Dear Parents,

Island Creek celebrated our talented young authors and artists today engaging the entire school preschool through sixth grade. Thanks to the many parents and friends who shared the accomplishments of our students. If you were unable to join us, please consider stopping by in the weeks following spring break to see the art work displayed throughout the school. The building looks BEAUTIFUL inside. It will be truly a memorable walk through our hallways, you will be impressed, I guarantee. Ask your child where their art and writings are displayed, they will surely tell you!

We are proud of our students’ achievements and appreciate the commitment of their dedicated teachers. Island Creek teachers and staff consistently go above and beyond to provide learning experiences which build skills, make connections and create memories. They bring a commitment to excellence in education that becomes a standard expectation throughout our Island Creek Elementary community of learners.

During April we will take time to recognize the incredible assistance our active volunteers contribute to our school. Their efforts sometime visible but more often than not, behind the scenes, enhance the “what” and “how” we learn. Island Creek is fortunate to have these valuable resources and we appreciate their efforts on behalf of our students.

I look forward to seeing you in our school in the months to come. Make a date to meet your child for lunch in our cafeteria; it will be a lunch you both will remember!

Thank you for being our partner in education.

Susan Z. Owner
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<td>3:15-4 pm GEMS</td>
<td>NO WRITER’S BLOCK</td>
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<td>8:30-9:30am Open House for Artists and Authors</td>
<td>1-2:30 6th Gr. Book Swap</td>
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<td>9:30am 6th Gr. Pyramid Band Field Trip</td>
<td>9:30am 4th Gr. Field Trip to Mt. Vernon</td>
<td>7:30-8:15am Writer’s Block</td>
<td>SCA Spirit Day</td>
<td>All County Choral Festival</td>
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<td>3:15-4:30 GOR</td>
<td>3:15-4:00 GEMS</td>
<td>7:30am 6th Gr. Book Club</td>
<td>All County Choral Festival</td>
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<td>7:00-8:30 PTA Mtg., Library</td>
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<td>9:15am 5th Gr. Field Trip (Newseum)</td>
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<td>All County Choral Festival</td>
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<td>Earth Day</td>
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<td>6th Gr. Panoramic Photo</td>
<td>3:05-4:05 Chess Group</td>
<td>7:30am Writer’s Block</td>
<td>9:30-1:00 PS Field Trip to Zoo</td>
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<td>3:15-4:30 GOR</td>
<td>7-8pm 6th Gr. Parent Meeting</td>
<td>6th Gr. Hayfield Tour</td>
<td>2:15 Distinguished Students</td>
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<td>Earth Day</td>
<td>1:30-12:30 Volunteer Luncheon</td>
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<td>Arbor Day</td>
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<td>3:15 Helping Hands</td>
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<td>1:30-3:00pm Kindergarten Registration Kick Off</td>
<td>3:15-4:30 GOR</td>
<td>3:15-4:00 GEMS</td>
<td>7:30-8:15am Writer’s Block</td>
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**National Volunteer Week/Admin Professionals Week**
National Library Week
April 12th-18th

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”!

Did You Know?

As of the end of March our collection includes:

- 9,622 Nonfiction titles
- 4,021 Everybody titles
- 3,369 Fiction titles
- 1,479 Biography titles
- 515 Audiovisual titles
- 518 Professional titles
- 320 Reference titles

March Library Happenings

It has been a busy and fun time in the library this month. Here are just a few of the highlights:

- All primary classes used the Smart Board to vote for their favorite Virginia Readers Choice book. At our school the poetry book “Once I Ate a Pie” by Patricia MacLachlan received the most votes.
- Mrs. Fay’s 2nd grade class is continuing their special poetry project. This month they learned about: concrete, two word, ABC and sensory poems. Students are great at writing their own poems.
- Third grade classes have been learning to use encyclopedias to research famous people. They did a great job learning the difference between interesting vs. important information.
- Fourth grade classes are continuing to learn how to research using nonfiction books, online databases and reference books.
- Fifth grade is finalizing their research for the Global Awareness & Technology project.

Stay tuned for more library happenings!

6th Grade Book Club

The second to the last meeting of the 6th Grade Book Club is April 16th at 7:30AM in the library. We are reading “Double Identity” by Margaret Peterson Haddix. New members are encouraged to attend.

