

Family Gram

Fall 2007

Jack Dale
Superintendent
Fairfax County
Public Schools
Falls Church, Virginia
www.fcps.edu

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- Do You Have a Nominee?

Due to expected budget shortfalls, all program expansions will be put on hold, and employees' pay increases are uncertain for 2008-09.

2007-08 Inclement Weather and Emergency Closing Plans

Due to inclement weather or other emergency situations, it may be necessary to close schools for the entire day, to open schools late, or to close early. The procedures used in school closings are detailed below. Keep this information in a convenient location for future reference.

Parents are urged to make arrangements now for the care of their children when schedule changes are made (and to provide for the rare situation when it is necessary to close an individual school because of a power failure or other circumstances). Children should know where to go if a parent will not be home.

Decisions on schedule changes are made after careful study of the best information available from many sources including weather services, the highway department, the police, and FCPS transportation staff members who are out checking the roads. FCPS will make every effort to **decide** whether to close or delay schools before 5 a.m. and will begin communicating the decision once it is made. **The 5 a.m. decision time is a goal.** Weather conditions can deteriorate after 5 a.m., which means that it may not be possible for FCPS to meet that goal.

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Direct From the Superintendent *Anticipated Budget Crunch in 2008-09*

Current projections regarding next year's school system budget (fiscal year 2009) indicate that this is going to be a tight budget year. Most parents will have read or heard about budget shortfalls at the county and state levels. At the county level in particular, these shortfalls are connected to declining real estate values. These budget shortfalls affect the revenue expectations for the schools.

There will be changes in our revenue projections between the time I write

this (and the time you read this) and the point next spring when the budget for the following year will be approved by the School Board. At this point, we are looking at a situation **in which program expansions will be put on hold** and our employees' **pay increases** are uncertain.

Seventy-five percent of our revenue comes from the transfer of funds from the county government, and the Board of Supervisors has given us guidelines that include a zero-percent increase in

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Emergency closing plans, continued

While no sources dealing with weather predictions can be infallible, decisions are made with one overriding consideration—the safety of the students who ride buses or walk to school each day.

FCPS has several schedules set up to deal with inclement weather; these are put into effect when conditions threaten the safety of children who are walking or riding school buses to schools. These schedules are:

(1) **Keep schools closed.** (2) **Open two hours late.** (3) **Close two hours early.**

In every case of a schedule change:

- tune in to local radio and television stations (including cable **Channel 21**, a channel programmed by FCPS), which are notified as soon as a decision is made.

- check www.fcps.edu.

- call the FCPS hot line at **800-839-FCPS (3277)**. **Tip:** Program this number into your phone's speed dial.

Do not phone the school or one of the stations for this information. To receive this information via e-mail, sign up for the **FCPS Keep in Touch** e-mail notification system. **Please Note:** In the event of a major weather emergency (e.g., a snowstorm), **Keep in Touch** messages may take an hour or more to be delivered. **E-mail should not be your first or only option for receiving emergency closing information.**

When schools are closed for the day, the following will apply:

- Extracurricular activities, interscholastic contests, team practices, field trips, middle school after-school programs, adult and community education classes, professional learning and training courses, and recreation programs in schools and on school grounds are canceled.

- School age child care (SACC) centers are closed.

When schools are opened two hours late, the following will apply:

- If it is on Monday, elementary schools (which usually close early on Mondays) will close at their usual Tuesday-through-Friday time.

- Morning (half-day) kindergarten will be dismissed one hour later than the usual Tuesday-through-Friday time. Afternoon (half-day) kindergarten will begin one hour later than the usual Tuesday-through-Friday time.

- Morning preschool (special education) and Family and Early Childhood Education (Head Start) classes are canceled. Full-day preschool (special education) and Family and Early Childhood Education (Head Start) classes start two hours later than the regular schedule. Afternoon preschool (special education) starts on the regular schedule.

- Morning field trips are canceled.

- Morning transportation for high school academy classes is canceled.

- School age child care (SACC) centers will be open by 8 a.m. when possible.

- Adult and community education classes will start on time.

When schools are closed two hours early due to worsening weather conditions during the day, the following will apply:

- FCPS' goal is to make a decision by 10 a.m. and to begin communicating the decision at that time.

