

Tailfeathers



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Partners in Print: A Literacy Evening

The first Partners in Print evening of the 2008-2009 school year was held at Westlawn on Thursday night, October 16th. Partners in Print is an evening of literacy sessions for families with children in FECEP, kindergarten, and grade one. These teachers plan and present engaging literacy sessions for the families to enjoy and learn from while attending Partners in Print. Parents who attended on October 16, participated in two sessions where teachers modeled how to support literacy at home and where parents had a chance to practice these skills with their child. What a turnout by Westlawn families! 230 people joined the FECEP, Kindergarten, and First Grade staff for an evening of literacy learning for all.

The literacy sessions were held in the first grade POD and included topics such as:

- Fairy and folk tales for all
- First grade child and parent partnerships in homework with meaning
- Choosing Just Right Books
- Environmental print at home with your child.

The evening was preceded by a classroom visit by Kaboodle, the life sized kangaroo mascot for Partners in Print, encouraging everyone to attend (thank you, Mr. Reeder for again posing as Kaboodle and delighting the classes). Our youngest students were delighted to see Kaboodle. After the literacy sessions, families enjoyed cookies and every child went home

with a book to keep and a lot of literacy strategies to share with their parents.

Westlawn remains the host of the Partners in Print with the highest attendance in Fairfax County! This is thanks to our wonderful parent, community partners and to our committed teachers who generously give of their time to enrich and share literacy skills with our families. Thank you, Westlawn families and teachers!

Cecilia Vanderhye
Acting Principal

**For more information, visit our web site at www.fcps.edu/Westlawn.
Tailfeathers is a bimonthly publication.**



Spotlight on Learning

Drumming To Our Own Beat!

Thanks to the recent addition of 16 Tubano drums in the Music trailers, Westlawn students now have another new and exciting activity to look forward to each week! The music teachers, Mrs. Chabalowski and Ms. Davenport, have begun a drumming program for students at Westlawn in grades 4 through 6. Throughout the school year students will participate in many different drumming activities, and will even combine the skills they have learned on their recorders with drumming to make amazing music! They will experience the respect and patience required to play in a drum circle while learning about music from other cultures and gaining a strong sense of rhythm. Drumming is not only fun for our students, it also has the ability to enhance communication skills, confidence, and teambuilding, as well as relieve stress and allow for mental relaxation. Drumming can also strengthen hand, eye, and auditory coordination while also enhancing listening skills. While drumming in multiple parts you must have the ability to listen to others in your group while tuning out other groups playing different parts. Activities like this are always fun and challenging, and in the end the music they create is very rewarding. We are hoping to create an afterschool drumming program in the spring and possibly perform at the spring concert with band, strings, and chorus. Keep your eyes and ears open for more drumming news!



Upcoming Dates

Nov 7-21 *SCA Canned Food Drive*
 Nov 11 *Thanksgiving Luncheon*
 Nov 26 *Two Hour Early Dismissal*



Two Weeks At-A-Glance October 27-November 7

27	28	29	30	31 First Grading Period Ends
3 Parent /Teacher Conferences Student Holiday	4 Parent /Teacher Conferences Students Holiday	5 Early Dismissal	6	7 SCA Canned Food Drive Begins