Dear Parents,

Thank you…Thank you…Thank you… Your support of the “Crocs’ Creed Crocs Read” Read-A-Thon made this event a huge success. Island Creek Elementary students read more than 443,807 minutes in ten days. Five classes read more than 20,000 minutes! All this reading earned our school $10,000 in donations from friends and relatives across the county and from as far away as Canada and Puerto Rico. This generous support for our students and for public education is heart warming. The Read-A-Thon committee is now reviewing teacher wish lists. Stay tuned, we will let you know the granted wishes next month. Once again, thanks to our entire learning community for making this such a positive experience.

(Contributors will receive thank you post cards confirming their tax deductible contribution.)

As your family enjoys the Spring Break change of pace, don’t forget to bring along a book and keep on reading. We have some of the most important months of the school year ahead of us. This is a time to keep focused, keep your family’s life in balance and keep learning. Below are some helpful reminders for parents to support learning at home:

- Listen and talk with your children, paying consistent attention to questions and feelings.
- Show pride in your children’s academic growth and accomplishments.
- Regularly encourage children with their schoolwork.
- Instill a strong work ethic in children.
- Help children perceive themselves as capable problem solvers.
- Give priority to schoolwork, reading and other academic activities over non-academic endeavors like television and video games.
- Emphasize regular planned use of time in the home for studying, playing and eating meals.
- Read aloud to your children and have them read to you.
- Set standards and expectations for your children that are attainable.
- Get to know your children’s current schoolwork and school activities.
- Help with homework when needed.
- Encourage regular discussion with your children and find opportunities to enlarge vocabulary.
- Get to know your children’s academic strengths and weaknesses.
- Make structure, routine and punctuality priorities.
- Make frequent use of books, newspapers and magazines.
- Have a quiet place for your children to study at home with appropriate reference materials available for use.

Everyday home activities can have a dramatic impact on how well children do in school. Your role is critical in your child’s school success.

Thanks you for being our partners in education!

Susan Z. Owner
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<td>7:30am 6th Gr. Book Club 10:30-1:30 Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon</td>
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<td>9:30 6th Gr. Field Trip to Hayfield 3-4 Drama (Set Design Only)</td>
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√ Check-it Out at the Library

Crocs’ Creed, Crocs Read Read-A-Thon

From March 2nd-12th, Island Creek students read for 443,807 minutes. The students enjoyed dressing up as their favorite book characters, decorating classroom doors, ‘stopping and reading,’ celebrating Dr. Seuss’s birthday with an after-school PTA-sponsored birthday bash, exploring a variety of genres, reviewing elements of literature and reading, reading, reading.

National Library Week
April 15th-21st

Celebrate National Library week by visiting a library or reading a good book. Remember, Island Creek students and staff are “Wild About Books and Reading”!

6th Grade Book Club

The next meeting is April 19th at 7:30am in the library. We are reading Hatchet by Gary Paulsen. New members are encouraged to attend!

To all of our library volunteers who alphabetize books, shelve, straighten, and help at the book fair, Thank You!! Your endless dedication and enthusiasm help make Island Creek the special school that it is. We appreciate the work that you do.

Jill & Debi

You can access the library catalog from home: http://libcat.fcps.edu/uhthbin/cgisirsi/x/0/0/57/49?user_id=123WEB
Counselor’s Corner

Electronic Safety

Safety is the character quality for the months of April and May

Cyber bullying has been in prominent in the press in recent years and we are always on the look out for new problems that may present themselves to our students.

While the computer continues to be a source of great concern for the safety of our children, cell telephones have become a danger as well and are being used “with” the computer in another method of cyber bullying. Photographs of our children are being taken and used as a form of bullying on the computer and these photographs are accessible by millions of people instantaneously.

Please caution your children about being photographed without their consent by people using their cellular telephones, especially when they believe they are safe from prying eyes in locations such as restrooms or changing rooms.

Computer Use: If possible keep your computers located in an area where you are able to supervise your child during internet usage.

Remind your child not to divulge their personal information to anyone on line as they may, in fact, not be communicating with their friends, but instead by communicating with an imposter.

Traditional Safety Issues

911 – Teach your children when and how to dial 911

Fire Safety: Teach your children to leave the house immediately in case of fire and to stay low to the ground when exiting the building.

Body Safety: Remind your children that their bodies are their own and that no one should touch them in a way that makes them uncomfortable. Let them know that the places on their bodies covered by swimwear are their “private parts.” Explain how a Dr. may be allowed to touch them to help them to be well.

