A Message from the Administration

Dear Terraset Families,

Believe it or not the first quarter is already over! We have flown through the first part of the school year and with November upon us we enter quarter two and the holiday season. We have a lot to celebrate and look forward to in this season of giving. We would like to thank everyone who gave so generously in support of our Ambassador program and their FISH can food drive. We are also thankful for all of our Veterans, and everyone who attended our Thanksgiving luncheon. We served over 914 lunches. We could not have done it without our Parent Volunteers, Watch DOGs, office staff, custodial staff, cafeteria staff and community volunteers. We truly believe we have the best Tiger community around!

During November and December there are many student holidays and early closings. Please continue to check our website for the current calendar and the FCPS website during inclement weather. With the calendar turning to November we also wanted to remind you to please have your students dress appropriately for recess. Lastly, we would like to encourage you to join the PTA if you have not already done so. It is NOT too late to join and support their mission! Fun events like Bingo and The Spring Basketball Challenge as well as school programs, technology and field trips are supported by the PTA.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

November Terraset Elementary Newsletter
2015
11411 Ridge Heights Road, Reston VA 20191 • (703)390-5600 • http://www.fcps.edu/TerrasetES

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The future of Terraset Elementary
Marisol Calvache-Vu, LTC Specialist

When did you realize you wanted to become a teacher?
Growing up as a child I saw my parents teaching and sharing with others their knowledge of second languages in their private languages institute. They involved me in the whole process since I was 4 years old. Later I realized that I wanted to make an impact in my community, too. Love learning from others and sharing what I know.

What made you want to teach at an elementary school?
I believe that there is a definite feeling of exhilaration in an elementary school that can’t be felt in many other environments. Children love to learn. They are eager to experience and witness new things, even if it is school work, which makes the teacher’s job exciting and rewarding. Children enjoy their surroundings and each other, which creates an atmosphere of fun and happiness. Seeing the look on a child’s face the first time he/she really “gets” a concept or witnesses a new experience is a very rewarding feeling. Elementary school is where it all begins.

Which school/university did you attend?
I attended “Universidad Del Valle” in my home country Colombia, South America. Mexico. I also attended the Nara University in Nara, Japan. The campus is located close to Nara Park, Todai-ji with a great statue of Buddha very distinctive in Japan, as well as Naramachi, the old town area in the central Nara City.

What do you think of Terraset?
I have been here since 2009 and been able to witness how Terraset is a nice educational institution in its mission and philosophy as a student-centered, progressive, and challenging school that strives to cultivate intellectual curiosity, social awareness, autonomy, open communication, responsibility and tolerance in an atmosphere based upon democratic principles. Our Terraset community is strong, active and positive and all this is possible because of the supportive families.

Diane Standiford, Advanced Academic Teacher

When did you realize you wanted to become a teacher?
Before starting my teaching career, I was a commercial lending bank officer in New York and London. However, when my young sons started school, I met some of the most loving, inspiring teachers. They showed me how much fun working with young children could be! I traded in my bank desk for a school desk and have been teaching for over 12 years!

What made you want to teach at an elementary school?
Elementary school is where formal education starts for a child. Making the first years of school interesting, engaging, and just fun excites children about learning. Elementary school is the building block for a child’s education and the reward of being part of those formative and foundational years really hits home when I see what my students have gone on to do after leaving my classroom.

Name something you would like to get better at.
In my classes the students and I do a lot of singing. We make up songs about multiplication and geometry. However, my singing voice isn’t very strong or pleasant. My students and I wish I sang on key a bit more often!

Which school/university did you attend?
I attended the University of Virginia for my Bachelor’s degree in Economics and French (mais oui!) and for my Master’s degree in Educational Psychology.

