/assistant principal, Janice Dalton at jbedwardsdal@fcps.edu.

In addition to the SOL tests, Kindergarteners will take the Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA) for word analysis, and students in First and Second grades will be tested on their developmental reading skills. First and Second grade students will also take the Mathematics Reasoning Assessment (MRA).

Teachers will continue to work hard to keep students focused on learning and being a Rockin' Robin.

How can you help your child get ready for the SOLs? One

of the greatest challenges for our students is simply finding the stamina it takes to stay alert and on task during the test. You can help your child build this stamina by gradually extending their reading time each night.

You may also access the practice tests on VDOE at

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/released_tests/

As always, we thank you for your continued support and all that you do for the children at our school.

THE ROBIN'S REVIEW

Be sure to check out the RV website at www.fcps.edu/RollingValleyES/, the RV blog at www.robinsnest.edublogs.org and the RV PTA website at <https://sites.google.com/site/rollingvalleypta/>.

School and PTA flyers are posted each Friday to Blackboard 24/7.