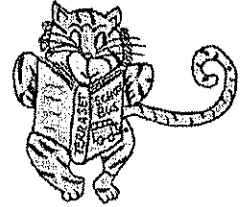




# The Terragram



## Information for Terraset Parents

(703) 390-5600

Attendance Line (703) 390-5656

FAX (703) 390-5697

Ellen Cury, Principal

Joan Carter, Assistant Principal

### Principal's Message September 29, 2009

Dear Parents:

It was so nice seeing so many of you at Back to School Night. This is a great start to your involvement in your child's education for this school year.

At Back to School Night, Stephanie Randall, PTA President, talked about PTA's initiative to help increase parent participation and volunteerism at Terraset. Consider the Three4Me Pledge. We need you!



Fairfax County has instituted a new attendance follow-up when your child is absent. If you have not called in to let us know your child is absent you will receive an automated call reminding you to call us. You will also receive a call from our office - just like in the past. So how can you prevent these calls to your home? Easy, call the attendance line anytime before 9:00 am. Tell us your child's name, grade, teacher and specifics on your child's illness. You will not receive follow-up phone call for this excused absence. You *will* continue to receive automated phone calls if your child's absence is not excused. A child is excused from school if your child is sick, your child has a doctor's appointment or if there is a death in your immediate family. Other absences such as vacations, trips, etc. are considered unexcused. More specifics on school attendance are in the yellow Students Rights and Responsibilities book that was sent home for your signature over the past weeks.



**Important Reminder:** Please send in your Emergency Care form if you haven't done so already.

This is the last week you have to help your kids make some sales from the Innisbrook catalog and win some prizes! The sale ends on 9/30/09.

There are prizes from both Innisbrook and the PTA, so every student has a good chance to get something. Check out the PTA Prize List.

You can order in two ways:

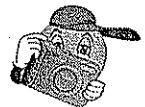
1. Online at [www.innisbrook.com](http://www.innisbrook.com) If you enter the school number -- 109245 -- shipping is free but the items are delivered to the school.
2. Complete the paper order form and send it to school in the Innisbrook envelope, along with a check, made out to Terraset PTA, for the total order value, and we will order for you!

Check your Innisbrook pack for full details.

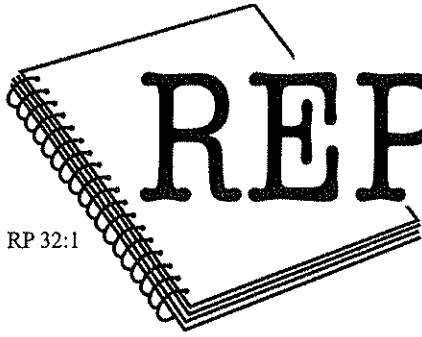
### CALENDAR

#### October

- 6 7:00 pm, PTA meeting, library
- 7 9:30 am - 1:30 pm, Vision & Hearing Screening for K, 1, & 3
- 9:30 am - 5:30 pm, 6<sup>th</sup> grade field trip to Madeira School
- 12 Columbus Day Holiday
- 14 Picture Day (student portraits taken)



**THIS IS THE LAST WEEK FOR GIFT WRAP SALE!**



# REPORT<sub>to</sub> PARENTS

RP 32:1

## School Attendance

Students need to be in school every day to stay on track. Teachers' lesson plans are carefully constructed to introduce new concepts, reinforce them with learning activities, and then move on to new skills and ideas. When children aren't in school, they fall behind. And the more days they miss, the harder it is to catch up. That's where you come in.

**Report In.** Schools are required to track attendance of every child in every classroom every day. It is essential that you always contact the school if your child is going to be late for class, will need an early dismissal, or will be absent.

**Get the Work.** When you know ahead of time your child will be missing class, give the teachers plenty of notice so they can provide your child with make-up work to do. Be sure that your child follows through—you'll need to be his or her "teacher" on those days, so be available to explain concepts or monitor the work.

If your child is out unexpectedly, due to illness or other reasons, in addition to contacting the school attendance office, make arrangements with your child's teachers to pick up a packet of work/readings from the school. If the absence will be lengthy (e.g., for surgery), alert the teachers as soon as you know and get updated assignments and work packets as the days go on.

**Religious Absences.** It is inevitable that some families' important religious observances will fall on school days. Let your children's teachers know early in the year precisely which days your children will not be attending or will need to leave early.

**How Sick Is Too Sick?** It's impossible to say categorically when a child should go to school or stay home. However, one typical guideline is that a child is usually fine to attend school if his or her fever is under 100° and there is no rash, "pink eye," nausea, or diarrhea. The decision to keep a child home from school is best

made between you and your child's health care provider. If the doctor or nurse recommends that your child stay home, find out exactly how long and on what conditions he or she can return to class (e.g., after 24 hours of antibiotics).

**Faking It?** If your child is complaining of a fever, but you're suspicious, make sure to stay in the room the entire time the child's temperature is being taken. A child complaining of nausea will probably be paler in color and slightly sweaty, and will usually need to vomit more than once. Send your child to school if you don't see a real symptom, knowing that the school nurse will contact you if things change. Also, be alert if your child seems to be "sick" on school days but always rebounds for the weekend.



**Vacation Plans.** It's tempting to pull your kids from school for a family trip, but it's a bad idea. Why? First, it gives your children the impression that their schooling is not your top priority. And when they miss classwork, even if you ask for make-up work to be sent home ahead of time, they can fall behind because they're missing many hours of instructional time each day. Instead of thinking of how you can miss the crowds by taking trips during the school year, think about what it could

be costing your child in the long run.

**Check Those Appointments.** Schedule your kids' doctor and dental appointments for after-school or weekend hours unless there's an emergency. Schedule your children's twice-yearly dental appointment during winter and summer breaks, and schedule school physicals, immunizations, and other routine care for school holidays or summer break.

Finally, remember to show and tell your children that attendance is important—whether it's as a child in school or as an adult on the job. You'll be helping them succeed, both in school and in life.



*Report to Parents*, written to serve elementary and middle-level principals, may be reproduced by National Association of Elementary School Principals members without permission. Current year back issues are available to members at [www.naesp.org](http://www.naesp.org).