- Elementary schools will close two hours earlier than the usual Tuesday-through-Friday time.

- Afternoon (half-day) kindergarten is canceled. Morning (half-day) kindergarten students will be provided lunch at no cost and will be released with other students. Morning kindergarten students who were bused to school will be bused home with other students without special kindergarten



*In the event of a major weather emergency (e.g., a snowstorm), **Keep in Touch** messages may take an hour or more to be delivered. E-mail should not be your first or only option for receiving emergency closing information.*



stops. Kindergarten students living within the normal walking boundary will not be bused.

■ Morning preschool (special education) and Family and Early Childhood Education (Head Start) programs are dismissed at approximately 11 a.m. Full-day preschool (special education) and Family and Early Childhood Education (Head Start) classes are dismissed two hours earlier than the regular schedule. Afternoon preschool (special education) and Family and Early Childhood Education (Head Start) classes are canceled.

■ Extended day care and school age child care (SACC) centers will stay open until 6:15 p.m.

■ Extracurricular activities, interscholastic contests, team practices, field trips, middle school after-school programs, adult and community education classes, professional learning and training courses, and recreation programs in schools and on school grounds are canceled.

FCPS Emergency Notice Systems

In every case of a schedule change:

- tune in to local TV and radio stations, including cable Channel 21, which is programmed by FCPS.
 - check www.fcps.edu.
 - call the FCPS hot line at 800-839-FCPS (3277).
 - to receive this information via e-mail, sign up for the FCPS Keep in Touch (KIT) e-mail notification system.
- Note:** In the event of a major weather emergency, KIT messages may take an hour or more to be delivered.

Inclement Weather Effects on Kindergarten Transportation

Two-Hour Late Opening—A.M. Kindergarten

Students will report two hours later than their regular schedule, are released approximately one hour later than the usual Tuesday-through-Friday time, and are transported to their midday kindergarten stops. **P.M. kindergarten (half-day only)** students are picked up at their midday kindergarten stops approximately one hour later than the usual Tuesday-through-Friday time. If a late opening occurs on a Monday, elementary schools will not close early but will observe the usual Tuesday-through-Friday schedule.

Two-Hour Early Closing—A.M. Kindergarten

Students will be given lunch at no cost and released with other students.

Those a.m. kindergarten students who rode buses to school in the morning will ride on those same buses to the same stops at which they were picked up. **The buses will not stop at the special midday kindergarten bus stop locations. Kindergartners who live within the normal walking boundary will not have transportation and must walk home.**

If your kindergartner goes to a day care provider who lives in a location to which older students are transported, talk with a school staff member to determine which bus your child should ride on during the days of a two-hour early closing. **P.M. kindergarten (half-day only) classes will be canceled.** If early closing occurs on a Monday, elementary schools will close two hours earlier than the Tuesday-through-Friday schedule.

Want to Learn More About How School Closing Decisions Are Made?

If you want to learn more about how FCPS administrators decide to delay or close schools during inclement weather, you can check out a short video, which is available online by going to www.fcps.edu/DIT/streaming/ss8_snowdaze.aspx.



New FCPS Resource Available to Help High School Students With Postgraduation College and Career Planning

FCPS is pleased to announce a new resource for high school students and their families. **Family Connection** is a comprehensive web site that students and parents can use to help make decisions about postgraduation education and career choices.



FamilyCONNECTION

Family Connection is linked to Counselor's Office, an FCPS service for tracking and analyzing data about college and career plans that provides up-to-date information specific to each school.

Accessed through student **FCPS 24-7 Learning** accounts, Family Connection allows students to:

- **Get involved in the planning and advising process**—Build a resumé, complete online planning surveys, and manage time lines and deadlines for making decisions about colleges and careers.

- **Learn about student strengths and preferences**—Explore ways to maximize individual educational performance and increase career awareness.

- **Research colleges**—Compare their own GPA and standardized test scores to their school's data on students who have applied in the past.

- **Develop postsecondary plans and interests**—Update and share lists, notes, and documents with students, families, and counselors.

- **Sign up for events**—Find out which college, military, and career events are taking place at their school and sign up to attend those sessions.

