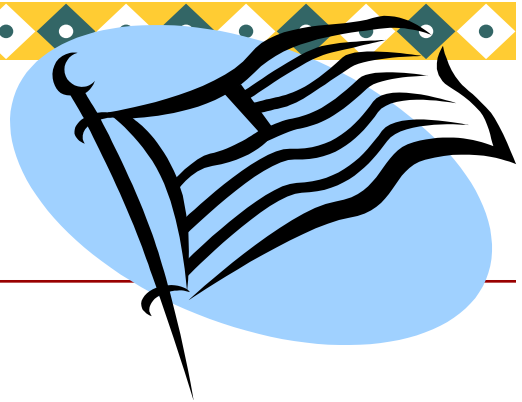


The Banner



Washington Mill Elementary School

Principals' Corner

Welcome Back!!! We are off to a focused start for learning in 2009-2010. It was such a delight to see all of your children return to school ready to learn and challenged for success.

In keeping with our triple pronged approach for learning this year ; the teacher, the parent and the child, we realize the only way you can be invested in your child's learning and academic success is to be fully informed of the learning that is taking place. To that end, I have asked teachers to keep me fully informed of your child's progress this year so I can convey any areas where we

need your intervention with a timely phone call before a child falls behind. If children come to school tardy, without homework or are not fully engaged in class, we know that a collaborative conversation with you, the parent, can correct these issues that stand in the way of your child's success. I look forward to making positive phone calls as well when good news needs to be shared!!

It is vitally important that you have a conversation with your child or children about their commitment to their own education. Please let them know of the high expectations we all have for

them. Children live up to or down to what we expect. If we expect nothing, we get nothing. If we expect great things they will strive to reach those heights.

Once again, welcome back and I look forward to a collaborative relationship with all of our parents while we help our children pave the roads to their future success.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tish Howard
Principal

Parents: We are in need of your help and time for our Tuesday and Thursday afterschool programs. If you have academic strengths, a hobby or a creative program idea to share with our children, please call Mrs. Thompson at 703-619-2503. Classes will begin on October 19th. Thank you

Issue 1

September 10, 2009

Administration

- Dr. Tish Howard *Principal*

Tish.Howard@fcps.edu

Cell phone 703-314-8423

- Mr. Timothy Kasik *Assistant Principal*

Timothy.Kasik@fcps.edu

Office 703-619-2500

This newsletter is published on or about the second Thursday of each month..

Our Washington Mill web address:

www.fcps.edu/WashingtonMillIES/

Please let your child's classroom teacher know if you prefer to access the newsletter online. It will help us save paper.

Teacher: _____

Student: _____

Yes, I am able to access the newsletter online.

Washington Mill ES Contact Information

9100 Cherry Tree Drive
Alexandria VA 22309

See us on the web at:
www.fcps.edu/WashingtonMillES/

Office Phone #: 703-619-2500

Please call the main office to report an absence

703-619-2525

Bienvenidos!!! Nuevamente estamos listos para empezar el año escolar; **2009/2010**.

Es un placer ver de nuevo a todos nuestros niños, listos para aprender y enfrentar los desafíos de este nuevo año escolar. Estamos seguros que lo lograrán y, exitosamente.

Estamos completamente enfocados en un trabajo conjunto para este nuevo año escolar.

Un programa donde se integran: Profesores, Padres de Familia y los Niños. Nos damos cuenta de que la única manera en la que Uds. pueden invertir en la educación de sus niños es manteniéndose completamente informados del proceso de la educación de ellos. Para lograr esta meta, he pedido a todos los profesores, mantenerme informada continuamente, acerca del progreso educacional de sus niños, de tal manera que Uds. intervengan en áreas necesarias, esto, a través de una llamada telefónica informándoles con anticipación, antes que sus niños empiecen a retrasarse en sus estudios. Si los niños llegan tarde al colegio, sin presentar sus tareas, o que no muestran interés en el desarrollo de la clase, sabemos que una conversación con Uds., padres de familia, puede corregir estos pequeños problemas que interfieren con el éxito que sus niños puedan tener en su educación. Espero que las llamadas telefónicas que tengamos que hacer sean para darles buenas noticias.

Es vital e importante que Uds. tengan una conversación con sus niños acerca del compromiso que tienen con sus estudios. **El beneficio es para ellos mismos**. Les rogamos que les hagan saber que esperamos de ellos lo mejor y tenemos como meta en este año escolar, éxito en los estudios de todos nuestros niños. Los niños responden de acuerdo a lo que demandemos. Si no esperamos nada de ellos, no vamos a lograr nada.

