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Family Newsletter

October 9, 2009



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URGENT! Dismissal Notes and Safety

Changes in transportation can sometimes lead to unsafe circumstances if school procedures are not followed. Please help us ensure the safety of each of our children by following the safety rules listed below. Thank you!

Kiss and Ride Dismissal Changes:

- Send in a signed written note with your child's first and last name, teacher's name, date, where your child will be picked up, and the name of the person who is picking them up if there is a change in kiss and ride dismissal transportation.
- If the person who is picking them up is someone other than a person listed on the Emergency Care Card, the person must come into the office and show an ID before the children will be released to them.
- A written note about changes in dismissal procedures is required for all children and should be signed by the custodial parent every day there is a change in transportation.

Walking Dismissal Changes:

- Send in a signed written note with your child's first and last name, teacher's name, date, and who your child is walking home with if there is a change in the way they walk home.
- A note must also be sent in by the person he or she is walking home with.
- A written note about changes in dismissal procedures is required for all children and should be signed by the custodial parent every day there is a change in transportation.

Bus Dismissal Changes:

- Send in a signed written note with your child's first and last name, teacher's name, date, and the bus number if riding a bus other than the regular bus or she is getting off at a different bus stop.
- A written note about changes in dismissal procedures is required for all children and should be signed by the custodial parent every day there is a change in transportation.

Alternative Education Committee Vital to UMES School Community

The PTA Alternative Education Committee will hold a coffee on Wednesday, October 28th at 9:00 am in the cafeteria. All parents are invited to attend to learn more about the Alternative Education Committee, to begin planning for National Inclusive Schools Week in December and to share ideas and community resources that would be beneficial to our children. Younger siblings are invited to attend as well. For more information, please contact Melyssa Plath melplath@cox.net or Nicole Moore garyandnic@verizon.net.

Drama Camp Offered on November 3rd

The Fairfax High School Theatre department is offering a one day drama camp for grades 1-8 on the upcoming teacher workday Tuesday, 11/3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The cost is \$40. All proceeds support the FHS theatre students. Please see www.fxplayers.org for full details and a registration form.

Good Behavior Made Easy as 1...2...3!

A comprehensive 3-session series on developing parenting skills to reduce the likelihood of challenging behaviors in preschool and kindergarten children will be offered by The Department of Special Services. The first class will begin on October 9, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Dunn Loring Center at 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 - Room 11. The other sessions will be on

November 13, 2009 and December 11, 2009. You may attend one, two, or all three sessions! Register online or call 703-204-3941. For more information visit www.fcps.edu/cco/prc.

1. **Prevent:** Prevent problem behaviors through schedules & routines.
2. **Pre-correct:** Pre-correct when behaviors are likely to occur.
3. **Predict:** When problems occur, develop strategies to manage misbehavior.

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.

School Picture Day is Wednesday, October 14th

Just a friendly reminder that Lifetouch photographers will be at UMES on October 14th to take our students' individual photos. If you would like to order photos, please make sure your child brings in their Lifetouch envelope with the photo options marked. Payments accepted are cash, money orders, or checks payable to Lifetouch. This information can be found on the flyer/envelope that was sent home in this week's Friday Folder.

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

Centreville 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 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. Multiple criteria are reviewed to determine eligibility for all FCPS Advanced Academic Programs. 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. Parents/guardians 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. Forms are available on the AAP website at <http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/gt/packet/ParentInformationPacketFCPS.pdf>. Contact Sandy Chang, AART UMES Teacher, at 703-322-8500 or Sandy.Chang@fcps.edu for additional information. Parent information nights are available to learn more about the Advanced Academic Program. The dates and locations of these information nights include:

Tuesday, October 13

Thursday, October 15

Monday, October 19

Oakton HS 2900 Sutton Road, Vienna, VA 22181

Annandale HS 4700 Medford Drive, Annandale, VA 22003

West Potomac HS 6500 Quander Road, Alexandria, VA 22307

UMES Calendar At a Glance

11 B Week Custodian Appreciation Week Oct. 12-16	12 Holiday	13	14 School Picture Day	15	16	17
18 A Week Bus Driver Appreciation Week Oct 19-23	19	20 Health Screening	21	22 Reflections Entry Deadline	23	24 Fall Festival

Please join Mrs. Shadis and Mrs. Drummond for a Morning Coffee or an Afternoon Tea this school year!

Each meeting features a "Topic of the Day" and time for open discussion. It is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the school, voice your opinions and concerns, and meet the school administration in a very informal, small-group setting. In the October 16th Friday Folder, each family will receive a survey of topics for the Principal Coffees and Teas. Please start thinking of topics that might interest you, and also put these dates on the calendar:

- Coffee: Friday, October 30th from 8:45-9:45 in the cafeteria. Topic of the Day – H1N1
- Tea: Wednesday, December 2nd from 2:00-3:00 in the cafeteria
- Coffee: Thursday, January 14th from 8:45-9:45 in the cafeteria
- Tea: Tuesday, February 23rd from 2:00-3:00 in the cafeteria
- Coffee: Monday, March 22nd from 8:45-9:45 in the cafeteria
- Coffee: Friday, April 30th from 8:45-9:45 in the cafeteria
- Coffee: Tuesday, May 25th from 8:45-9:45 in the cafeteria

