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Family Newsletter

November 20, 2009



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Early Closing on Wednesday, November 25, 2009

All Fairfax County schools will close two hours early on Wednesday, November 25th the day before Thanksgiving. Students in grades 1-6 will be released at 1:15. The midday kindergarten runs will be on a Monday schedule. Morning and afternoon kindergarten will end and begin at 10:40 am.

Grades		Time
1 - 6	Wed., 11/25	8:35 a.m.-1:15 p.m.
Kindergarten	Wed., 11/25	AM 8:35-10:40 a.m. PM 10:40 -1:15 p.m.

FCPS 24/7 Learning (Blackboard)

Please be sure to routinely check your child's FCPS 24/7 Learning (Blackboard) site for important communication from your child's teacher. You will find timely announcements, due dates, contact information, and homework assignments. You can use your child's student ID number and assigned password to log on at <http://fcps.blackboard.com>. If you need help accessing your child's FCPS 24/7 Learning (Blackboard) account, please contact your child's teacher. If you have more than one child in Fairfax County Public Schools, you may be interested in signing up for a Parent View account. For more information about Parent View, please go to <http://www.fcps.edu/DIT/fcps247.html>.

eCART Scores

The FCPS eCART Division Assessment window will close November 24. After the window closes, parents of children in grades 3 – 6 will be able to access their child's detailed score for three weeks by logging onto FCPS 24/7 Learning (Blackboard) using their child's FCPS 24/7 Learning (Blackboard) account information. Scores will not be available using Parent View accounts. For more information, please contact your child's teacher.

Sixth Grade Grace Art Moved to December 21st

Please note that the date for the Georgia O'Keeffe 6th grade after-school Grace Art presentation has been changed. Originally scheduled for November 30, the O'Keeffe presentation and art project will now be on Monday, December 21 at 12:45 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Lorrie Kehl at lorrainekehl@aol.com.

FCPS Holds Budget Dialogues

Due to public demand, Fairfax County and Fairfax County Public Schools will hold three additional community dialogue sessions to discuss the FY 2011 budget on Wednesday, December 2. The sessions will run from 7 to 9 p.m. at three locations:

- Hayfield Secondary School
- Herndon High School
- Lake Braddock Secondary School

To register for one of these sessions, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget. Additional information is available on the county's budget web site or by calling 703-324-2391, TTY 711.

Key Chains and Items Hanging from Backpacks

Please monitor the number of items hanging from your child's backpack. An overabundance of key chains or other items may get caught in a bus or car door. Thank you!

Box Tops and the Power of 1!

Thank you for supporting BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION and our school. From now until **December 1**, everyone who joins Box Tops online will earn five Box Tops for our school. If 400 people sign up for box tops, that will earn our school \$200. That's cash our school can use to buy anything it needs. Go to www.boxtops4education.com/one, register to become a member of BoxTopsForEducation.com and designate a school to support, filling in all requested information completely. Invite your friends (neighbors, relatives, etc.) and encourage them to invite their friends. Before you know it, you've turned the **power of one** into the power of millions! Thanks for your support and special thanks to PTA chairs, Tina Cook and Carolina Anea, for planning and organizing this program for 2009-2010!

Advanced Academic (formerly Gifted and Talented) Referrals

Parents/guardians of students not in the second grade screening pool may initiate the AA center screening process by completing and submitting a Gifted and Talented GT Center Referral form to Susan Shadis, school principal, no later than February 5, 2010. Second graders not in the pool and all third through sixth graders are screened only by referral. Forms are available on the FCPS AA Program web site at <http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/gt/index.html>. For additional information call Sandy Chang at 703-322-8575 or sandy.chang@fcps.edu.

Town Hall for Students December 15

The Secretary of the Federal Dept. of Education, Arne Duncan, will host a national town hall as part of the DOE's *Education News Parents Can Use* in a live broadcast via the local PBS station WETA, December 15, at 2 p.m. EDST. "Throughout the hour-long event, he will take comments and questions from the students in the studio audience and around the nation via telephone, email and video." Students can participate now by submitting questions or posting their answers to the questions below. Students can also call during the live broadcast at 1-888-493-9382 between 2:00 and 3:00 p.m EDST.

The questions are:

- How can students assume responsibility for their own education?
- How can we do a better job of preparing students for college and careers?
- How can we encourage more students to become involved in community service and civic life?
- Who and what are the most important influences on today's young people?

Further details can be found at www.ed.gov/edtv .

Picture Retake Day December 2

Picture Retake Day will be Wednesday, December 2. If your child did not have his/her picture taken on our first Picture day, please pick up an order form in the office, fill it out, and return it, along with your payment, on Wednesday, December 2. If you would like to have your child's pictures retaken, please have your child return the first packet of pictures to the photographer at the time of the sitting.

Family Care December 5

On Saturday, Dec. 5, 2009, a special program will be offered for children who are being raised by grandparents or other relatives (kinship caregivers). Children ages 3-12 can be dropped off at an event site for a day of fun activities, and the caregiver will have a few hours of free time. There is no charge and both lunch and snacks will be provided. The theme for the day is "Holiday Helpers: Making Gifts for the Holidays." The event will be held at two locations: Gum Springs Community Center in Alexandria and Mott Community Center in Fairfax, from 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 5. Fairfax County Public Schools and the county's departments of Community and Recreation Services, Family Services, and Systems Management for Human Services, are jointly sponsoring the event.

UMES Calendar At a Glance						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
22 A Week	23	24 5 th and 6 th grade Human Growth & Development Parent Preview Night	25 2-hour early release at 1:15	26 Thanksgiving	27 No School	28
29 B Week	30	December 1	2 Picture retake Day	3	4	5