

Colin Powell Elementary School

Brian Hull, Principal

Mrs. Linda Clifford and Mr. Adam Erbrecht, Assistant Principals

Weekly Newsletter Vol. 7, #5 - Week of Oct. 6 - 12, 2009

www.fcps.edu/powelles

Come Join Us at our First PTA Meeting – Tonight!

This evening, Tuesday, October 6, 2009, we will be holding our first PTA meeting for this new school year. We welcome our community's involvement and hope to see you there. The meeting will take place in the school library. It will begin at 7:00 pm. We are pleased to share that childcare will be provided! We hope to see you there! *Your PTA Officers*

CPES Shows how it is “Cool to Care”!

Thanks to all the students and staff who participated in National Denim Day last Friday, October 2, 2009. Many students and teachers showed their support by wearing jeans and pink shirts. The generous contributions helped our school to more than double the amount that was raised last year. These donations will support research in the fight against breast cancer. We make a difference at Colin Powell ES, where it is “Cool to Care.”

Please Have Your Child Stay Home if They Are Sick

Our school system in collaboration with the Fairfax County Health Department recommends that students with influenza-like symptoms (fever with a cough or sore throat) stay at home and out of school until at least **24 hours** after they are free of fever, or signs of a fever without the use of fever-reducing medicines. If students have flu-like symptoms, they should not participate in any school activities, in school-aged child care (SACC) or be out in the community except to seek medical care. If a child appears to have an influenza-like illness when he or she arrives at school, a parent or guardian will be notified and asked to pick up the child. Parents should ensure that their emergency information is up to date and that they pick up their children when notified. When calling the school attendance line to report your child's illness, parents should provide specific information about their child's reason for absence. If the child is ill, please be specific as to a physician's diagnosis or the symptoms your child is having such as fever, cough, sore throat, headache, diarrhea or vomiting.

It's Sally Foster Time!

The Sally Foster drive has begun! Please look for the information packet that came home with your child today. As you may know, Sally Foster is our school's biggest fundraiser and the largest contributor to our annual PTA budget. Our school earns 50% profit on all Sally Foster items sold! We also have two new promotions this year: the Entertainment Book and the Magazine Discount Network. The Entertainment Book contains discounts and coupons to numerous businesses in our area. You will save money while helping our school earn money! An order form is enclosed in today's Tuesday folder. The Magazine Discount Network earns our school 40% of the subscription price if you subscribe or renew your magazine subscriptions! With your support, this will be our most successful fundraiser!

Thank you, Judy Fanucci and Patrice Mortson, Co-Chairs, Sally Foster Committee

ABA Parent Monthly Workshop

The Office of Special Education Instruction (OSEI) will offer an ABA Parent Workshop on October 13, 2009, *Modifying Behaviors in the Home*. This workshop is for parents whose children are receiving special education services using applied behavior analysis (ABA) at the preschool, elementary or secondary levels. Two sessions will be offered: 9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m., both at Gatehouse Administration Center, room 4050. The presenter will be Becky Lamont, Applied Behavior Analysis Program Manager. For the complete schedule of ABA Parent Workshops, please visit the website at <http://www.fcps.edu/ss/ABA/>.

Fairfax High School Theatre Camp – November 3rd

The Fairfax High School Theatre department is offering a one day drama camp for grades 1-8 on the upcoming teacher workday Tuesday November 3rd from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The cost is \$40. All proceeds support the FHS theatre students. Please see www.fxplayers.org for full details and a registration form.

Please Consider Joining Our PTA!

Please help support our school by joining the PTA. Through your support our students benefit throughout the school year. Some of the many programs you help support include assemblies, field trip buses, Carnival, Movie Night, playground fund, and so much more. You can join the PTA by filling out the form and by making your check payable to CLP-PTA (\$8.00 for one membership, \$15.00 for two memberships). To access the membership form please use the following link: http://cpespta.org/457/How_Do_I_Join?. Please do not send cash. You can put the check and form in a sealed envelope marked PTA and have your child give it to his/her teacher. Also, please consider signing up to chair or help out with one of our many committees such as: Membership, Cafeteria Coordinator, Multicultural Night, and Carnival Volunteer Coordinator. If you wish to volunteer please contact Eileen Mathies at mathies4@verizon.net or phone at (703)830-9563. Remember you can make a difference and we need your help to make this year another great success. Thank you. *Your PTA Officers and Committee Chairs*

Library Volunteers Needed!

Our two new librarians are looking for volunteers to help support the library in a variety of ways. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact our librarians Patricia Lude and Patty Smith at patricia.lude@fcps.edu or pisith2@fcps.edu.

