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Family Newsletter

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PTA Meeting on Tuesday, October 6th

The Union Mill PTA is well underway with its plans for another successful school year. Please attend the PTA meeting on Tuesday, October 6th at 7:00 pm in the library. Contribute to your child's education with your presence. Thank you!

Free Workshops for Parents through the Parent Resource Center

You are invited to register for free parenting workshops on a variety of subjects by calling the Parent Resource Center at 703-204-3941 or registering online. Accommodations and interpreters are available for the workshops. Please let the Family Resource Center know **two weeks** in advance if you need any of these services. More information and a list of the workshops can be found at: <http://www.fcps.edu/cco/prc/workshops.htm>.

Interim and Progress Report Schedule

Interims are sent home mid-quarter and 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 home to selected students	November 2-3	Parent/Teacher Conferences/Student Holiday
October 30	1 st Grading Period Ends	November 13	Progress Reports go home in Friday Folders

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.

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 as well as students new to the county. If your child wears glasses, please be sure he or 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.

Budget Dialogues

For the second year, FCPS will participate with Fairfax County government in communicating the serious nature of our budget situation, and participate with them in community dialogues. *It's*

important for parents to participate, as these meetings will be the first step in communicating the impact of FY10 budget cuts, and potential harm of further cuts in FY11:

*Wednesday, October 14, 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 24, 10:00 a.m.*

*Thursday, October 29, 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, November 14, 10:00 a.m.*

*Marshall HS, South County SS
Centerville Library, Reston Library, John
Marshall Library
South Lakes HS, Woodson HS
Kings Park Library, Sherwood Library,
George Mason Regional Library*

Advanced Academic Programs (AAP) [formerly GT]

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) offers a continuum of advanced academic services for all students in grades K-8. Learning experiences are designed to develop higher-level thinking through enrichment, acceleration, and extension of the Program of Studies. Teachers, administrators, and Advanced Academic Resource Teachers (AARTs) work together to provide the following Levels of Service:

Critical and Creative Thinking Strategies, Grades K-6 (Level I)

The Advanced Academic Resource Teacher and classroom teachers teach nine higher order thinking strategies across all subject areas and grade levels.

Differentiated Lessons in Areas of Academic Strength, Grades K-6 (Level II)

The Advanced Academic Resource Teacher collaborates with classroom teachers to provide additional challenges and resources within the general education program.

Part-Time Advanced Academic Program, Grades 3-6 (Level III)

Students identified by a local school screening committee for advanced academic services (Level III) are challenged through models and strategies designed to extend and enrich the POS in the four core subject areas.

Full-Time Advanced Academic Placement, Grades 3-8 (Level IV)

Students found eligible for placement in a full-time Advanced Academic Program (Level IV) through a central selection process receive a highly challenging instructional program in the four core subject areas.

Multiple criteria are reviewed to determine eligibility for all FCPS Advanced Academic Programs. Formal identification begins with Level III services. The local school AAP committee determines student eligibility for school-based services. The countywide AAP Central Selection Committee determines eligibility for full-time AAP (Level IV) placement. Each fall all FCPS second grade students, as well as students in third through seventh grades who do not have ability test scores, are administered the Cognitive Abilities Test and/or the Naglieri Nonverbal Test. A second grade screening pool is established using these test results. Students in the second grade pool are automatically screened for full-time AAP (Level IV) placement. Parents/guardians may exercise their one-time retest option during the October testing cycle. Parents/guardians of students not in the second grade screening pool may initiate the full-time AAP (Level IV) screening process by completing and submitting an **AAP Level IV Referral Form to Susan Shadis, UMES principal, no later than February 5, 2010**. No late referrals will be accepted. Second graders **not** in the pool and **all** third through sixth graders are screened only by referral. Forms are available on the AAP website and in the *Parent Information Packet* available at the local school. Contact Sandy Chang, AA UMES Teacher, at 703-322-8500 or Sandy.Chang@fcps.edu for additional information.