Family Connection also allows counselors to share information with students about upcoming meetings and events, local scholarship opportunities, and other web resources for two- and four-year colleges, professional schools, and military and career information. Counselors and students will use e-mail to communicate through their Family Connection accounts.

Follow your student on the path to lifelong learning, goal setting, and achievement. For additional questions about Family Connection, please contact your school counselor or career center specialist.

Take a leap into Family Connection today!

FCPS 24-7 Learning

To log in to FCPS 24-7 Learning, go to <http://www.fcps.edu/fcps247.htm>. For answers to many frequently asked questions, go to <http://www.fcps.edu/news/fcps247home.pdf>.

Family Connection is a comprehensive new FCPS web site that students and parents can use to help in making decisions about postgraduation education and career choices.



Fairfax Network Offers Variety of Educational Programs on Cable Channel Red Apple 21

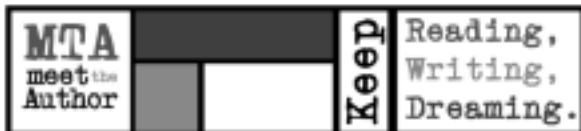
The Fairfax Network is an award-winning producer of distance learning programming that originates in FCPS. For more than 15 years, the Fairfax Network has provided enrichment programs to schools and cable stations throughout North America, in addition to the programming offered on [Red Apple 21](#).

One of the most popular Fairfax Network programs is “Meet the Author” (which usually airs at 8 p.m. each day). From its inception, the “Meet the Author” series has served to promote literacy—and an interest in reading and writing—by giving students direct access to authors who share their personal stories, offer their writing tips, and encourage students to “keep reading, keep writing, keep dreaming.”

During the half-hour interactive program, authors describe their approach to the writing process, talk about character development, and sometimes share a sneak peek at their books not yet published. During live programs, students call in with questions, inspiring lively and impromptu responses from the authors. Offering a diverse range of topics, the 2007-08 season’s guests include:

- Adrian Fogelin, January 31, 2008, for students in grades 4-9.
- T. A. Barron, February 6, 2008, for students in grades 6-12.
- Sneed B. Collard III, February 20, 2008, for students in grades 5-8.
- Wendy Lichtman, March 12, 2008, for students in grades 6-8.
- James Howe, April 16, 2008, for students in grades 2-4.

For more information about the Fairfax Network, go to <http://www.fcps.edu/fairfaxnetwork/index.htm>.



Western County Boundary Study Town Meetings Scheduled This Fall

Currently, significant enrollment and capacity imbalances are apparent among high schools in the western portion of the county. Community members have expressed concern over the impact these imbalances have on programs and extracurricular activities.

The School Board has directed staff members to conduct a boundary study to address these concerns. Town meetings will be held:

- **November 28**, 7:30 p.m., Forestdale Elementary School.
- **November 12**, 7:30 p.m., Chantilly High School.
- **December 3**, 7:30 p.m., Westfield High School.
- **December 19**, 7:30 p.m., Oakton High School.

The scope of these studies has been posted online at <http://www.fcps.edu/fts/bndry.htm>. For additional information on the boundary studies, contact the Office of Facilities Planning Services at **703-246-6930**.

Superintendent’s message, continued

the transfer. Moreover, the recent news from Richmond is not encouraging.

As the budget process unfolds, we may need the community’s support to ensure Fairfax County Public Schools can continue the tradition of excellence you have come to rely on.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jack D. Dale'.

Jack D. Dale
Superintendent of Schools



Hunters Woods Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences Information Night

The Hunters Woods Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences is a magnet program with openings for qualified students in grades 1 through 6 for the 2008–09 school year. To be selected, students must be working on or above grade level in language arts and mathematics and must possess good citizenship and study skills. The magnet program weaves the arts, sciences, and technologies into the curriculum, which stimulates and extends the educational potential of all children.



Applications are available in all Fairfax County elementary schools beginning in January 2008 or can be downloaded from the Hunters Woods web site at www.fcps.edu/HuntersWoodsES/.

Applications must be completed and submitted to: Magnet Lottery, Office of Elementary Instruction and Administrative Services, 3705 Crest Drive, Annandale, VA 22003.

Applications must be postmarked no later than February 29, 2008.

