



The Terragram



Information for Terraset Parents

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Ellen Cury, Principal

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Joan Carter, Acting Assistant Principal

Principal's Message

January 13, 2009

Dear Parents:



Thank you to **Renee Gilanshah** and **Faye Coddling** for taking the time out of their busy schedules to apply for **Lowe's' Toolbox for Education Grant**. Terraset

was awarded \$4,300 to revitalize our Butterfly Garden. Way to go!

Did you get to see our second grade students dance and sing their way through Mexico on Thursday night? It was wonderful to see how much the students learned through their art work and projects. Special recognition goes to **Mrs. Henry, Ms Sasson, Mrs. Byrnes, Mrs. Wehle, Mr. Patterson and Mrs. Goldman** for their hard work and creativity!



Many of you have inquired about the potential impact the proposed FCPS budget will have on schools next year.

We have read in public newspapers that FCPS should expect a budget shortfall of over \$200 million, which means, there will need to be some cuts in multiple areas across the district. Some of the impact will be district wide, such as an increase in class size, which means fewer teachers and possible elimination of some elective courses if enrollment is low. Consequently, I anticipate it will be difficult for students to change schedules once the teaching schedule is put in place in early summer.

In addition to larger class sizes, the proposed FCPS budget includes a salary freeze for all staff, and the elimination of some academic and athletic programs. All of these potential cuts are speculative at this point, given the School Board is reviewing them and awaiting any additional revenue sources, such as an increase in property tax rates from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. We hope to retain as many services and programs as possible next year, and appreciate your ongoing support and contributions to the school. (Adapted from Evan Glazer's statement in the January TJ Newsletter.) The calendar for the FY' 10 budget meetings can be located at <http://www.fcps.edu/schlbd/calendar.htm>

INFORMATION ON THE GIFTED AND TALENTED (GT) PROGRAMS



Fairfax County Public Schools provides a continuum of gifted services for elementary students. Each elementary school offers part-time GT school-based services for students with specific academic strengths (Levels II and III). The gifted and talented center program is a full-time program for highly gifted learners (Level IV).

Every year all second grade students are administered the Cognitive Ability Test (CogAT) and the Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT). A second grade GT center screening pool is established using these test results. Students in the second grade pool are automatically screened for GT center placement. Parents and guardians of students not in the second grade screening pool may initiate the GT center screening process by completing and submitting a **Gifted and Talented**

Center Referral form to the local school principal by February 6, 2009.

Forms are available on the GT web site: <http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/gt> and in the *Parent Information Packet* available at the local school. Second graders **not** in the pool and all third through seventh graders are screened only by referral.

**2008 - 2009 Terraset
All County Chorus Announced!**

The Terraset Chorus is pleased to announce its members of the 2008 - 2009 Sixth Grade All County Chorus:

Levi P., Jesus P., Liseth M., Michelle C., Zoe J., Joanna P., and Jennifer V..

These students will participate in a county wide choral festival in April at Fairfax High School.

Congratulations!

**EXPRESS YOURSELF - SAFE AND DRUG-FREE
YOUTH BOOKMARK CONTEST**

The annual anti-drug Bookmark contest will start on Monday, January 12 and end at 9:30am on Thursday, January 22. All bookmarks must be turned in by 9:30 am. The theme will be: My Community and Me - Safe and Drug Free. Poster board and entry forms (that contain instructions) can be picked up at Mrs. Palatucci's office starting on Monday, January 12. A guardian/parent OR teacher must sign the entry form indicating that the child's work is original and in compliance with the contest rules. This contest is being co-sponsored by FCPS, the Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge, the DEA and the Arts and Education in Concert. Two main winners (one from grades K-3 and the other from 4 - 6) will be sent on for a final judging where saving bond prizes may be won.



PEER MEDIATION PROGRAM



Terrasets Peer Mediation program has been running at full steam since October. Mrs. Palatucci trained 8 new 5th grade mediators. They are: **Marci**

F., Darien W., Yolanda B., Gisela J., Mica K., Sean C., Luis C. and Emma W.. They are joined by 9 returning 6th grade mediators: **Andrew B., Dana G., Levi P., Comfort R., Alyssa M., Jonah M., Leonardo B., Charnice G. and Hope G.**

The 6th grade mediators have embarked on a project called "Ask a Mediator." It is like Dear Abby in that students send in friendship questions and the mediators answer them. The questions and answers will be put into pamphlets to be distributed several times between January and June. Ask a Mediator questions and answers will also be posted on the Guidance Blackboard site.

In sum, the Peer Mediation program is designed to give students in grades K - 6 an opportunity to enlist the aid of specially trained peer mediators to help resolve minor friendship conflicts. Mrs. Palatucci is present at all mediations that occur between disputants and the mediators.

CALENDAR

January

- 13** 6:30 - 7:30 pm, Spring Carnival volunteer meeting, library
- 15** Candid Photo/Group Photo
- 19** Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
- 20** Inauguration Day Holiday
- 23** End of 2nd grading period
SCA Spirit Day
9:15-1:30pm, 3rd gr. field trip to Udvar-Hazy Air & Space Museum
- 26-27** Teacher Work Days - NO CLASSES
- 29** 6:30 - 7:30pm, *Terrasets Got Talent* Talent Show