Library Catalog

You can access the Island Creek library catalog from home: http://libcat.fcps.edu/uhtbin/cgisirsi/x/0/0/57/49?user_id=429WEB
Spring is here, daylight saving time has begun; and with those two developments we hope our children will be spending more time with outdoor activities. It is important to remind our children about their personal safety. Please do not tell them once; remind them repeatedly of ways to ensure their safety. Many children ride their bicycles in warmer weather therefore we have included safety tips and a sampling of Virginia Bicycle laws.

Commonwealth of Virginia Bicycle Riding Laws (not all-inclusive).

- Brakes are mandatory on all bicycles
- If you ride at night, you must have a white light on the front of the bicycle that illuminates up to 500' in front and a red reflector on the back of the bicycle.
- Bicycles may be ridden on sidewalks unless prohibited by local ordinance or traffic control devices. While on sidewalks and shared-use paths, bicyclists must always yield the right of way to pedestrians and give an audible signal before passing a pedestrian. Please share the sidewalks
- You are not allowed to carry something that prevents you from keeping at least one hand on the handlebars at all times
- You must wear a helmet
- You are not allowed to ride more than two bicycles side-by-side on a road.
- It is not allowed to ride "against" traffic you must ride in the same direction as the cars.
- Bicyclists must not carry more people than the bicycle is designed to accommodate, except for adult bicyclists carrying a child less than six years of age, securely attached to the bicycle in a seat or trailer designed to carry children.
- Bicyclists must not attach themselves or their bicycles to any other vehicle on the roadway.
- Bicyclists are not permitted to wear earphones in both ears while riding a bicycle.

Bicycle Safety Tips

- Know how to use hand signals
- Always ask parents before riding and ensure they know your location.
- Wear bright clothing so drivers and other riders can see you.
- Remember red looks like black in the dark.
- Obey the rules of the road. Bikers must stop at all stop signs and traffic lights and use turning signals, just like cars.
- Ride on the right hand side of the road, in the same direction as traffic.
- Look both ways. Most crashes happen at intersections or driveways so be on the lookout for people who may not see you. Ride on bike trails, roads with little traffic or in parks. If you do come to a busy road, walk your bike across intersections at a crosswalk.
- Keep your bike tuned up. You don't want to get a flat tire far away from your house!
- Protect your bike. Lock it up or keep it in a safe place when you're not using it.
- Ride with friends. It's more fun and you have someone to help you if you need it.

We hope this spring finds you happy and energized, get outside with your children and exercise together! It's the right thing to do.

Yours partners in Character Education
Virginia Hulke
Stefanie Shelesky
School Counselors
MESSAGE FOR PARENTS
OF FIVE-YEAR OLD CHILDREN

State law requires that any child who is five years old on or before September 30, 2009 must be enrolled in kindergarten for the 2009-2010 school year, unless the parent notifies the school in writing that they do not wish their child to attend school until the following year.

Island Creek will hold its Kindergarten Registration on Monday, April 27th, from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. in our cafeteria. Parent and rising kindergarteners are invited to attend. If you wish to receive a packet of registration and informational materials, please call the school office at 571-642-6300 to be added to the mailing list.

ISLAND CREEK WELCOMES MR. MARTIN GROSS

My name is Martin Gross and I am extremely happy to be the new Assistant Principal at Island Creek Elementary School.

For the past eight years, I have been a school counselor in Fairfax County. I loved my job as a counselor because of my connection to the students. I believe that each student is vitally important and that we can all work to make their academic lives successful and fulfilling.

In addition to my work as a counselor, I have been actively involved in Student Council, started a student leadership club, and many other activities that enhanced the lives of students inside and outside of school.

I am very excited to be a part of the Island Creek community. I have always believed in the core values that the Croc’s Creed represents. Only through being responsible, respectful, cooperative, safe, honest, and kind can we all learn and grow and become the students and the people that we dream of being.

Please join us for the
Chorus and Beatmasters
Spring Concert

May 12, 2009
7:00-8:00 pm
Island Creek Elementary
School Cafeteria
Students at Island Creek recently participated in the largest consecutive four-square game which resulted in the setting of a new Guinness world record.

Ms. Garrett’s fourth grade class is shown holding sand plaques that were sent to them from a parent currently stationed in Bahrain. He sent the plaques in response to letters that the class has been writing him.

Preschool students have been busy learning about fire safety.