Open House Schedule

A Hunters Woods open house will be held on **Tuesday, February 5, 2008, at 7p.m.** The snow date is **Tuesday, February 12, 2008, at 7p.m.** For additional information, contact Diane Beers, parent liaison, Hunters Woods Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences, 2401 Colts Neck Rd., Reston, VA 20191, 703-262-7405.

Bailey's Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences Information Night

Bailey's Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences has been a magnet school since 1992. 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 5 in the 2008-09 school year, be working on or above grade level in language arts and math, and demonstrate positive interpersonal and school behaviors. Please note that availability for entering kindergarten students is very limited and the students should have attended preschool in 2007-08.

Applications are available in all Fairfax County elementary schools beginning in January or can be downloaded from the Bailey's web site at www.fcps.edu/BaileysES/. Applications must be completed and postmarked by **March 1, 2008**, and submitted to the Office of Elementary Instruction and Administrative Services.

An information night will be held at the school on Thursday, February 7, 2008, at 7 p.m. (snow date February 21).

For information, contact Marjorie McCarthy at Bailey's Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences at 6111 Knollwood Drive, Falls Church, VA 22041, 703-575-6836.



FCPS Gifted and Talented (GT) Center Information

The GT center program for students in grades 3 through 8 offers identified students a highly challenging instructional program that follows the FCPS Program of Studies. Differentiation in the depth, breadth, and pace of instruction is designed to meet the needs of advanced learners with a strong emphasis on higher level thinking skills.

In order to provide an appropriate level of challenge for gifted learners, adaptations are made to the curriculum with a strong emphasis on critical and creative thinking, problem solving, and decision making. Students participate with the entire student body in school-based activities such as student government, physical education, band and strings, chorus, and other electives.

GT Center Eligibility

A countywide central selection committee determines eligibility for GT center placement using test data, the Gifted Behavior Rating Scale With Commentary (GBRSw/C), progress reports, and other available information. The committee consists of administrators, teachers, psychologists, social workers, and other school professionals. Decisions are made using a holistic approach. Parents and guardians are notified of eligibility decisions by U.S. mail.

An eligible student is assigned to a GT center based on the geographic location of his or her base school, and transportation is provided for a student within his or her school boundary area. Parents may appeal an ineligible decision through a process that is outlined in the ineligibility letter. A student remains eligible for GT center placement through eighth grade.

Currently Enrolled Students: Second Grade Identification

Second grade students are considered for placement in a GT center using the

Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAt) and the Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT). These tests are administered during October and November to currently enrolled and attending FCPS second graders. A review of the scores from these tests is used by the school system to select a screening pool for center consideration.

The benchmark score for selection fluctuates each year in response to the makeup of the second grade population. This score is available to parents and guardians once it is determined. With parent permission, GT center screening files are created for these students and then forwarded to the central selection committee. Using the gifted and talented center referral form (available in all schools), parents and guardians may refer second graders who are **not** in the screening pool. Referrals may be submitted at any time, but no later than **February 8, 2008**. Parents will be mailed eligibility decisions in June 2008.



Currently Enrolled Students: Third Through Seventh Grade Identification

The gifted and talented center referral form initiates the screening process for students in grades 3 through 7. Parents and guardians or school personnel complete and sign this form. Referrals may be submitted at any time **but no later than February 8, 2008**. The completed gifted and talented center referral form is submitted to the local school principal. The local school GT screening committee determines if further review is indicated.

More Information

For additional information, contact your local school principal or GT resource teacher, call the gifted and talented programs section at 703-846-8670, or visit the GT web site at www.fcps.edu/DIS/gt.



Help Those in Need, Adopt a Family for the Holidays This Year

It is hard to believe that in Fairfax County, one of the richest counties in the country, families go without holiday meals and gifts. To help, Our Daily Bread (ODB), a non-profit organization, matches families in need with local groups, businesses, and individual families willing to adopt families for the holidays.

ODB has been retained by the Fairfax County government to help facilitate the holiday program. Families are referred to ODB by school guidance counselors and social workers in Fairfax County. The holiday program is a great family or group activity. Consider adopting a family for the holidays today.

Adopt a family and remind yourself of the true meaning of the holidays. You can provide Thanksgiving and December holiday meals and gifts or consider mailing gift cards. The holiday program is a wonderful way to give back to the community because your help goes directly to a local family in need.

