Dear Parents,

As we move into spring and begin to sense the excitement of the coming months, I am reminded of everything that we’ve accomplished. I would like to share with you a few observations and suggestions:

• Assist your children with homework and reading every day.

• Safety is our number one priority. Please check in at the office anytime you are coming to the building.

• Continue to volunteer when you can, we love having you in the building.

• Students must be in their classroom by 8:10. If you are using the kiss & ride, please come early so your child is not tardy to class.

• Make a date to meet your child for lunch in our cafeteria; it will be a lunch you both will remember!

• We have many before and after school programs: YMIM, GOTR, FLEX Language Courses, 6th Grade Book Club, Beyond the Bell, Friday Friends, GEMS and WISE Guys, just to name a few. These are some of the many ways that teachers, staff and volunteers go above and beyond to provide learning experiences which build skills, make connections and create memories.

• The PTA has helped with so much this school year. Here are just a few of the many ways our PTA assists Island Creek:
  - Programs – math, science and cultural arts
  - Activities – field trips, health & fitness, safety patrol and student recognition
  - Resources – professional development, teacher recognition and technology upgrades

• Many volunteers are in our school every day helping our students and staff in so many ways. Here are just a few:
  - Small group instruction
  - Thursday folders
  - Lunchroom monitors

• Please take a moment to recognize our volunteers for their efforts which are sometimes visible, but more often than not are behind the scenes. Island Creek is fortunate to have these valuable resources and we appreciate their efforts on behalf of our students.

• This month we celebrate the work of our volunteers. We hope that all of our volunteers will join us for our annual volunteer luncheon on Wednesday, April 24th from 10-12:30. If you join us during your student’s lunch time, you will be able to dine with their teacher.

Thank you for your continued support!

Michael G. Macrina
Principal
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<td>12:30-1:30 PTA FLEX French</td>
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<td>Spring Pictures for PS &amp; 4-6</td>
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<td>8:30-9:30am Adventures in Mathematics</td>
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<td>3-4 PTA FLEX French</td>
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<td>2:50-4:15 GEMS (Meet in GYM)</td>
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<td>Student Holiday NO SCHOOL</td>
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<td>5-8 PTA Spirit Night for PS-3 at Silver Diner</td>
<td>7:15-8:05 Young Men in Motion</td>
<td>7:30-8 Friday Friends</td>
<td>7:30-8am Croc Trotter Training</td>
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<td>National Volunteer Week WE ❤️ OUR VOLUNTEERS!!</td>
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<td>3-4:15 Girls on the Run</td>
<td>3-4 PTA FLEX French</td>
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<td>6:30-7:30 Hayfield Area Orchestra Concert, Hayfield</td>
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**BOOK FAIR** (Mon 8-1:30 & 4:30-7:30, Tue-Thu 8am - 4pm Fri 8am - Noon)
The next meeting of the 6th Grade Book Club is April 11th at 7:15AM in the library. Sixth graders are selecting a scary or ghost story of their choice to read and discuss.

ICES students voted “I Need My Monster” by Amanda Noll their favorite Virginia Readers Choice book.

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 primary 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.
- Kindergartners are learning about nonfiction text features: labels, bold words, table of contents, headings, photographs and captions.
- First grade classes are learning to alphabetize and use dictionaries. Second grade classes are focusing on analyzing character traits when discussing stories.
- Third grade classes are reviewing reference resources and which is best to use depending on their need.
- All fifth grade classes are continuing to research their Global Awareness & Technology projects.

Library Catalog

You can access the Island Creek library catalog from home: http://libcat.fcps.edu/uhrtbin/cgisirsi/x/0/0/57/49?user_id=429WEB
Do you know what your child is learning in math? Do you need some ideas on how to support your child being prepared for the SOL? If so, come join us on Monday, April 8th from 8:30-9:30am for Adventures in Mathematics. Parents, grandparents, uncles, and aunts are all invited to visit your child’s classroom to see some of the engaging math activities that they have been working on in class. Also, get some summer math ideas on how to prepare your child for the next grade level.

