Dear Parents,

As we continue to look over and adjust our school wide systems, we are making an adjustment to our safety and security system and procedures. We are having a doorbell entry system installed at the main entrance of the school. You may have seen this, and may have used it at other elementary schools. It is a protocol that is being put in place for all FCPS schools.

Once school starts each day, all doors at the school will be locked, including all the main entrance doors (entrance 1). Currently all doors are locked except entrance 1. Visitors to the building will need to ring the doorbell to enter the building. Office staff will be able to view and speak with the person ringing the doorbell. Office staff can open the door by remotely unlocking the automatic door. This will be the new part of the protocol. All visitors will still need to come directly to the office once they are admitted to the building. We will continue with the current practice of asking visitors to register for a badge and leave appropriate identification while they are in the building.

As a parent myself, I know you share in efforts to protect the students at Island Creek. We want an environment where parents know their children are as safe as they possibly can be, and in which our students’ focus can be on learning 100% of the time. We ask all visitors to our school to sign in and wear a badge; school staff may challenge anyone who is not displaying a visitor’s badge or FCPS-issued identification badge. We want to know who is in our building every day.

Having said that, I also recognize and appreciate that there is a subtle balance between security and accessibility. Our intent is not to deny or impede parental involvement in school activities, but to make certain that everyone in our building is safe. We know that you will continue to join us for lunch and our day to day activities. We look forward to continued, enthusiastic involvement by parents and other family members in the activities in the classroom and at the school. Island Creek volunteers will keep being a thriving part of this community.

Thank you for your continued support of Island Creek.

Your partner in education,

Michael G. Macrina

Lost and Found

Spring has sprung….so we have lots of items in our lost and found bins. If you or your child have not had the opportunity, please stop by and check the lost and found bins located just outside the cafeteria. All remaining items will be donated to charity at the end of each quarter.

Please be sure and put names on coats and lunch boxes!
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<td>STUDENT HOLIDAY --- No School</td>
<td>3:30-4:30 PTA Flex French</td>
<td>3:30-4:30 PTA Flex Spanish (make-up day)</td>
<td>3:30-4:30 PTA Flex Spanish</td>
<td>SCA Spirit Day (GO GREEN)</td>
<td>7:30-8:00am Medieval Day Parent Meeting</td>
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<td>10:45-12:50 Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon</td>
<td>3:30-4:30 GOTR</td>
<td>3:30-4:30 GOTR</td>
<td>3:30-4:30 GOTR</td>
<td>8:20-8:50 Friday Friends</td>
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<td>1-2 PTA Flex French</td>
<td>3:30-4:30 GOTR</td>
<td>3:30-4:30 WISE Guys</td>
<td>3:25-4:25 Chess Group</td>
<td>GEMS Field Trip</td>
<td>7:30am PTA Croc Trot</td>
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Spring Break - No School
Order your Yearbook NOW!

Every bunny should have one.

ORDER NOW! at
ybpay.lifetouch.com

Ordering is EASY!

1. Order online at ybpay.lifetouch.com! Simply click on the “locate school” link and find your school to begin the ordering process.

2. Call 1-800-875-7088 to order by phone using your credit or debit card

YEARBOOK SALES END ON APRIL 15th

(This will be your last opportunity to order a yearbook)
National Library Week
April 8th-14th
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”!

ICES students voted “The
Big Elephant in the Room”
by Lane Smith their
favorit Virginia Readers Choice
book.

Library Staff:
Jill Woodall, Librarian
Debi Poole, Library Assistant

March Library Happenings
It has been a busy time in the library this month. Here are just a few of the many things that have happened:

• All kindergarten, first and second grade classes used the Smart Board to vote for their favorite Virginia Readers Choice book. As part of this activity, students learned to create and interpret bar graphs as well as make mathematical statements about the data.

• Inspired by the book “Ish” by Peter Reynolds, each kindergarten class wrote an Island Creekish book. They are also learning about the nonfiction text features: labels, bold words, table of contents, headings, photographs and captions.

• First grade classes are learning to alphabetize to the first letter. Knowing how to alphabetize books helps students to locate books by the author’s last name in the Everybody and Fiction sections.

• Second grade classes have been learning how to use and access electronic books and print/online encyclopedias while also learning about monarch butterflies, milkweeds and migration.

• All fifth grade classes are researching their Global Awareness & Technology project. They are learning the difference between important vs. interesting information as it relates to their research topic.

6th Grade Book Club
The next meeting of the 6th Grade Book Club is April 12th at 7:30AM in the library. We are discussing “The Red Pyramid” by Rick Riordan.

Library Catalog
You can access the Island Creek library catalog from home: http://libcat.fcps.edu/uhb/bin/cgisirsi/x/0/0/57/49?user_id=429WEB
New Standards-Based Elementary Progress Reports
Beginning Fall 2012

Fairfax County Public Schools will begin using new progress reports for elementary school students in fall 2012. The new progress reports will provide information about a student’s progress based on FCPS and Virginia curriculum standards. It will provide detailed information about what a student is learning and can demonstrate in each content area.

Parents are invited to attend one of four community meetings to learn more about the new progress report:

- **Tuesday, April 10**, 7 to 8:30 p.m., Herndon High School (Cafeteria), 700 Bennett Street, Herndon.
- **Wednesday, April 11**, 7 to 8:30 p.m., Hayfield Secondary School (Cafeteria), 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria.
- **Wednesday, April 18**, 7 to 8:30 p.m., Robinson Secondary School (Recital Hall), 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax.
- **Wednesday, April 25**, 7 to 8:30 p.m., Falls Church High School (Cafeteria B), 7521 Jaguar Trail, Falls Church.