What Does Adopting a Family for the Holidays Entail?

It is as easy as:

- Assembling a holiday food basket.
- Buying gifts or purchasing a gift card or two.
- Donating to Our Daily Bread, which will buy and mail the gift cards to a needy family.

It is really rewarding to know you are making a local family's holiday joyous.

How Do I Sign Up to Adopt a Family?

Visit www.our-daily-bread.org to complete the donor form, call 703-273-8829, or send an e-mail to holiday@ODBfairfax.org to participate in Our Daily Bread's holiday program.

How do I Donate to Our Daily Bread's Holiday Program?

Visit www.our-daily-bread.org and click on the donate button or mail your contribution to: Our Daily Bread, 10777 Main Street, suite 320, Fairfax, Virginia, 22030.

Education for Independence Now Accepting Applications

Education for Independence, a job-training program for single parents administered through Fairfax County Public Schools Office of Adult and Community Education, is currently accepting applications.

The program offers free training and career assistance for Fairfax County residents who are single parents and meet income guidelines. For additional information on eligibility requirements, call 703-660-2015 or 703-227-2453.

School Building Asbestos Management Plans Available for Public Review

Fairfax County Public Schools has completed the required **Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (A.H.E.R.A.)** asbestos reinspection and surveillance of all school buildings for FY 2008.

Updated asbestos management plans for each building are available for review in the main office of each building during regular school hours.



School Bond Referendum to Be on November 6 Ballot

Voter authorization to issue bonds is needed in the November 6 election that will provide construction funds for two new elementary schools, an addition to one elementary school, renovations to six elementary schools, planning funds for renovations to two elementary schools and two high schools, and modular additions to four elementary schools.

The 2007 bond referendum includes \$160.8 million for renovations, including \$40.8 million to renovate Longfellow Middle School and \$110 million for renovations to Beech Tree, Stenwood, Westlawn, Franconia, Oakton, and Lake Anne Elementary Schools; \$10 million for renovation planning at Clifton and Canterbury Woods Elementary Schools, Marshall High School, and Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology; \$65 million for new construction and modulares; and \$29.75 million for infrastructure management, including technology network upgrades, roof replacements, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) replacements, and improvements required by the Americans With Disabilities Act.

The bond referendum also includes \$50 million for a bus service facility, which is a cooperative project with Fairfax County government and will not be counted toward FCPS' annual capital improvement spending. Also included is \$38.6 million to cover inflation adjustment for projects that were funded by a previous bond.

The 2007 bond referendum includes funds for construction of new elementary schools at the Laurel Hill site and the Falls Church-Annandale site; \$7.5 million for an addition to Hybla Valley Elementary School; \$12.5 million for 10-room modulares at Rose Hill, White Oaks, and Braddock Elementary Schools and a 12-room modular at a location to be determined.



Students and citizens use Fairfax County schools year round for academic and extracurricular activities, community use, recreation, polling places, Park Authority classes and camps, religious and cultural events, higher education, and adult and community education.

For more information about the bond, go to <http://www.fcps.edu/news/bond07.htm>.

Voting Details

The school bond referendum will be on the general election ballot **Tuesday, November 6, 2007**. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Residents of Fairfax County may vote if they are 18 years of age or older on Election Day and have registered to vote at least 29 days prior to the election (by October 8, 2007, at 5 p.m.).

For further information about registering or voting, call **703-222-0776**.

FCPS School Bus Driver Positions Available

\$16.57 per Hour Starting Salary

Benefits include:

- Excellent retirement, health, and dental plans as well as life and disability insurance.
- Child care cost savings—infant and preschool-age children and grandchildren may ride with you.
- Paid training program*; 35 hours per week guaranteed; 6 paid nonworking days.

*Non-Virginia residents must possess a commercial driver's license (CDL) with S (school bus) endorsement prior to training. **\$500 Signing Bonus for New Drivers!** (Bonus paid after 90 driving days.) For more information, call 571-423-3000.



Nondiscrimination Policy Notice

No student, employee, or applicant for employment in Fairfax County Public Schools shall, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, marital status, or disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity.