Counselors’ Corner
The focus for April is Test Taking Strategies

SOL and other tests are being taken 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 and Stefanie Shelesky, School Counselors
BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE

Starting on Monday, December 3, students at Island Creek Elementary School were permitted to bring a personally owned computing device to school to support their learning. We are very excited about how this initiative will change learning in the classroom and present opportunities to improve communication, collaboration, and creative learning amongst our students. Approved devices include laptops, tablets, smart phones, and eReaders.

It is essential that any parents considering allowing their child to bring a personal device thoroughly read all documents (linked below) and sign the Personal Device Permission & Registration form before these personal devices can come to school.

Some items to be aware of:

- All use of personal devices should be to support student learning and it will be at the discretion of the teacher as to when and how devices will be permitted.
- Personal texting, phone calls, and other communications will NOT be permitted during school hours.
- Students can only access the FCPSMobile network to connect to internet. Connecting via personal data plans is not permitted.
- Fairfax County Public Schools and Island Creek ES are not responsible for any device or data loss, theft, damage or other associated costs of replacement or repair incurred during the school day.
- All required information must be included on the Personal Device Permission & Registration form before the device can be used. A sticker identifying the device as officially registered will be attached to the device. The permission form should be brought, along with the device, to the Main Office.
- All students will be bound by the FCPS Student Rights and Responsibilities, FCPS Acceptable Use Policy, and Hayfield Pyramid Personal Device Policy. Use of personal devices at Island Creek ES is a privilege and can be revoked if these policies are violated.

Please know this personal device initiative merely allows devices to be used at school. At no time will students be required to purchase or bring in devices. The decision of whether or not to send a device to school with your child is a family decision.

Frequently Asked Questions
Hayfield Pyramid Personal Device Policy
How To Find MAC Address
Personal Device Permission & Registration Form
It's not too early to check!

As a parent of a current 5th grader, you need to know that 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).

This is not an Island Creek Elementary rule, and is not a Fairfax County regulation; it is a State regulation that all schools must follow.

Please check your child’s immunization records carefully. If you need a copy of your student’s record call the school office and we will provide you a copy.

If your child is required to have a Tdap booster, we ask that your child receive it as soon as he or she is old enough, and most importantly that you provide documentation to the school office. 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. If your child won’t be old enough for the shot until a specific date, we need a note from the doctor stating that.

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 at your earliest convenience. When the 2013 school year begins, sixth graders for whom the office has no documentation of the Tdap shot will not be assigned to a teacher.

If you have any questions about this immunization requirement, you may contact Deborah Jackson, the school public health nurse, at 703-704-6100, or email her at deborah.jackson@fairfaxcounty.gov. You also can call the school office at 571-642-6300.

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**Kindergarten Orientation**

Calling all “Kinder Crocs!” Kindergarten orientation for the 2013-14 school year is scheduled for Monday, April 22 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, but have not yet received a packet, please call the school office at 571-642-6300. We hope to see you at the orientation.

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**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.

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**IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR PARENTS OF CURRENT FIFTH GRADERS**

It’s not too early to check!

As a parent of a current 5th grader, you need to know that 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).

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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.

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 televisorion o computadora de 1 a 2 horas por día.
Diviértase haciendo 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.
Order your Yearbook NOW!

Every bunny should have one.

order NOW! at ybpay.lifetouch.com

It’s Easy to order!

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 800-453-9764 to order by phone using your credit or debit card

YEARBOOK SALES END ON APRIL 12th

(This will be your last opportunity to order a yearbook)
A member of the ICES GEMS group examined grimy water as part of an environmental activity in a workshop at the GEMS Conference.

Preschool students had such fun waxed paper “ice skating” during a recent Snow unit.

Young Men in Motion have been enjoying the brisk mornings!

GEMS students designed and built a structure out of recycled materials at one of the workshops at the GEMS Conference.

During the March meeting, Wise Guys members focused on programming their NXT Robot to complete a 4-Pole obstacle course.