2009 AAP Parent Information Nights

Parent information nights are available to learn more about the Advanced Academic Program. The dates and locations of these information nights include:

Thursday, October 8	McLean HS 1633 Davidson Road, Mclean, VA 22101
Tuesday, October 13	Oakton HS 2900 Sutton Road, Vienna, VA 22181
Thursday, October 15	Annandale HS 4700 Medford Drive, Annandale, VA 22003
Monday, October 19	West Potomac HS 6500 Quander Road, Alexandria, VA 22307

Meetings will be held in the auditorium from 7:30 to 9 p.m. and are open to the public; no registration is required. Directions are available at www.mapquest.com. For additional information contact: Advanced Academic Programs Office at Lacey Center, 703-846-8670, or <http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/gt>.

Fingerprinting of Some Volunteers But Not For Our Parents

Volunteers and mentors who meet with students on a regular and frequent basis are now required to have a background check (per [Regulation 4119.1](#)). The process is quick and easy, requiring a few simple forms and fingerprinting. All volunteers need to do is stop by the HR Welcome Center, located at the Gatehouse Administration Center. No appointment is necessary, and there is no cost.

Note that background checks are **NOT** required for:

- Parents or guardians who have children currently enrolled in FCPS
- Current FCPS employees or students who serve as volunteers
- School Age Child Care (SACC) employees
- Current law enforcement officers
- Volunteers who help with occasional or one-time-only events (i.e. field days, graduation parties), as long as there is direct supervision by regular school staff

Centreville High School Parade on Friday, October 9th

Centreville HS will be using the Union Mill Elementary School parking lot as a designated meeting place before the Homecoming Parade. Please do not park in the school parking lot adjacent to Kiss and Ride after 3:30 on Friday, October 9th. Thank you!

H1N1 Update

Reports of influenza-like illness are expected to increase within the next few weeks. Virginia has reached the classification of "widespread" for flu-like illnesses with 99 percent of all subtype influenza A viruses being reported to CDC as influenza A (H1N1) viruses. FCPS continues to work with Fairfax County Health Department (FCHD) on preventing the transmission of flu. We continue to urge those with flu-like illness to stay home for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever, or signs of a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medicines. The symptoms of H1N1 flu are similar to the symptoms of seasonal flu and include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headaches, chills, and fatigue.

Novel H1N1 Vaccine

The novel H1N1 vaccine is not intended to replace the seasonal flu vaccine and is needed in addition to the seasonal flu vaccine. The novel H1N1 vaccine is expected to be available in mid-October. The CDC advocates that children and young adults be among the first to receive the vaccine, along with healthcare and medical emergency services personnel. Some of the others on the priority list include pregnant women and people with chronic illnesses, such as diabetes or heart or lung disease, all of whom are at high risk from complications of the H1N1 flu. It is anticipated that many of the healthcare providers who typically offer seasonal flu vaccine also will offer the H1N1 influenza vaccine. It is possible that FCPS schools may be used to disseminate the H1N1 vaccine; plans are still being finalized based on the amount of vaccine received by FCHD.

Videos to Inform Parents of Steps to Prevent the Transmissions of H1N1

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) has produced two videos to inform parents of steps they can take to prevent the transmission of H1N1 influenza or seasonal influenza. The videos, "H1N1 for Parents," are available for viewing on the VDOE H1N1 influenza web site at:

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/health_medical/influenza/index.shtml

FCHD Town Hall Meetings to Address Concerns about Seasonal Flu and H1N1

The FCHD is hosting a series of town hall meetings to answer questions about season flu and H1N1 flu. Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu, Director of Health, will be on hand to answer your questions about pandemic and seasonal influenza. Find out more at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/flu/town-hall-meetings.htm>. FCPS will continue to provide you with timely information about influenza prevention as this situation develops. Check the Fairfax County Public Schools flu web page at

<http://www.fcps.edu/news/swineflu.htm> or the Fairfax County Health Department web page at

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/flu/swineflu.htm> for more details and resources.

UMES Calendar At a Glance

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
11	12 Columbus Day No School	13 B Week	14 School Picture Day	15	16	17