A Message from the Administration

Happy Holidays, Terraset Families,

It is nearly impossible to believe that winter break is almost here! It seems like just yesterday that we were opening our doors on day one in September. Here are a few highlights from the past month:

- Ms. Pat Hynes, our School Board Rep and the Chair of the School Board gave an informative and thoughtful presentation to our PTA regarding the budget.
- The Terraset Chorus represented us beautifully as they performed holiday music at a local retirement facility. We are looking forward to Wednesday’s music concert where you can hear the chorus, band and strings perform.
- Our 6th graders took a field trip to the National Portrait Gallery where their behavior was so good that strangers stopped them to comment about how respectful and well-behaved they were!
- The PTA provided our staff with the most incredible cookie-exchange this week! We are so grateful to everyone who contributed!

We have some exciting news as we start the new year. To go along with our Outdoor Learning, we will begin our work toward becoming a Green Flag school www.eco-schoolsususa.org! We have created a Green Team (8 fifth graders) who will lead the charge to help teach our staff and students how to be more environmentally conscious and friendly. They will focus on energy conservation and recycling to start and we will build from there. In the month of January, they will be conducting an Energy and Recycling Audit and from the audit, they will create an action plan to reduce waste, increase recycling and conserve energy. Please be on the lookout for more updates on this exciting new school-wide mission!

We hope that your winter break is joyful and we look forward to seeing you in 2016!

Lindsey N. Trant, Candee Hirschel

Social Media

Twitter
TerrasetES
Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/TerrasetFCPS
When did you realize you wanted to become a teacher?
It all started when I was a kid. I loved teaching my stuffed animals. I also have fond memories of trying to teach my brother how to read.

What made you want to teach at an elementary school?
I loved having the chance to teach students as young as kindergarten and as old as 6th grade.

Which school/university did you attend?
My love of literature combined with my love of teaching set me on a path for college. I attended St. Mary’s College of Maryland where I got a B.A. in English. Then, I attended Indiana University of PA and received my Masters in Elementary Education. A few years ago I went back to get my endorsement to become a librarian through UVA.

What do you think of Terraset? Why do you think this is the right school for you?
My daughter, Sophia and Son, Omar went to Terraset from kindergarten through 6th grade. This is my 10th year working at Terraset. Terraset is my home! I love, love, and love, working.

When did you realize you wanted to become a teacher?
I have always known I would be a teacher! In elementary school, I rushed home at the end of each school day to play school. My second grade teacher would give me extra worksheets and activities to use with my students (stuffed animals)! 😊

Which school/university did you attend?
I grew up not far from Terraset, in Springfield, where I attended Rolling Valley Elementary, Washington Irving, and West Springfield High School. After graduating from James Madison University (Go Dukes!) I returned to Northern Virginia to teach.

Tell us about your family, Mrs. Skerker.
I live in Centreville with my husband and two daughters. Adalyn is in 1st grade and Chelsea is 2 ½. Our family enjoys playing board games on our deck, walking to the playground, and reading together.
If your child is in grades 2 – 6 and you would like to have him/her screened for AAP level IV services (currently provided at Sunrise ES) for the 2016-2017 school year, please submit a signed referral form to Diane Standiford, AART, by January 15, 2016.

The AAP main website has the necessary forms as well as an excellent Frequently Asked Questions section. The Parent Information Packet on the site lists optional materials that a parent or guardian may submit. http://www.fcps.edu/is/aap/continuum/es.shtml Please submit all materials in duplicate to Mrs. Standiford by January 15, 2016.

A 2nd grade screening pool is established using test results from first and second grade FCPS testing. Students in the 2nd grade screening pool are automatically screened for Full Time AAP Level IV services. These students are not automatically found eligible for Level IV services. Parents or guardians of students qualifying to be in the screening pool will be notified by mail in the beginning of January 2016.

Service Project - Canned Food Drive

The Terraset Student Ambassadors worked hard collecting, organizing, and graphing over 950 cans and boxes of food that Terraset students and families donated to the Herndon Reston FISH organization. Terraset has been donating cans of food to this local charity for over 20 years! Thank you so much for helping us with this worthwhile service project.

Submit Your Budget Feedback - Online Budget Proposal Tool

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) anticipates a significant budget shortfall for the 2016-17 school year (FY 2017). To balance the budget, FCPS may have to cut, reduce, or redesign current programs.

Community members are now able to submit specific proposals for how to balance the budget using an online Budget Proposal Tool. The proposals submitted via the Budget Proposal Tool will be shared with the Budget Task Force (get more information at http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2017/taskforce/index.shtml) for their review prior to making a recommendation to the Superintendent. The information will also be shared with the Superintendent and School Board. Learn more at http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2017.shtml.
www.myon.com

MyON is a complete literacy solution that reinvents the ways in which students and teachers interact with text. myON provides anytime, anywhere access to a library of more than 9,000 enhanced digital books with multimedia supports, real-time reporting and assessments and embedded close reading tools. Our innovative digital literacy platform allows students not only to read, but to read closely, to engage with digital texts in new ways that will transform the entire learning experience.

www.fairfax.wixie.com

Wixie is an online publishing and creativity platform that lets students share what they know through their writing, their voice, and their art. It is available wherever Internet is available, including tablets, laptops and desktops. Wixie is available 24/7 and may be accessed from home, as well as school. If your child wants to access Wixie at home, he/she can go to the website (above) and log in using the same username/password that he/she uses for FCPS 24/7 (Blackboard).

Student Login Information for both Wixie and Myon:

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Outstanding Teacher and Principal Award Nominations

Nominations are now open for the 2016 FCPS Outstanding Teacher Award (formerly Teacher of the Year) and 2016 FCPS Outstanding Principal Award (formerly Principal of the Year). Administrators, colleagues, parents, and community members are encouraged to support great teaching and school leadership by nominating teachers or principals who deserve to be acknowledged for their outstanding work.

All award nominees will be celebrated at the annual FCPS Honors gala held at the George Mason University Center for the Arts at the end of the school year. Winners receive $3,000 and their school receives a celebration for the entire staff to recognize the role of collaborative teamwork in achieving excellence. The nomination periods for these two awards are concurrent; the deadline for both awards is January 6, 2016. Find the award criteria and the online nomination form at www.fcps.edu/hr/awards.

The FCPS winners become finalists for The Washington Post Principal of the Year and Teacher of the Year awards. If you have any questions, send an e-mail to EmployeeAwards@fcps.edu.
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.

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, before 4:30 a.m., whether to close or delay schools and will begin communicating the decision once it is made. The 4:30 a.m. decision time is a goal. Weather conditions can deteriorate after 4:30 a.m., which means that it may not be possible for FCPS to meet that goal. While no sources dealing with weather predictions can be infallible, decisions are made with one overriding consideration—the safety of all students—those who ride buses and those who 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.

When Fairfax County Public Schools has a schedule change (closing or delay) due to inclement weather or other emergencies, the information is communicated as soon as the decision is made in these ways:

- Called in to local radio and television stations.
- Posted on cable Channel 21, a channel programmed by FCPS.
- Posted on www.fcps.edu.
- Posted on Facebook (www.facebook.com/fcpsva) or Twitter (www.twitter.com/fcpsnews).
- Sent via e-mail to parents through the Keep in Touch e-mail notification system.

Instead of trying to phone a school or a news station for school closing information, subscribe or update your Keep in Touch information by visiting www.fcps.edu/
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