A Special Thank You to our Volunteers
Order Your Yearbook Now – Deadline Approaching!!
Support Your UM Staff – Volleyball at CVHS 7:00 Friday, April 24

Thank you to all our volunteers that joined us for our Volunteer Luncheon on Tuesday. This is one small opportunity we have to thank you for all your support of our school and staff. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!
The deadline for ordering yearbooks is fast approaching. Every year we have upset children and angry parents because we do not have any yearbooks to sell at the end of the year. Please do not let this happen to you by ordering your yearbook today. We are concerned because orders are way down and we know there are many families that will be disappointed. Please check your child’s Friday folder for a copy of the order form.

Be sure to order tickets for the volleyball game of the year! Our very own UMES staff will challenge the staff of Centreville Elementary on Friday, April 24, at 7 PM at Centreville High School. This is a great family event and always lots of fun for everyone. Although tickets are sold at the door, the money for presale tickets will directly support our school.

Last Friday was a crazy weather day but that did not put a damper on our Color Fun Run. Although it rained a little at 5:30, everything cleared up and we were able to have a great family time. Thank you to Cindy Horoho for chairing this event, Brian Van de Graaf for providing up-to-date weather forecasts, and all our staff that gleefully threw color on all our runners.

Students in Mrs. Scrafford, Mrs. Duncan, and Mrs. Dials’ classes participated in our Feed the Need service project this week and they were able to make over 200 power packs of food for others in need. Thank you to all the families that sent in donations and parents that helped the students assemble the packs.
This was a week to honor volunteers and we thank our Watch DOGS that came in to volunteer this week.

Here is a look around our school this week which includes outdoor learning, classroom presentations, creative egg drops, a 4-H visit, a visit to 3rd grade by author Ben Hatke, and much more.
Have a great weekend,
Kathy

SOL Assessments are Coming
For your planning purposes, here are the SOL dates for this testing season. All tests will be given in the morning. Please let your child’s classroom teacher know as soon as possible if your child will not be in school on their scheduled test date. Teachers will work with our testing team to ensure all children are given the assessment during the testing window.

3rd grade
Thursday, May 14 – Reading, Part 1
Friday, May 15 – Reading, Part 2
Thursday, May 21 – Math, Part 1
Friday, May 22 – Math, Part 2

4th grade
Tuesday, May 12 – VA History
Monday, May 18 – Reading
Wednesday, May 27 – Math

5th grade
Wednesday, May 13 – Science
Tuesday, May 19 – Reading
Monday, June 1 – Math
Tuesday, June 2 – Math

6th grade
Wednesday, May 20 – Reading
Friday, May 29 – Math

Student Intention Form
Help us plan for next year by completing and returning the Student’s Intention for the Next School Year form that went home in last week’s Friday folders. If you have not yet done so, please take a moment to fill in your form and return it this week. These forms allow us to make critical staffing decisions for the coming school year. Thank you to all who have already completed and returned this important form.

Register Rising Kindergartners Now!
We are anxious to have all our rising kindergarteners registered as early as possible. The forms that you will need to bring to school when you register your child are available online at [http://www.fcps.edu/it/forms/enroll.pdf](http://www.fcps.edu/it/forms/enroll.pdf) and the list of required supporting documents at [http://www.fcps.edu/dss/osp/StudentRegistration/registration-requirements.shtml](http://www.fcps.edu/dss/osp/StudentRegistration/registration-requirements.shtml). If you prefer to come by the school office to pick up a packet of pre-printed forms, you are welcome to do so from 8 am until 4:15 pm Monday through Friday. Please call Sheri Brown at 703-322-8500 or email her at sheri.brown@fcps.edu to schedule a 15 minute appointment to submit your paperwork.

New Start and Dismissal Times for 2015-16 School Year Announced
Beginning in September 2015, changes to the bell schedule will be implemented at many schools, including all middle, high, and secondary schools. The new bell schedule means that every school will be in session for 6 hours and 45 minutes per day. Superintendent Garza and the School Board hope to continue to refine and improve our school start times in the years ahead. The transportation team has been performing dry runs of all the bus routes in preparation for September. As in past years, the bus schedules will be made available prior to the beginning of the school year. The start time for Union Mill will change 5 minutes to 8:45 am in the fall and our new dismissal time will be 3:30.
Save the Date – Thursday, April 30

Thursday evening, April 30, will be a very busy evening at Union Mill so mark that date on your calendar. Our book fair will be open, the PTA will hold an ice cream social, and about 25 members of our staff will share a special project they have been working on – An evening celebrating our various cultures and backgrounds. It is sure to be a fabulous evening that you won’t want to miss.

Book Fair is Coming

The spring book fair will be Monday, April 27th – Friday, May 1st! Book Fair will be open all week during regular school hours and 5:30 – 7:30pm on Thursday night, April 30. A volunteer signup link will be available next week. Thank you for supporting the UMES Book Fair.

Learning Garden Update

The Learning Garden Committee will kick off the planting season on April 20, with a rain date of April 23. Every grade will plant vegetables in their garden with the goal to harvest by the end of the school year. We will have several planting sessions that day. Please contact Pam Martin at pamgram74@aol.com or Jenn McAdoo at jenn.mcadoo@fcps.edu if you'd like to help make our gardens grow. The next meeting of the Learning Garden committee will be Tuesday, April 14, at 3:30-4:30 in Room 208. Children are welcome.

Blood Donation Appointments for April 27 Still Available!

Union Mill Elementary School will be hosting an American Red Cross Blood Drive on Monday, April 27, 2015, from 2:30 - 8:00 p.m. in the cafeteria. Our last drive ran more smoothly than any we have ever had, with very little waiting for appointments. If you choose to make an appointment to make your appointment on the Red Cross’ scheduling system, you will receive an immediate appointment confirmation and an email reminder of your appointment a few days prior to the drive, be able to view your past blood donations, check your donation eligibility date, or request a new American Red Cross donor card. Sheri Brown in the Union Mill office will be happy to help (after Spring break) if you need assistance in scheduling. You may contact her at sheri.brown@fcps.edu or 703-322-8504. Thank you for helping us to save lives!!

Cheer on Union Mill staff as they challenge Centreville ES staff in volleyball on Friday, April 24, at 7 PM at Centreville High School. Please order tickets in advance to support our school.
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