Compliance is coordinated by the directors of the following offices:

■ **Office of Equity and Compliance, Department of Human Resources**, suite 2100, 571-423-3050 or TTY 1-800-828-1120 or dial 711, regarding equal employment opportunity, discrimination, and sexual harassment issues.

■ **Office of Monitoring and Compliance, Department of Special Services**, suite 3600, 571-423-4210, regarding programs and activities for students with disabilities.

Correspondence may be addressed to the above offices and sent to **8115 Gatehouse Road, Falls Church, Virginia 22042**.

For facilities access issues, contact the **Office of Design and Construction Services**, 703-246-3632, 10640 Page Avenue, suite 100, Fairfax, Virginia 22030.

Guidelines on Religious Accommodations

Fairfax County Public Schools makes reasonable accommodations so individuals are able to meet their personal religious obligations. Parents, teachers, and administrators are encouraged to consult FCPS Guidelines for Religious Activities for Students. These may be accessed directly from the Calendar of Religious and Cultural Observances on the Calendars menu from the FCPS web site at <http://www.fcps.edu>.

If you have questions, call the Office of Equity and Compliance at 571-423-3050.

Risk Management Questions?

If you have questions on any of the topics listed below, contact Risk Management by phone at 571-423-3620/3621 or by e-mail at riskmanagement@fcps.edu.

- Field Trip Rules
- Insurance Provided for Authorized Volunteers
- PTA and Booster Club Insurance and Incorporation Recommendations
- Sponsorship of Activities and Events Related to FCPS
- Sports-Related FCPS Insurance Requirements
- Student Accident Insurance
- Student Personal Property Brought to School.

Prefer to Read FamilyGram Online?

An electronic version of this newsletter can be downloaded for printing or viewing by going to www.fcps.edu/mediapub/publicat/familygram/fall2007.pdf. (Requires Adobe Acrobat Reader.)

Alternate Transportation Plans

In case of emergencies such as road closures, accidents, or weather-related road problems, school bus drivers may use safe transportation-approved alternate locations to pick up or drop off students. Bus drivers will return children to their schools:

- If there is no safe transportation-approved alternative stop.
- If the driver has any other concerns regarding the safety of releasing a student at a regular stop.

- If a child expresses concern, for any reason, about getting off of the bus.

Office of Transportation Services Emergency Telephone Number

The after-hours emergency number, 703-764-2400, is available 24 hours a day. This is best used after regular business hours (5 p.m. or later) when your child has not arrived at his or her designated bus stop at the usual time. Before 5 p.m., please contact your child's school.



2007-08 School Calendars

Modified Elementary Schools

(Annandale Terrace, Dogwood, Franconia, Glen Forest, Graham Road, Parklawn, Timber Lane)

Nov. 6	Student holiday
Nov. 21	Students released two hours early
Nov. 22-23	Thanksgiving holidays
Dec. 21	Second grading period ends*+
Dec. 24- Jan. 1, 2008	Winter vacation
Jan. 2-11	Optional intersession
Jan. 21	King's birthday holiday
Jan. 28	Student holiday
Feb. 18	Washington's birthday holiday#
March 14	Third grading period ends*+
March 17-21	Spring vacation
March 24- April 4	Optional intersession#
May 26	Memorial Day holiday
June 19	Last day of school*+

* Schools are open.

+ Report cards are provided to parents at the end of each grading period and at the end of the school year.

Date subject to change if more than three school days are lost because of inclement weather.

<u>Days Missed</u>	<u>Makeup Days</u>
1, 2, and 3	Will not be made up
4	Feb. 18
5	April 4 (intersession day)
6	Will not be made up
7	April 3 (intersession day)
8	Will not be made up
9	April 2 (intersession day)
10	Will not be made up

Modified Middle and High Schools

(Glasgow Middle, Falls Church High, Stuart High)

Nov. 5-6	Student holidays
Nov. 21	Students released two hours early
Nov. 22-23	Thanksgiving holidays
Dec. 24- Jan. 1, 2008	Winter vacation
Jan. 9	Second grading period ends*+
Jan. 21	King's birthday holiday
Jan. 25, 28	Student holidays#
Feb. 18	Washington's birthday holiday#
March 17-21	Spring vacation
March 25	Third grading period ends*+
April 7	Student holiday#
May 26	Memorial Day holiday
May 29	Graduation on or after this date*
June 3	Last day of school*+#

* Schools are open.

