



Susan Shadis, Principal
Susan.Shadis@fcps.edu
703-322-8500

Family Newsletter

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Jennifer L. Drummond, Assist. Principal
Jennifer.Drummond@fcps.edu
703-322-8500

Volunteer Tea

Come join us at Union Mill for the annual Volunteer Tea. This meeting will showcase the PTA programs that are in place at school. Here is your chance to meet and to hear chairpersons speaking briefly about their committees. If you are interested in the PTA and learning about programs that enrich the student body, please join us on Friday, September 25 at 2 pm in the school cafeteria. If you have any questions, contact Christina Nelson, kikifive@verizon.net or 703-988-9480.

Interim and Progress Report Schedule

Interims, usually sent home mid quarter, are used to communicate exceptional progress, improvement, or unsatisfactory progress. Not all children will receive an interim. Progress Reports are distributed to every student at the end of each quarter. The first quarter interim and progress report dates are as follows:

October 9	Interims go home to selected students	November 2-3	Parent/Teacher Conferences & Student Holidays
October 30	1 st Grading Period Ends	November 13	Progress Reports go home in Friday Folders

Police Conduct Seatbelt Check during Arrival and Dismissal

In prior years, Fairfax County Police have written citations to parents in the Kiss & Ride pick-up line for children not secured with a seatbelt. The Fairfax County Police urge you to "Buckle Up: Every trip, every time!"

PTA President to Appoint UMES Representatives to Planning Study Committee

The FCPS School Board approved the formation of an ad hoc Southwestern Regional Planning Study Committee to examine the renovation of Clifton Elementary and increasing student enrollment in many southwest county elementary schools. Tracey White, UMES PTA President, has been asked to appoint two representatives to this committee who will be asked to accomplish the following three objectives through community engagement:

1. To review and validate/determine the issues and the appropriate scope of the study.
2. To determine the most complete list of possible solutions to the issue(s) identified.
3. To document all advantages and disadvantages of each potential solution.

UMES will be impacted by the solutions identified in the Feasibility study, because they propose to build a new 900+ elementary school on the same campus of Liberty Middle School. Since this would also impact the community beyond Union Mill Elementary School, Mrs. White is allowed to appoint community members not associated directly with UMES. If you are interested or know a community member who is interested in becoming part of this committee, please send Tracey White an email at tracey.white@verizon.net. She needs to have the members identified by October 5th. Members would need to be prepared to commit their time to attend at least 75% of the meetings. The first meeting will be held the evening of October 29, 2009. Please feel free to contact Mrs. White with any 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.

Morning Drop-off Time and Afternoon Homework Pick-up

As a request for the safety of your child, we ask that children not arrive to school before 8:15 am. Because all children need supervision and teachers are not on duty until 8:15 am, children aren't safe at school before then. Identified patrols and the UMTV news crew may continue to arrive to school at their normal time. A teacher is available for their supervision. If your child forgets his or her homework and must return to school, he or she must pick it up before 4:30 pm.

PTA Membership and Meeting on Tuesday, October 6th

The Union Mill PTA is well underway with its plans for another successful school year. Your membership enables the PTA to continue its support of all UMES students. That benefits all of us. So please join me in making your membership commitment and then attending the PTA meeting on Tuesday, October 6th in the library.

eCART Assessments to be Administered in October and November

FCPS eCART, Electronic Curriculum Assessment Resource Tool, is a web-based teacher resource that provides access to instructional materials at the teacher’s desktop. Students and parents will notice the impact of eCART primarily in the area of assessments. Twice a year, students in grades 3-6 will take division-wide assessments in reading and mathematics that will provide data to teachers and curriculum specialists to identify student learning needs. Through the use of eCART, teachers will have searchable access to the most current curriculum and resources for planning and delivering instruction. eCART will also allow teachers to create and deliver both FCPS- and teacher-created assessments, helping guide the day-to-day instruction of students. Teachers will be able to readily share results with students and parents. The dates for the first window of testing are as follows:

Third Grade Reading	11/09	Fifth Grade Reading	11/05
Third Grade Mathematics	11/16	Fifth Grade Mathematics	11/12
Fourth Grade Reading	11/10	Sixth Grade Reading	11/06
Fourth Grade Mathematics	11/17	Sixth Grade Mathematics	11/11

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.

UMES Calendar At a Glance						
27	28 B Week PTA Mini Walk for the Homeless	29	30	October 1	2 PTA Grace Art Meeting	3
4 Bowling Truck at UMES Oct.5-10	5 A Week	6	7 Community Outreach Meeting	8	9 Interims go home on individual basis	10