What do you think of Terraset?
My position as an Advanced Academic Resource Teacher allows me to work in many classrooms here at Terraset. The teachers are welcoming and creative, and the students have such interesting ideas to share with me. It’s the people who make Terraset so special – and it feels like family when I get to know the parents and when I teach the younger brothers and sisters of my students!
Responsive Classroom

Teacher language is one of the most powerful tools available to educators. It permeates every aspect of teaching and learning and can have a significantly positive impact on students' learning and behavior. In the Responsive Classroom approach, teachers use the power of their language to create community and support our Terraset students' academic, social, and emotional growth. They do this by focusing on the 3 Rs:

- **Reinforcing language**: Specifically naming what students are doing well.
- **Reminding language**: Helping students to remember established expectations.
- **Redirecting language**: Giving clear, respectful instructions when behavior has gone off track.

Whether in the classroom, hallway, or library; in the lunchroom or on the playground; in whole groups or during one-on-one conversations, the language teachers use with children will have a lasting impact on how well children learn and grow as students and as individuals.

LICE! Put your jackets in your backpacks...

This is the season for head lice, when hats and jackets are being worn regularly. These small insects carry no disease but are a serious nuisance. They cannot jump or fly but they do crawl (fast!). Please remind your children not to share hats, jackets, hoodies, hairbands, etc. with other students and to never use another person’s comb or hairbrush. If your child is scratching their head, it might be dry scalp but it might be a symptom of lice. Look carefully near the scalp for these tiny insects or for the tiny white dots on the hair shaft that are "nits", the eggs that will become lice in the future. There is information on managing this problem at [http://www.fcps.edu/dss/osp/healthservices/HeadLice.shtml](http://www.fcps.edu/dss/osp/healthservices/HeadLice.shtml)

Two Hour Delayed Opening on March 1, 2016

The Fairfax County School Board has approved a request from the Fairfax County Board of Elections to delay the opening of school on Tuesday, March 1, 2016, by two hours to accommodate an anticipated increase in voter turnout for the 2016 presidential primary, also known as Super Tuesday. The Board voted on the request at its October 22 business meeting.

Feedback Wanted: 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](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](http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2017.shtml).
Recognizing Outstanding Educators

The 2016 employee awards season has officially begun! **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](http://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.

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Portrait of a Graduate, Ethical and Global Citizen

This quarter the Terraset community will be focusing on preparing our students to become an ethical and global citizen. Here are the specific tenants that we will be learning about and instilling in our students:

- Acknowledges and understands diverse perspectives and cultures when considering local, national, and world issues
- Contributes to solutions that benefit the broader community
- Communicates effectively in multiple languages to make meaningful connections
- Promotes environmental stewardship
- Understands the foundations of our country and values our rights, privileges and responsibilities
- Demonstrates empathy, compassion and respect for others
- Acts responsibly and ethically to build trust and lead
The Outdoor Learning Center is Thriving with Knowledge!

This month in the Outdoor Learning center we carved pumpkins, cleaned out all the pulp and seeds then counted them in groups of 10 up to 100. We learned that a pumpkin with the most ridges has the most seeds. We are now observing our pumpkins as they decompose and go back into the earth. We discussed how this will be good nutrition for the soil and how we can compost at home and school.

Our energy unit has been a lot of fun. Classes have held hands and become a human circuit. We talked about how we all have energy going through us. To demonstrate this point the class held energy sticks that lit up. We learned that if we all work as a team we can make the sticks light up but if one child in the circle lets go of their friends hand then the circuit break and the electricity is lost. We connected this concept to our school life. One student said, "So Mrs C if one student at Terraset does not participate it will affect the whole class." We then transferred our learning and discussed how our actions positive or negative affect our school.
December 2015

Sun  Mon  Tue  Wed  Thu  Fri  Sat

1       2       3       4       5

6       7       8       9  Picture Re-takes  10      11      12

13      14      15      16  K f.t. to Discovery Theater  17      18      19

20  21  22  23  24  25  26

********Winter Break - No School********

27  28  29  30  31  1

********Winter Break - No School********