



Union Mill Elementary School

FAMILY NEWSLETTER

September 9, 2011



Kathleen Case
Principal
Kathleen.Case@fcps.edu

Holly Walker
Assistant Principal
Holly.Walker@fcps.edu

Back to School Nights for All Parents

K-3 Tuesday, 9/13 at 7 pm

4-6 Wednesday, 9/14 at 7 pm

Orientation for Parents New to UMES

Monday, 9/19 at 7 pm

Open House and First Week of School a Big Success

After a very quiet summer around school, it is wonderful to have children in the building. Last week's Open House was lively and there were smiling faces everywhere as students reconnected with old friends and made new ones. Classrooms were bustling with excited children as they met their new teachers. The smiles continued on Tuesday and throughout the week (except for that unexpected day off on Friday) as children began learning routines and settling into their classrooms. Our kindergartners adjusted to their new schedules and easily acclimated to the cafeteria. Thank you to all our wonderful parents who have been extra hands during lunch this week. We are excited about the wonderful learning and great opportunities this year brings. Be sure to join us on Tuesday, September 13, and Wednesday, September 14, for **Back to School Night** where you will learn more about your child's day and this year's curriculum, especially our new Elementary Mathematics Instructional Sequence (EMIS). Meet us in the cafeteria at 7:00 each night for introductions and announcements. We will dismiss from there to head to your child's classroom. For your convenience, we will be offering two sessions each night so you can visit more than one classroom if you have multiple children.

New Parent Orientation on 9/19 at 7 pm

Parents of new students are invited to school on Monday, 9/19, to meet many of the Resource Teachers and Specialists. You will also have a tour of the building to see where your child has PE, music, and library. We want to be sure all new families learn all about our wonderful school and we hope each of you will be an active member of our UMES school community.

Kiss and Ride Reminders

The Kiss & Ride area is a designated area for parents picking up or dropping off their children. For Kiss and Ride to function safely, several procedures must be followed:

- Children must load and unload from the passenger side of the car only.
- Students load and unload only in the designated area (marked by the cones and lines on the road).
- Drivers should remain in the car. Safety patrols will assist with the car door.

- Cars must stay in a single file line as they move to and from the Kiss & Ride to ensure student safety.
- Students enter and exit out of door #4 when using Kiss & Ride.

To ensure the safety of all children, it is helpful for parents to refrain from using their cell phone while moving through the Kiss and Ride area.

Health Room Volunteers Needed

Please consider helping out in the health room this year. Training for Health Room Volunteers is provided by the Fairfax County Health Department. Please contact Vivian Wisda at 703-322-8500 if you are interested in attending training. Fliers are also attached to this Family Newsletter.

Join the PTA! Your Membership Makes a Difference

The Union Mill PTA is busy planning for another successful school year. Our PTA is looking to every Union Mill family member to show its support for our students by becoming members of the PTA. Please join the UMES staff by making your membership commitment and attending the PTA meetings in the library on the first Tuesday of every month. The first PTA meeting of the year is Tuesday, October 4. Hope to see you there!

Emergency Care Card Reminders

Parents can submit Emergency Care Card Forms electronically through weCare@School, via their FCPS 24/7 Parent View account. When parents submit information via weCare@School, they do NOT have to submit a signed paper form. Parent-initiated changes submitted via weCare@School will have a transaction ID when printed from within weCare. This transaction ID constitutes a legal electronic signature. Emergency Care Card Forms submitted by parents on paper should be signed. Either the weCare@School electronic signature version or the signed paper version of the Emergency Care Card Form will be kept on file as the official record. Please consider submitting the forms electronically.