Band and strings eligibility

No student who failed an SOL this past year will be excused from classroom academics for extracurricular programs such as band and strings. While we value the fine arts, our first obligation to each child is to provide the structure that ensures success in reading and math, for these are the defined arts for life's success. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dr. Howard at Washington Mill.

Children are not to be dropped off prior to 8:20 a.m. They will be permitted to go to their class or cafeteria at 8:20. Morning Announcements will begin at 8:50 and instruction will begin at 8:55.

Thank you

September 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 <i>First Day</i>	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 <i>Fall Pictures PTA Meeting</i>	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <i>Fall Family Picnic</i>	2	3
4	5 <i>Back to School Night</i>	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 <i>Columbus Day No School</i>	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 <i>End of 1st Quarter</i>	31



Reading Rocks

Mrs. Bielmeier, WMES Reading Specialist

Fall has always been my favorite season. As a child, it meant new crayons and books. As a teacher, it means beginnings of learning. As a parent, it means routines to help children do well.

I recommend setting up a special place in your home for your children to put their backpacks and books. Their job would be to show you the papers they have brought home, and return their books to the backpacks after they are read. All their stuff will be ready to go in the morning.

Find some quiet time at the end of each day to share a book or two, or chapter. Then take a few minutes to talk about the day at school.

Small notes tucked inside a lunchbox or backpack can really bring a smile to your child's face. In addition to reinforcing reading skills, you're also modeling the power of writing.

Thank you for being your child's first teacher and for being partners in literacy.

SCA NEWS

Welcome Back! We hope everyone had a wonderful summer and is looking forward to a productive new school year.

Our SCA induction ceremony will be held prior to the Fall Frolic on Thursday evening, October 1st in the gym. Please plan to join us as we install our new officers for the 2009-2010 school year:

President – Sean Anderson

Vice President – Ricky Dobson

Secretary – Jenna Pearson

Treasurer – Cheyenne Peacock

Historian – Anastasia Pierce

Spirit Days will be held the third Friday of the month.
Reminder flyers will be sent home the week before.

Thank you in advance for your support and let's make the 2009-2010 school year the best one yet!

Gifted and Talented News

Helping Your Child Learn to THINK

By Patty Potter, Advanced Academics Resource Teacher

Most jobs of the future will require employees to “think” about how to solve problems—not just perform a routine task. Here are some ways to help your child to really “think.”

Encourage your child to ask questions about the world.

Actively listen to your child’s conversations. Respond seriously to the questions he or she raises.

When your child expresses feelings, ask why he or she feels that way.

Ask your child to find facts to support his or her opinions.

Use the TV as the basis for family discussions.

Ask your child what questions teachers are raising in class. For example, a civics teacher might be “asking” about current global concerns.

Whenever possible, ask your child questions that require more than a yes or no answer. These questions allow your child to spend some time thinking about his or her answer. The questions can be about real things or pretend things.

Here are some examples:

- **“Why is that toy your favorite?”**
- **“How would you spend your day, if you were a dog?”**
- **“If we could go anywhere, where would you like to go? Why?”**
- **“If you could have a meal of all your favorite foods, what would you have?”**
- **“What was the most fun thing you ever did with your friend/grandparent/sibling?”**
- **“Which animal at the zoo is your favorite? Why?”**
- **“What character from a book or movie would you meet if you could? What would you talk about with him or her?”**

By giving your child opportunities to really “think,” you are providing him or her with a valuable life-long skill.

WMES PTA Newsletter

Hi everyone! I hope everyone had a great back-to-school day!

Just a couple of PTA reminders:

Please fill out this year's PTA Membership Application. You must fill out an application each year and the cost is \$7 per family. Please fill out the attached form and send it back in an envelope along with a check in the amount of \$7.00 made out to WMES PTA. You can send this to school in the Thursday Folder. Please do so by November 1 as we will start a new email distribution list at that time.

Lavender's Fundraiser – Yes, we're already selling gift wrap and flower bulbs – that's so family and friends can receive their items before the holidays. Please look in your child's Thursday Folder for the Lavender's Wrapping Paper and Bulbs fundraiser materials this week!

Fall Frolic Volunteers Needed - A volunteer flyer is attached and you will also see it in the Thursday Folder. This is a great way to meet other families and support your child's school. Please fill out the form and send it back in your child's Thursday Folder – we need your help!

9/22 – PTA Meeting at 7 PM in the Library – childcare provided.

9/24 – Restaurant Night – WMES fundraiser at Noodles & Company in the Mt. Vernon Plaza! Please come and support our school – Noodles & Co. will donate 25% of the evenings earnings to Washington Mill between 5 – 9 PM!!!

10/1 – Fall Frolic

10/5 – Back to School Night

Thanks everyone!

Thank You to our Business Partners for Supporting WMES



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