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Family Newsletter

October 16, 2009



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Family Life Education Opt Out Forms Information

Contact: Liz Payne, Health and Physical Education, 703-846-8617 or Elizabeth.Payne@fcps.edu
FCPS Family Life Education Instructional Program for 2009-2010

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) provides a comprehensive, sequential Family Life Education (FLE) program for kindergarten through grade twelve. The FLE program is designed to provide students with the knowledge, attitudes, and skills to make healthy, responsible, respectful, and life-enhancing decisions related to human growth and development, relationships, substance abuse, and emotional and social health. Instruction is seen as a partnership among parents and guardians, the school, and the community in supporting the learning essential to the development of strong families, positive relationships, and a healthy community.

Parents/guardians may choose to opt out their child of all or part of the Family Life Education program. Students opted out are provided with age-appropriate, non-punitive alternative health instruction, and every effort is made to foster respect for family choices. If you wish to opt out your child of all or part of FLE for this school year or would like more detailed information about grade level programs, please access the opt out forms, opt out letter, and program descriptions for each grade level at <http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/OMSI/fle/index.htm>. If you want to opt out your child of any or all FLE instruction, please download the opt out form, fill in the appropriate information, and return it to your child's school by the end of September or prior to Family Life Education instruction. An Opt-Out booklet was included in your child's First Day Packet. If you have already submitted an FLE Opt-Out form from that packet, your wishes have already been noted; it will not be necessary to complete an additional form to have your child excluded from FLE lessons. Please note, however, that an Opt-Out form submitted last year will not automatically exclude your child from FLE lessons this school year. FLE curriculum and media may be reviewed at your child's school. Program questions may be addressed at your child's school or by contacting Elizabeth Payne, Health and Physical Education Coordinator at 703-846-8666.

Mark Your Calendars for this Union Mill Community Outreach Event!

Union Mill's Community Outreach Committee (COC) is sponsoring another great opportunity to show your children how meaningful and fun community service can be. On **Monday, October 26 from 2-3pm** your family is invited to come to the Fairfax Arden Courts, an Alzheimer's Assisted Living Facility, in Halloween costume to trick or treat and interact with the residents. The children will need to have an adult responsible for transporting and accompanying them to the event. Check www.unionmillpta.org for more details and directions. We hope you'll post this to your calendars now and join us for the party!

Please RSVP to Lorrie Kehl at lorrainekehl@aol.com by Monday, October 19 and include the following information for each child attending: name, age, accompanying adult(s) and food allergies, if any.

Come Take a Journey to the Great Pumpkin

Journey to the Great Pumpkin is a much anticipated event here at Union Mill. The children look forward to participating in a challenging obstacle course set up in the gym the last week of October. Each obstacle is designed to promote physical fitness through muscle building, flexibility, and hand/eye coordination. Some of the events include a scooter ride on a batmobile through the bat cave, crawling through tunnels in the haunted corn fields, the pumpkin shoot, the spider toss, swinging over the snake pit, crawling under the spider web, a cardio workout or an abdominal workout in the pumpkin patch, and a walk over the bridge (balance beam) into the land of the ghouls. The **journey** is not complete until the children touch the nose of the great pumpkin and then they start the fun all over again from the beginning. Our SCA officers help us decorate the gym for the big event. Stop by this year, the last week of October (Tuesday through Friday), and see for yourself what is going on inside the gym.

Reminder eCART Assessments to be Administered in November

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

Fall Festival and Silent Auction is Saturday, October 24th

Please join us for a day full of fun at the Fall Festival and Silent Auction. Parents, teachers, and students have been working hard to make this year's event fun and exciting for everyone. Rain or shine, bring your friends and neighbors for games, activities, and the much anticipated auction.

UMES Calendar At a Glance						
18 A Week Bus Driver Appreciation Week Oct 19-23	19	20 Health Screening	21	22 Reflections Entry Deadline	23	24 Fall Festival
25 B Week Red Ribbon Week Oct. 26-30	26	27	28	29	30 Principal's Coffee	31

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