Electronic Opt-Outs

As part of school system efforts to cut costs, the Department of Communications and Community Outreach (DCCO) will no longer print paper versions of the complete Annual Notice of Survey, Records, Curriculum, Privacy, and Related Rights and Opt-Out

Forms booklets. Instead, DCCO has printed a one-page notice with English on one side and Spanish on the other that informs parents about the opt-out booklets and where they can get them online. This was part of the UMES first day packet. The K-8 and 9-12 versions of the full booklet (which are also translated into several languages) will continue to be online for those parents who want to opt out. For those parents who want to opt out and do not have Internet access, the notice will direct them to school office staff members who will be able to provide paper copies. A complete list of full opt-out booklet links can be found at <http://www.fcps.edu/mediapub.htm#o>.

Life Threatening Allergies and Food Sharing

Please know that the incidence of life threatening food allergies is taken seriously at Union Mill Elementary. Out of concern for the safety of all children with allergies, food should not be shared by or with anyone. Please be sure to talk to your child about not sharing snacks or lunch at any age. Special precautions are necessary and have been put into practice to aid students in avoiding identified foods. If you have any questions or require further guidance, please contact our school public health nurse, Vivian Wisda, at 703-322-8500. Our goal is to allow all students to fully participate in activities while maintaining a safe learning environment.

Community Flyers Distributed on 9/16

If you or your organization would like to participate in Union Mill's once-a-year community flyer distribution, mark September 16th on your calendar. Non-profit organizations are welcome to participate. All flyers must be approved by the principal before they are distributed. One flyer must be submitted to the principal by Monday, September 12th. After approval, copies must be made to

be distributed on September 16th. Please call the office at 703-322-8500 for additional information.

Attendance Calls to 703-322-8585

Please contact UMES **before 9:00 am** on the attendance line (703-322-8585) if your child is going to be absent. When leaving a message, be sure to include your child's name, teacher, and reason for your child's absence.

Economic Hardships and School Supplies

A program is available at Union Mill Elementary to provide school supplies to students in need. The program includes distributing a "starter" set of school supplies. If you are interested in participating, please contact Kimberly Shoemaker or Wendy Lindner, Union Mill School Counselors, at 703-322-8500.

FCPS Provides Free/Reduced-Price Meals for Students in Need

Free and reduced-price lunches are available to families who need help paying the full price of lunch at school. A family can qualify for free or reduced-price lunches according to criteria based on household size and income. Free and reduced-price applications are available at the UMES office or at [2011-2012 Confidential Household Application for Free and Reduced Price Meals](#).

Notes to School

Please make sure you send notes to school that include the student's full name, teacher's name, and bus number (if known). Any change in dismissal transportation, including notes for children to go home with other children, must be made known to the office in writing.

UMES Calendar At a Glance						
SEPTEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
11	12	13 7 PM K-3 Back to School Night	14 7 PM 4-6 Back to School Night	15	16	17
18	19 7 PM New Parent Orientation	20	21	22	23	24



Parents!

Volunteers **needed** in the **SCHOOL** Health Room

Interested? Come to one of these training events:

Springfield District Office

Thursday, Sept. 22 OR Oct. 20
9:00 am - 11:30 am

8136 Old Keene Mill Road
Room A-100 (enter rear of building)
Springfield, Va
703-569-1031, TTY 711

Mount Vernon District Office

Monday, Sept. 26
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

8350 Richmond Highway
Room 220
Alexandria, Va
703-704-5203, TTY 711

Heron-Reston District Office

Wed., Oct. 12, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm
Wed., Nov. 16, 12:30 - 2:30 pm

1850 Cameron Glen Dr.
1st Floor, Multipurpose Room
Reston, Va
703-481-4242, TTY 711

Falls Church District Office

Wednesday, Oct. 19
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

6245 Leesburg Pike
Room 502
Falls Church, Va
703-534-8343, TTY 711

Training is provided by the Fairfax County Health Department. For more information please contact your child's school public health nurse or school health aide.

fairfaxcounty.gov/hd



A Fairfax County, Va., publication. August 2011. To request this information in an alternate format, call Fairfax County Health Department, 703-246-2411, TTY 711.

