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Family Newsletter

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Back to School Nights at 7 pm

Our annual Back to School Nights are being held next week. We will be pleased to see parents of our kindergarten through third grade students on Tuesday, September 22, to learn about the kindergarten through third grade programs, curriculum, and classroom expectations. On Wednesday, September 23, our teachers in grades four through six will host a similar meeting with parents of children at those grade levels. Both of these evening events start at 7:00 pm. Since the Back to School Nights are designed for parent audiences, we encourage you to arrange for child-care provisions. We hope that you will be able to attend this important event. Thanks once again for taking a strong interest in your student's instructional program.

K-3 Back to School Night at 7:00 pm
Tuesday, September 22
In Your Child's Classroom

4- 6 Back to School Night at 7:00 pm
Wednesday, September 23
In Your Child's Classroom

PTA Sponsors Mini Walk for the Homeless on Monday Afternoon, 9/28

Lorrie Kehl, PTA Community Outreach Committee member, invites all students and families to the Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Mini Walk on Monday, September 28. The registration deadline has been extended until Thursday, Sept. 24. The registration form can be accessed by going to http://www.helpthehomelessdc.org/site/DocServer/hth_registration_eng.pdf?docID=702. Please e-mail Mrs. Kehl at lorrainekehl@aol.com if you have questions.

Reflections Program

The National PTA's 2009-2010 Reflections Program is underway at Union Mill Elementary School! This year's theme is "Beauty Is..." Express yourself in one of the six art areas: Literature, Dance Choreography, Film/Video Production, Musical Composition, Photography, and Visual Arts. Entry forms, information and instructions are available on the PTA website: www.vapta.org. Students are encouraged to begin their projects today. Deadline for all entries: Thursday, October 22, 2009. Entries may be dropped off in the Main Office.

Projected Budget Shortfall for 2011

FCPS and Fairfax County will be co-hosting a series of community dialogue sessions again this fall focused on addressing the projected budget shortfall for FY 2011. Twelve meetings will be held over six dates between late September and mid-November. Five of these meetings will take place in FCPS high schools throughout the county. The list of community dialogs and their locations is available at <http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2011/community.pdf>. This is a great opportunity for the community to present their suggestions for cuts for the FY2011 school year budget. David Kuckenbecker, of FCPS Information Technology/Desktop Management, invites your suggestions. He will compile the suggestions into a list and submit it to Dr. Dale, FCPS Superintendent, via the December SSEAC Meet and Confer response meeting. Please submit any suggestions to Mr. Kuckenbecker by November 1, 2009. Mr. Kuckenbecker can be reached at 703-503-1600 (IT Service Desk) or 703-503-7447 (Direct Line).

Lunch at UMES

Fairfax County Public Schools is pleased to announce that it now offers three ways to pay for school meals:

- **Online**—Using www.myLunchMoney.com—The service is easy to use, convenient, private, and secure. There is a convenience fee of \$1.95 per transaction. Once the account is open, parents may check the fund account at any time from computer or phone.
- **Check**—Write a check—made out to (School Name) Food and Nutrition Services—and bring the check to the food service manager's office. A parent who wants his or her check payments to be for meals only (no à la carte items) should write it on the check or tell the cafeteria manager.
- **Cash**—Cash may be brought to the food service manager's office for deposit in student accounts, or students may pay cash for lunch on a daily basis.

Parents may ask for a printed summary of their child(ren)'s account at any time by contacting the food service manager (or by signing on with myLunchMoney.com). You don't need to use the online account for this service. Parents are asked to remind their child(ren) not to share their personal identification number (PIN) with friends. A parent who wants his or her payments to be for meals only (no à la carte items or snacks) should tell the food service manager. The prices for school meals during the 2009-10 school year will be as follows:

Elementary School	\$2.65
Adults	\$3.65
Milk (sold separately)	\$.60
Soy Milk (sold separately)	\$.75
Milk or Juice Plus Snack	\$.95

For more information, such as school lunch menus, which are updated monthly, go to http://www.fcps.edu/fs/food/food_at_school.

Allergic Reactions

A significant number of students at UMES have a serious nut allergy. This allergy requires that all nuts and tree nuts including nut products (the nut, peanut butter and nut oils) be strictly avoided. Avoidance includes touching, tasting or smelling the nut or nut product. Special precautions are necessary and have been put into practice at the school to aid affected students in avoiding nuts. We are requesting that you not send in any foods containing nuts or nut products for snack or that would be shared for birthday treats and other class activities. We hope the list below will help in planning what kind of foods **NOT** to bring in the classroom for birthdays or special treats. Thank you for assisting us in keeping all UMES children safe!

- Peanut butter, Reeses cups and or candy, peanut butter cookies
- Plain mini- M&Ms used in baking. Plain M&Ms are processed on the same equipment as peanut M&Ms
- Little Debbie Oatmeal snacks with cream in the middle.
- Mrs. Wright's Chocolate Chip cookies.
- Kellogg's Frosted Bran Cereal has been mixed with another cereal that contain peanuts.
- Breyers-Hershey's Milk-Chocolate/Almonds Ice Cream.
- Wise Foods: Fat-free Caramel popcorn and butter toffee popcorn have been processed on equipment that processes products with peanuts.
- Hershey's nine pack Sweet Escapes Chocolate Toffee Crisps.
- Borden: Fat-free Cracker Jacks have been processed on equipment that processes products with peanuts.

- RAISINETTES have peanuts
- Hershey' Richer/Creamier Chocolate chips.
- Most granola bars have peanuts as an ingredient.

Health Screening for All Kindergarten, Third Grade and New Students on October 20th

Vision and hearing screening will be held on Tuesday, October 20th for all K and 3rd graders and new to the county students. If your child wears glasses, please be sure he/she has them at school on screening day. The purpose of screening is to identify students who need further evaluation because they have failed the vision and/or hearing tests at school. Parents will be notified by letter if screening results indicate that further testing is needed. Vision and hearing defects can interfere with learning. Prompt follow-up is recommended. If you have any questions, please let Carmen Linn, School Health Aide, know at 703-322-8510.

Southwestern County Community Engagement Process for Clifton ES

At its work session on Monday, September 14, 2009, the School Board directed staff members to initiate the Southwestern County Community Engagement Process for Clifton Elementary School renovation and overcrowded schools as presented by the School Board's Comprehensive Planning Development Committee. Interested citizens can stay updated by visiting <http://www.fcps.edu/news/swcountyschls.htm>.

Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT)

In an effort to obtain additional information about our second grade students and some students in grades 3-6, the **Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT)** will be administered to students on September 22. The NNAT is a nonverbal measure of school learning ability that is related to classroom achievement. It is designed to assess ability without requiring the student to read, write, or speak.

UMES Calendar At a Glance						
20	21 A Week	22 NNAT 2nd Some 3-6	23	24	25 PTA Volunteer Tea	26
27	28 B Week PTA Mini Walk for the Homeless	29	30	October 1	2 PTA Grace Art Meeting	3