Help your child write a “Safety Card” with emergency telephone numbers and post if where they are able to access it.

The NUMBER ONE SAFETY TOOL IS SPEECH!!! Do not be hesitant to talk to your children about their safety.

Your partners in character education

Virginia Hulke
Steff Shelesky
School Counselors
CHORAL AND ORFF ENSEMBLE CONCERT
April 18, 2007
7:00-7:45 pm
Island Creek ES Cafeteria

KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP

Island Creek Elementary kindergarten orientation for parents and students is scheduled for Monday, April 30 from 1:00-3:00 p.m., in the school cafeteria.

At the orientation, Dr. Susan Owner, the principal, will make a brief presentation and afterwards, parents and students will have the opportunity to visit the classrooms and meet the wonderful kindergarten teachers. The staff will be available to register children at this time as well.

Presently, the Island Creek Elementary kindergarten program is a half-day program, although the budget submission currently being considered does provide for a full-day program. We are anxiously awaiting final word on whether the budget will be approved as submitted and will move to a full-day kindergarten program. Interested parents are encouraged to make their views known to their representative at the School Board.

Kindergarten program at Island Creek Elementary provides opportunities for children to experience success and a love of learning through play, active exploration, investigations, and interaction with adults, other children, technology and a variety of learning materials. Independence, responsibility and self-direction are promoted as children make decisions and solve problems. Our students learn through participation in self-directed play and the guidance of skilled professionals. The kindergarten curriculum of Fairfax County Public Schools is designed to meet the diverse needs of children in all developmental areas: social/emotional, physical, and cognitive. It integrates skills and concepts from all disciplines into learning activities that are interesting, meaningful, and supportive of children’s learning.

The school community of Island Creek maintains a strong commitment to building and maintaining strong home-school partnerships, a critical cornerstone to a child’s overall school success. Children need their family involved in education throughout their educational careers. Communication between home and school is vital--be assured you will feel a part of our kindergarten program and have opportunities to follow your child’s progress.
SOL TESTING SCHEDULE

| Monday, May 7th | 3rd Grade Language Arts |
| Thursday, May 17th | 6th Grade Social Studies |
| Tuesday, May 8th | 3rd Grade Language Arts |
| Friday, May 18th | 3rd Grade Social Studies |
| Wednesday, May 9th | 4th Grade Language Arts |
| Monday, May 21st | make ups |
| Thursday, May 10th | 5th Grade Language Arts |
| Tuesday, May 22nd | 4th Grade Math |
| Friday, May 11th | 6th Grade Language Arts |
| Wednesday, May 23rd | 5th Grade Math |
| Monday, May 14th | 3rd Grade Science |
| Thursday, May 24th | 6th Grade Math |
| Tuesday, May 15th | 5th Grade Science |
| Friday, May 25th | 3rd Grade Math |
| Wednesday, May 16th | 4th Grade Social Studies |
| Each day make-ups will be done in the afternoon... |

Attention: PRESCHOOL PARENTS

The non-categorical preschool special education program at Island Creek is looking for typically developing peers to join our classrooms for the 2007-2008 school year. We are looking for children aged 2-5 who meet basic requirements:

- Must be toilet trained
- Speak English relatively well
- Parents must provide transportation

Community children will attend 3 days a week for either morning or afternoon sessions. There is no tuition, but families will be expected to pay monthly snack fees. Parents are asked to contribute their time to help out in the classroom or with projects at home. If you are interested in learning more about this program, please contact the Island Creek preschool staff (571-642-6347) or stop by the school office for an application. Applications will be due by April 20, 2007.

Summer Program Information Available

Summer programs are available for students who will complete grades K-11 during the 2006-2007 school year. Summer programs include opportunities for students to strengthen the skills and knowledge required for the Standards of Learning (SOL) tests and for middle school Promotion Benchmarks. Enrichment opportunities in academic areas are available as well as extended day programs, camps, and online courses.

The summer school booklet, *Encore 2007*, will be mailed to families whose children attend Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). *Encore 2007* will also be available at every Fairfax County public school, public library, other FCPS administrative offices, and online in March. Fees, transportation, dates, eligibility, and registration procedures vary by program.