For more information and to register to attend a community meeting:

- Visit [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu) and click on Elementary School Progress Report
- Contact Island Creek’s parent liaison Kim Jones at 571-642-6300
- Parents are welcome to contact the parent information line at 571-423-4632

Please join us at the ICES PTA meeting on April 10th to learn more about the new standards-based elementary Progress Report

Counselor’s Corner

The focus for March is Test Taking Strategies

SOL and other tests are being taken at this time of year and it is a good idea to help prepare your students for these tests.

**Parents/Adults at home:** A few things to do that are easy for you to monitor are:

- Make sure your students get a good night’s sleep before a test.
- Ensure your student doesn’t skip breakfast before their test.
- Keep your student’s schedule as normal as possible.
- Do a thorough, but not exhaustive review the night before the test.
- Be encouraging, but do not put too much pressure on a student about a test.

**Students** - remember when taking your tests:

- Listen to the directions; often the same tests have changed directions from year-to-year.
- Read the questions carefully.
- Look for clues in the passages.
- Slash the trash, mark out the answers you KNOW are wrong.
- Review the question - make sure you did not go TOO fast in choosing an answer.
- When you have finished the test, GO BACK and check the answers one last time.

Sometimes questions will give you the answer to an earlier question!

Good luck and do your best, it is all you can do - we are always proud of you.

Virginia Hulke
Stefanie Shelesky
School Counselors
IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR PARENTS OF CURRENT 5TH GRADERS

It’s not too early to check!

All students in Virginia schools must receive a booster dose of Tdap vaccine prior to entering sixth grade, if at least five years have passed since the last dose of tetanus toxoid-containing vaccine (DTP, DTaP, DT or Td).

Please check your child’s immunization records carefully. If your child is required to have a Tdap booster, we ask that your child receive it and that you provide documentation to the school office before the end of the school year. This documentation can be a copy of your child’s immunization record, or a note from your physician listing the date of their most recent Tdap booster shot.

The Tdap booster can be obtained from your child’s physician. Immunizations required for school are also available at the Fairfax County Health Department at no charge. Clinic locations and walk-in hours are online at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/hdclinicsite.htm. Students receiving immunizations at the Health Department must be accompanied by an adult, and students should bring their immunization records to the Health Department with them.

Please, plan ahead to attend to this matter. When the 2012 school year begins on September 4, 2012, sixth graders will not be assigned to a teacher without documentation being received by the school.

If you have any questions about the immunization requirement, you may contact Deborah Jackson, the school public health nurse, at 703-704-6100, or email her at deborah.jackson@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Kindergarten Orientation

Calling all “Kinder Crocs”! Kindergarten orientation for the 2012-13 school year is scheduled for Monday, April 23 at 1:30 p.m. in our school cafeteria. Parents of rising kindergarteners should call the school office to get a packet of materials by mail, which includes all the forms and instructions on how to make a registration appointment. If you have already left your name and address in the office, be on the lookout for the packet! We hope to see you at the orientation.

Are you moving?

The school needs to have current addresses for all our students! If you have moved, please call the school office so we can update our records. If you are planning to move away from Island Creek, also be sure you let the school office know. We really hate to see you go, but there are important documents that need to be filled out by parents in order for a smooth transition to take place and for school records to be sent to your child’s new school.
ENERGY ZONE KIDS FITNESS CHALLENGE

Research shows children copy the behavior of adults in their life. If parents are physically active, the children will be active too. Exercise burns calories, which assist in maintaining ideal weight. **Fit adults and children exercise 60 minutes per day.**

KEEP MOVING TO STAY IN SHAPE TIPS

Plan daily family walks.
Limit television or computer time to 1 to 2 hours per day.
Make exercise fun.
Encourage play outside with other children.
Assign chores that involve activity such as cleaning or walking the dog.
Help your children find physical activities they enjoy.

**Remember, making a healthy change takes time and don’t expect perfection.**

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DESAFÍO DE BUENA FORMA FÍSICA DE ZONA DE ENERGÍA PARA NIÑOS

La investigación muestra que los niños copian su comportamiento de los adultos en sus vida. Si los padres están físicamente activos, los niños serán activos también. Hacer ejercicio quema calorías, lo cual ayuda a mantener un peso ideal. Los adultos y los niños competentes hacen ejercicios por 60 minutos por día.

CONSEJO PARA MOVERSE Y MANTENERSE EN FORMA

Planee caminatas en familia diariamente.
Limite el tiempo en la televisión o computadora de 1 a 2 horas por día.
Diviertase hacienda los ejercicios.
Promueva el jugar afuera con otros niños.
Asigne tareas que impliquen actividades como la limpieza o el caminar al perro
Ayude a sus niños a encontrar actividades que ellos disfruten.

Recuerde, hacer un cambio saludable toma tiempo y no espere ser perfecto.
Our Kinder Crocs have been busy this month! We celebrated Read Across America. Our kids made the red and white striped hat for the Cat in the Hat. We also ate green eggs and ham! Lucky the Leprechaun came to Island Creek and enjoyed playing in our kindergarten rooms.

Mrs. von Kolnitz’s class went on a book walk / speed reading session (think book speed dating). On a beautiful March afternoon they lined up with 6 different books spent 5 minutes reading each then wrote about that book. Then moved down the line to the next book after reading all the books the students then listed their top three. They then broke into mini book clubs to read and discuss the books with their classmates.

The third grade took a field trip to Frying Pan Farm Park where they used simple machines.

4th grade family field trip to Manassas Battlefield on March 17th.