Principals' Corner

This has been a very hard week for all of us. As parents I am sure you are deeply affected by the pain of those parents in Connecticut that lost their children last Friday. As educators, we are grieving for every child and the fact that the one place we try so hard to make safe for them was the place they were violated. I have been asked by a few parents if we are doing anything to remember the children in Connecticut. As an administrator I will send a card to the school expressing my condolences. Other than that, I believe that is a conversation you have or do not have with your children. Many of our kids don’t know about the incident and I would rather it stay that way. Personally, I think we honor the children by stopping the acceptance of violence as a remedy to differences, allowing violent video games and television fare for our children and replace it with compassion and love of others. The truck that left our school for New Jersey with donations for the hurricane victims was a perfect way to honor the innocence of children.

This will be my last holiday letter to you as your principal. I am hoping that as many of you as possible come to the farewell party on Jan 17th. You will receive more details from the PTA after we return. God bless you all and have a joyous holiday season.

Love, Dr Howard

*See bottom of page 3 for Dr. Howard’s volunteer form.

Administration
Dr. Tish Howard
Principal
Tish.Howard@fcps.edu
Cell phone 703-314-8423

Mr. Brad Bennink
Assistant Principal
blbennink@fcps.edu
Office 703-619-2500

Washington Mill ES Contact Information

9100 Cherry Tree Drive
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Office Phone #: 703-619-2500

See us on the web at:
www.fcps.edu/
WashingtonMillES/

Please call the main office to report an absence
703-619-2525
Esta semana ha sido una semana muy dura para todos nosotros. Estoy segura que ustedes como padres, están profundamente afectados por el dolor de los padres de una escuela en Connecticut, donde perdieron a sus niños el pasado día viernes. Como educadores, estamos acongojados por cada uno de esos niños y además de que el lugar donde deseamos y tratamos de que sea el lugar más seguro para ellos es, el lugar donde fueron atacados. Yo he recibido algunas preguntas de algunos padres, si nosotros estamos haciendo algo para recordar a estos niños de Connecticut. Como administradora yo enviaré una tarjeta expresando mis condolencias. Por lo demás, yo creo que ustedes deben ser los que hablen o no con sus niños de ese fatal incidente. Muchos de nuestros niños no saben lo que sucedió y yo preferiría que se mantenga así. Personalmente, yo pienso que honramos a estos niños parando la aceptación de violencia como remedio a diferencias, permitiendo videos, juegos de videos, programas televisivos violentos, cambiando con programas y juegos que sea justo para ellos, donde aprendan compasión y amor por los otros. El camión que estamos enviando a New Jersey con donaciones para las víctimas del Huracán Sandy, fue una perfecta forma de honrar a esas víctimas inocentes.

Esta será mi última carta de fiesta de fin de año como su directora. Yo espero que muchos de ustedes, en lo posible, estén presentes en la despedida del 17 de enero. Ustedes recibirán más detalles del PTA cuando volvamos a clases. Dios los bendiga a todos y que tengan un tiempo de gozo y felicidad en estas fiesta de fin de año.

Love,
Dra. Howard

--- Dr. Howard’s Volunteer Form ---

Nombre de la Familia ___________________________________________ Teléfono _____________________________

Yo puedo donar un tiempo Me gustaría ayudar:

En la clase En la cafetería En los recreos En algún programa después de clases

En el fin de semana Algún evento de la comunidad saliendo con los niños/familias

En el Centro de Padres de Familia En los conciertos Subraye la, o las actividades en las que puede
December 2012

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WINTER HOLIDAYS

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Dr. Howard's Volunteer Form

Family Name __________________________ Phone __________________________

I can donate time. I would like to help:

In the classroom In the cafeteria On the playground At an afterschool program
At a community event At a concert In the Parent Center

On a weekend outing with children/families
Reading Rocks...

Dawn Page, WMES Reading Specialist

As the Winter Break approaches, I want to remind all of the students to have good holidays and to read over the holidays. A reminder – BOOKS MAKE GREAT GIFTS!! So do journals and word games. All of these can be purchased for your electronic devices as well. Some may even be free.

If you are looking for more economical books to own, there are many good used bookstores in the area. There are online sites as well – www.half.com sells used books and you can find used books through www.amazon.com as well.

Whatever you do over Winter Break, I hope that your holidays bring you peace and joy!

Dawn Page
WMES Reading Specialist

“I used to walk to school with my nose buried in a book.”

- Coolio

SCA December News

everyone a wonderful holiday and a very happy and healthy New Year!

Spirit Day - Our next Spirit Day will be held this Friday, December 21st. To celebrate the season, please wear Red and Green...of course Elves Ears or Reindeer Antlers (NO bells please) might also be in fashion that day!

Community Service Project - The SCA adopted a WMES family for Christmas.

And on that note...we wish
Counselor's Corner...

It has been a very busy month for the counseling department. Julie Reynolds returned after Thanksgiving and we have both been working hard to keep our children safe and happy during this season. The holidays and winter vacation are a special time to give your child an extra hug and spend time together as a family. Over the next few weeks take the time to tell your children “I love you” and have a conversation about their excitement for the New Year.

Please remember to engage your child academically over the long winter break. Students should continue to read on a daily basis and also challenge their minds through puzzles, writing, and math. It is imperative that students practice the skills they have learned during the opening months of the school year during the vacation.

As always, please remember not to leave your students home alone and arrange for proper supervision whenever necessary. We hope that everyone has a wonderful vacation and gets a chance to relax together as a family.

Please contact us with any way that we can be a help to your children and happy holidays!

Emily Rubin and Julie Reynolds

Did you know that boys lag behind girls in reading in all fifty states?
Did you know that the book genres that interest boys the most include:

- Action
- Humor
- Fantasy
- Graphic Novels
- Science Fiction
- Sports
- Biography
- Non-Fiction
- Statistics

By offering boys in topics and genres that interest them we can help to motivate them to read more, and as a result, become better readers. It’s important for parents and teachers to engage the boys in discussions about the books they are reading. Fathers and other males need to model reading books, so that the boys will understand its importance.

The website, Guys Read at [http://www.guysread.com/books/](http://www.guysread.com/books/) is an excellent resource. It includes book suggestions from teachers, librarians, booksellers, publishers, parents, and boys themselves. Boys can rate books, and suggest titles of books to be included on the website.

Happy reading and happy holidays!
Thank You to our Business Partners for Supporting WMES

Patch

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Geranio Ristorante

CITY FINANCE CORP.
The key to your house

Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks

DOBSON BUILDING & REMODELING