Interested in Volunteering?

Those interested in volunteering at school for different activities and would like to be included on the volunteer list to receive email information about it, send in your contact information to Lalitha Iyer at piemakers@yahoo.com.

Homework Guidelines

Homework is an excellent means of providing students with the opportunity to reinforce skills they have learned at school as well as developing time management skills and responsibilities. Although no hard and fast rules can be made about homework, some generally accepted principals should govern the assignment of homework.

<u>Grades</u>	<u>Maximum Amount</u>
1 – 3	30 minutes
4 - 6	60 minutes

Homework policies were explained to parents at Back-To School Night and again through individual conversations with parents as appropriate. As parents, you are encouraged to communicate with teacher if your child is routinely taking an inordinate amount of time to complete homework or assignments are not being understood. Parents and teachers working together can make a worthwhile learning experience

Lunch Account Reminder

There are three easy ways to purchase meals:

1)ONLINE using www.mylunchmoney.com

This service is easy to use, convenient, private, and secure. There is a \$1.95 convenience fee when adding funds to your account. You may check your student's funds and which they have purchased at no charge. To open a new account you will need your student's identification number. This number can be obtained from the school office.

2)CHECK - Make checks payable to Colin Powell Food Services. You may send a check to school with your student. Please put your student's name on the check. If possible, include their lunch money access code.

3)CASH - Please send cash to school in an envelope labeled lunch money, with your student's name, teacher's name, and grade. A complete lunch, which costs \$2.65, includes one entree, choice of two vegetables and/or fruits, bread, and milk. Online and checks are the preferred method of payment. Please

make every effort to ensure your student has lunch money everyday. We are seeing increasing numbers of students who do not have lunch money.

Advanced Academic Program Parent Information Nights

Fairfax County Schools will be offering parent information nights throughout the school system as a way of introducing and /or clarifying information pertaining to the Advanced Academic Programs (formally known as the Gifted and Talented program). After a brief overview of Advanced Academic Programs grades K – 12, there will be break-out sessions for parents interested in learning more about each of the following: the screening process for full-time advanced academic programs, part-time advanced academic services, and middle and high school advanced academic opportunities. These evening events are taking place on the following dates and times:

October 8, 2009	McLean High School	7:30-9:00 p.m.
October 13, 2009	Oakton High School	7:30-9:00 p.m.
(Please note that this location is closest to our school community)		
October 15, 2009	Annandale High School	7:30-9:00 p.m.
October 19, 2009	West Potomac High School	7:30-9:00 p.m.

Parents/guardians of students not in the second grade screening pool may initiate the Advanced Academic center screening process by completing and submitting a **Advanced Academic Center Referral form to the Mr. Hull, school principal, no later than February 5, 2010.** 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 FCPS Advanced Academic web site and in the *Parent Information Packet* available at the local school. Advanced Academic web site: <http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/gt>

Walker Safety Tips

In recent years, there have been an increasing number of student pedestrian accidents taking place throughout the metropolitan D.C. area. While we have a relatively small number of students who are designated walkers in the CPES community, we feel that it is important to share suggestions on what parents and neighborhoods can do to support our children so that they are safe as they walk to and from school each day. The following points have been shared by our Fairfax County Schools' Office of Safety and Security:

- Parents should plan a walking route to school and choose the most direct way with the fewest street crossings.
- Parents are responsible for selecting their children's walking routes to and from bus stops, schools, and home.
- Parents are also responsible for providing supervision that is appropriate for their child's age, maturity, and conditions on the route.
- Parents should be encouraged to outfit their children with reflective clothing.
- Students should cross streets at controlled intersections and in crosswalks where available.
- Students should not cross in the middle of a street unless the crossing is supervised by a crossing guard or a police officer.
- Before crossing, students should look both ways before stepping off the curb.
- Students should always pay attention for turning vehicles.
- Students should be encouraged to turn off personal stereos (iPods) while crossing intersections.
- Students, who walk to and from school, should be encouraged to walk with other students.
- Walkers should go directly home after school and never take shortcuts.
- Elementary students should avoid parks, vacant lots, fields, and other places where there aren't many people and if they are unable to walk home safely, they should return to the school.

Thanks for making safety a top priority!

Upcoming Calendar of Events

October	6	PTA general membership meeting in the school library (7:00 – 8:00 pm)
	9	Health screening for grades Kindergarten and third (as well as all new to FCPS students)
	12	Columbus Day Holiday (no school for students or staff)