



Union Mill Elementary School

# FAMILY NEWSLETTER

December 22, 2011



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**Winter Break December 23 – January 2 – School Resumes January 3  
Have a wonderful holiday break and a Happy New Year!!**

## Students, Staff, and Parents Entertained by Early Morning Music

Our band and strings students, under the direction of Laura Seifried and Melissa Brown, provided an exciting start to our morning on Wednesday by playing beautiful music in the lobby before school. Take a look at some of our fabulous musicians.



## Coat Drive a Huge Success

The recent PTA coat drive collected over 75 coats and numerous hats and mittens for The Wesley Housing Development Foundation. Our SCA officers were thrilled to be able to load so many coats for distribution to those less fortunate.



## FCPS Announces Magnet Schools Lottery

### Hunters Woods Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences

The Hunters Woods arts and science magnet program has openings for qualified students in grades kindergarten through six for the 2012 - 2013 school year. To be selected, students must be working on or above grade level in language arts, mathematics, and possess good citizenship and study skills. Entering kindergarten students should have attended preschool in 2011-2012. Selection for available magnet school spaces is based on a lottery. Applications are available in all Fairfax County elementary schools beginning on January 3, or can be downloaded from Hunters Woods web site at: <http://www.fcps.edu/HuntersWoodsES/magnet.htm>.

Applications must be downloaded and sent to: Magnet Program, Fairfax County Public Schools, Fairfax Ridge, 3rd Floor, Mail Stop #9, 3877 Fairfax Ridge Road, Fairfax, VA 22030. Applications must be postmarked no later than March 1, 2012. An information night will be held at the school on February 7, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. The snow date is February 15. For more information contact Diane Beers, parent liaison, 2410 Colts Neck Road, Reston, VA 20191, 703-262-7405. Students at Hunters Woods extend their core studies by using technology and distance learning and by having access to multiple computers in each classroom. It is one of eight schools in the metro area involved in the Kennedy Center's Changing Education Through the Arts Program team. Teacher study groups work to develop a curriculum that integrates state and national arts objectives with the core curriculum.

### Bailey's Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences

Bailey's is in its 19th year as a magnet school. The school integrates arts and technology in all curricular areas to make learning a creative experience. The school offers a variety of options to enhance learning. These include science and electronic music labs, a performing arts theater, a math Exploratorium, a communications center (complete with television studio), a fine arts studio, and a third grade strings program. As part of the Kennedy Center's Changing Education Through the Arts grant, Bailey's participates in arts enrichment programs. A Spanish partial-immersion program, the Museum-in-Progress program, and reduced teacher-student ratios also are offered.

Applicants for admission must be entering grades kindergarten through four in the 2012 - 2013 school year, be working on or above grade level in language arts and math, and demonstrate positive interpersonal and school behaviors. Entering kindergarten students should have attended preschool in 2011 - 2012. Selection for available magnet school spaces is based on a lottery. Applications are available in all Fairfax County elementary schools beginning on January 3, or can be downloaded from Bailey's web site at <http://www.fcps.edu/BaileysES/SiteIndexPages/Baileysenrollementprocess.html>. Applications must be completed online or postmarked by March 1, 2012, and submitted to the Magnet Program at Fairfax County Public Schools, Fairfax Ridge, 3rd Floor, Mail Stop #9, 3877 Fairfax Ridge Road, Fairfax, VA 22030. An information night will be held at the school on February 9, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. (snow date February 16). For more information, contact Rachel Charlton at Bailey's Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences at 6111 Knollwood Drive, Falls Church, VA 22041, 703-574-6800.

## Referrals for Full-Time Advanced Academic Placement Level IV (Grades 2-7)

Parents or 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 the local school principal no later than February 3, 2012.** (<http://www.fcps.edu/is/aap/timeline.shtml>) No late referrals will be accepted. Second graders **not** in the pool and **all** third through seventh graders are screened only by referral. Forms are available on the AAP website (<http://www.fcps.edu/is/aap/forms.shtml>) and in the *Parent Information Packet* available at the local school. (Please note: Parents or guardians of students who are in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade pool will be notified by the school. Students who are not in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade pool will not receive notification. The benchmark score used to create the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade pool will be published on the Advanced Academic Programs website mid-January.)

**Prepare Now for Inclement Weather Communication**

This is that time of year when weather conditions can change within a matter of hours. It is important to maintain up-to-date information about changes to the school schedule. Changes due to inclement weather will be listed on the FCPS Internet home page, <http://www.fcps.edu>. These changes are carried under Current News; click on "Emergency Announcement." Weather-related announcements will also be available from local radio and television stations, the Channel 21 bulletin board, or the Keep In Touch e-mail notification service.

UMES Calendar At a Glance						
DECEMBER/JANUARY						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
No School Winter Break Dec. 23-Jan. 2						
1	2 No School Winter Break	3 Welcome Back!! School resumes today!  PTA Meeting 7 pm UM library	4	5	6	7
8	9 CVHS Pyramid Chorus Concert	10 Principal's Coffee 9-10 am UM café	11 Club and candid photos	12 PTA Family Night at Guapos	13	14