Summer school dates for general summer school for 2007 are available:

- Elementary School ----------- July 9, 2007 - August 3, 2007
- Middle School------------------- July 9, 2007 - August 8, 2007
- High School---------------------- July 9, 2007 - August 9, 2007

The locations for summer school are available at [http://www.fcps.edu/news/summer/locations.htm](http://www.fcps.edu/news/summer/locations.htm).

Information about summer programs offered by camps, schools, colleges, and universities nationwide and abroad is also available at [http://www.fcps.edu/suptapps/summeropportunities/ProgramSearch.cfm](http://www.fcps.edu/suptapps/summeropportunities/ProgramSearch.cfm).
**LOCAL EVENTS OF INTEREST**

**Guiding Good Choices: Empowering Parents to Help Their Children Develop into Healthy Adults** - Guiding Good Choices is a three session program that will help parents: Strengthen family bonds, set a clear family position on drugs, teach children skills they will need to make healthy choices and increase children's involvement in the family. The event will be held at Fairview Elementary School, 5815 Ox Road, Fairfax Station, Virginia on Thursday, April 19 and 26 from 6:30-8:30pm. The cost is $15 per family. Register by email: Rosanne Jones, RJonesRCC@msn.com Include your name, names of child(ren), school(s) attended, Number of children needing childcare and ages, phone number. Cost will cover childcare, pizza & refreshments and materials.

**Regional Youth Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Project** - A Conference for youth ages 14-18 will be held April 14th at South County government center from 8:30am - 5:00 pm. Lunch and a tee shirt are provided at no cost and the motivational speaker, Chris Bowers is nationally recognized. For more information please contact the school counselor, at 571-642-6300.

**3rd Annual Special Education Conference** - April 28, 8:30-1:30 at Marshall High School, 7731 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22043. This conference is suited for families of students who receive special education services in Fairfax County Public Schools. For more information about the conference, please go to: http://www.fcps.edu/ss/SpecialEducationForum

**Grandparents Day Off** - On Saturday, April 28 from 10am - 3pm, Kinship care presents: a day of respite. Calling all grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc. who are raising a child for another family member. Pre-registration is required: Call 703-324-3517. Children need to bring their own bag lunch (a snack will be provided).

**Princess For a Night (PFAN) project.** The goal of the princess for a night project is to defray the high cost of prom so that all students can participate in this memorable high school event. Every woman has at least one dress that she can give away. If formal gowns are cluttering up your closet, this is a great opportunity to clean house and be charitable at the same time! Last year, thanks to the generosity of so many women, over 450 dresses were donated to the project. PFAN has been a great success and last year alone over 150 young ladies received beautiful dresses (and many received matching shoes, jewelry, and handbags as well)!

Dry cleaned dresses, shoes, handbags, and jewelry will be collected between April 9th and April 27th, 2007. We are especially in need of dresses for full figured young ladies. Donations can be dropped off at five locations:

1) **Edison High School**, Main Office, 5801 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA 22310. Monday through Friday between 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
2) **Annandale High School**, Main Office, 4700 Medford Drive, Annandale, VA 22003. Monday through Friday between 7:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.
3) **South County High School**, Main Office, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton, VA 22079. Monday through Friday between 7:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.
4) **Gold’s Gym**, 7770 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, VA 22306. Monday through Friday between 4:45 a.m. and 11:00 p.m., Saturday between 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Sunday between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
5) **Hitched Bridal Couture and Creative Planning Salon**, 1523 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20007 (www.hitchedsalon.com). Tuesday through Thursday between noon and 8:00 p.m., Friday between 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., and Saturday between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

If you know of a young lady in need of a dress, “shopping” and dress selection will take place at **Quander Road School** (6400 Quander Road, Alexandria, VA 22307) on Thursday, May 3rd and Friday, May 4th from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and on Saturday, May 5th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Students will be served on a first come, first served basis. It is strongly recommended that parents accompany their daughters to participate in dress selection. Dresses are free, but donations will be accepted and given to a charity. Please pass this information along to other generous women in your family, neighborhood, places of employment, and places of worship. Together we can make prom a possibility for all young women in Fairfax County.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to assist with the project, please e-mail me at Kathleen.Basinski@fcps.edu. Many thanks in advance for your generosity and support.
INTERNATIONAL VOTE FOR THE NEW 7 WONDERS OF THE WORLD

Many students throughout the school are doing research about all 21 of the new possible wonders of the world. The sixth graders will be making brochures on publisher and creating posters on their research.

Would you like to take part in the vote?

Go to: http://www.new7wonders.com