+ Report cards are provided to parents at the end of each grading period and at the end of the school year.

Date subject to change if more than three school days are lost because of inclement weather.

<u>Days Missed</u>	<u>Makeup Days</u>
1, 2, and 3	Will not be made up
4	Feb. 18
5	April 7
6	Will not be made up
7	June 4
8	Will not be made up
9	June 5
10	Will not be made up

Standard School Calendar

Nov. 2	First grading period ends*+
Nov. 5-6	Student holidays
Nov. 21	Students released two hours early
Nov. 22-23	Thanksgiving holidays
Dec. 24- Jan. 1, 2008	Winter vacation
Jan. 21	King's birthday holiday
Jan. 24	Second grading period ends*+
Jan. 25, 28	Student holidays
Feb. 18	Washington's birthday holiday#
March 17-21	Spring vacation
April 4	Third grading period ends*+
April 7	Student holiday#
May 26	Memorial Day holiday
June 12	Graduation on or after this date*
June 17	Last day of school*+#

*Schools are open.

+Report cards are provided to parents at the end of each grading period and at the end of the school year.

#Date subject to change if more than three school days are lost because of inclement weather.

Makeup Days

<u>Days Missed</u>	<u>Makeup Days</u>
1, 2, and 3	Will not be made up
4	February 18
5	April 7
6	Will not be made up
7	June 18
8	Will not be made up
9	June 19
10	Will not be made up

Do You Have a Nominee?

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) sponsors several award programs to recognize excellence among employees. Now is the time to start thinking about potential nominees for the following award programs:

■ **Teacher of the Year and Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award** (cosponsored by the Washington Post). The nominee must have at least three years of successful full-time teaching experience in FCPS. The deadline for nominations is **December 3, 2007**.

■ **Support Employee of the Year**. The nominee must be a support employee with at least three years of successful full-time or part-time experience with FCPS. The deadline for nominations is **March 7, 2008**.

Any FCPS teacher or staff member, student or former student, parent, administrator, or Fairfax County employee or citizen may nominate a candidate for either of these awards. Nomination forms and instructions are available at all schools and work sites. They are also on the FCPS web site at <http://www.fcps.edu/DHR/employees/awards/>.

Public Notice—Virginia State Police Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry Web Site

The Virginia State Police Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry web site can be found at <http://sex-offender.vsp.virginia.gov/sor/index.htm>. This web site, which includes the public notification database, provides access to publicly available information about persons convicted of specified violent and sexual offenses. Members of the public can use this web site to educate themselves about the possible presence of such offenders in their local communities.

Resources for Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children

In 2000, the U.S. Census counted 4,572 grandparents in Fairfax County raising their grandchildren. Many different situations prompted these relatives to open their hearts and homes to these children. The Fairfax County Kinship Care Committee and several agencies in Fairfax County have worked together to provide support to these special families. Services are limited to residents of Fairfax County and the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church. Check out these services:

■ **Kinship Care Resource Guide for Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children**: This guide is free and also available on the Fairfax County web site. Use it to find information on school registration, child care, medical and legal assistance, recreational activities, and many other topics. The resource guide was sponsored by the Fairfax County Department of Family Services and Fairfax County Public Schools. To request a copy, call 703-324-5870, TTY 703-222-9452, or go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/factsheets/kinship_care_guide.htm.

■ **Grandparent Support Groups**: Groups meet twice monthly at two sites in the county. The Pennino Building, 12011 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, is the site of meetings on Tuesdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Bryant Alternative High School, 2709 Popkins Lane, Alexandria, has meetings on Thursdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m. There is no cost, child care is provided, but registration is required. To register, contact Robin Hamby, 703-277-2640; Colleen Turner, 703-324-5489; or Betsy Pugin, 703-324-5401, TTY 703-449-1186.

■ **Grandparents Day Off**: This is a day of respite for grandparents and others raising relatives. The children enjoy fun activities and crafts at a community center, while grandparents or caretaking relatives spend some time to themselves. The program runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Registration is required. For information about the date and location of the next planned event, call 703-324-3517, TTY 703-222-9693.

Final Thought ...

“If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in.”

Rachel Carson