Dear Parents,

November brought great opportunities to see many parents in our school. Not only did we see our wonderful and faithful weekly volunteers (how we do appreciate you!) but also parents who were able to join us for parent conferences, Veterans Day, and those occasional special lunches at school with their child. Parents are the most important ingredient in a child’s school success. We want you to feel comfortable and welcome at Island Creek. You are a respected and valued member of our learning community.

Parent support of school success often involves helping your child get organized for homework. A critical component to success here is having a regular study time. Some children do well to study right after school, others prefer to wait until after dinner or early in the morning. Pick a time that works for your child and honor it. Another essential practice is creating a place at home where your child keeps all their school things. Some kids have fun decorating a cardboard box that’s large enough to hold their backpack. Others use a plastic crate. Whatever you use put it in near the door so they see it as a reminder, and use it everyday. It is a good idea to locate one place to designate as the homework area. Children become used to this place and know this is the time and place to get serious about schoolwork. It is best if the place you select is well lit; quiet; comfortable; neat and well supplied.

A last tip is a reminder to take a few minutes every day to check the backpack for any important messages from your child’s teacher. Ask to see your child’s assignment book (provided at no cost to your child by the Island Creek PTA), let your child read to you the homework assignments. Check out the Blackboard Site created by your child’s teacher which contains wonderful information about classroom happenings, photos and more. Talk with your child about school and the events of the day. This shows that you care about the things your child spends most of the day doing.

As we approach the winter holiday season I share my wish of joy for your family and may you give yourselves the gift of time together. Family time is precious time, enjoy and treasure your time together.

Thank you for being our partner in education!

Susan Z Owner
Principal
# December 2007

## Calendar

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<td>9-3 PTA Craft &amp; Gift Show</td>
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### School Events

**SCA Canned Food Drive - November 26-December 7**

**SCA Hat/Mitten/Scarf/Glove Tree December 10-21**

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<td>Barnes &amp; Noble Shopping Event</td>
<td>Writer’s Group (gr. 2-3) 4th Gr. Field Trip 6:00 FLE Meeting 6:15 6th Gr. Parent Mtg. 7:00 PTA Meeting</td>
<td>Drama Group</td>
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<td>SCA PJ Day</td>
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<td>Writers Group (Gr. 4-6) Club &amp; Candid Photo Day 3rd Gr. Field Trip (Cromwell, Bomar, A’Hearn)</td>
<td>3rd Gr. Field Trip (Sillons, Asbie, Cowan) Drama Group</td>
<td>Book Club Human Growth &amp; Development 5/6 Helping Hands</td>
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<td>Human Growth &amp; Development 5/6 Writers Group (Gr. 2-3)</td>
<td>Human Growth &amp; Development 5/6</td>
<td>Human Growth &amp; Development 5/6 Drama Group</td>
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<td>6th Gr. Vs Staff B-Ball game</td>
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### Winter Break

**WINTER BREAK**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

January 2 - Drama Group
January 11 - SCA Crazy Hat Day
January 15 - 3rd Grade Field Trip
January 16 3rd Grade Field Trip
January 16 Day Concert
January 17 Winter Concert
Dear Island Creek Families,

As I continually strive to enhance our library program, I have decided to change our circulation policy. Students will be able to check out an unlimited number of books as long as they do not have any overdue books. The reason for this change is to put as many books as possible in the hands of children. Research shows “The extent to which books are borrowed from school libraries shows a strong relationship with reading achievement”. This change will take place starting this month.

Jill Woodall
Island Creek Librarian

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

♦ All 5th grade classes continue visiting the library to review reference resources as part of the Global Awareness & Technology Research Project. This month they’ve had hands-on lessons in using almanacs and encyclopedias. They are becoming expert researchers!

♦ Using the Smart Board, first grade classes were introduced to nonfiction text features. Each first grader used their own table of contents and index to locate information. They did a great job!

♦ Second grade students went on a scavenger hunt looking for nonfiction text features. There were lots and lots of them to search for and they found them all!

Stay tuned for more library happenings!

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

6th Grade Book Club
The fourth meeting of the 6th Grade Book Club will be December 13th at 7:30AM in the library. The title of the book we are reading is Project Mulberry by Linda Sue Park. New members are encouraged to attend. See you there!!

Blog
All students are enrolled in my Blackboard course “Library with Mrs. Woodall”. A new addition is a Book Blog where students can talk about books they are reading.

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
Counselor’s Corner
Kindness

Kindness is the character quality for the months of December and January.

Kindness is being thoughtful about the feelings and needs of others. If you’re observant, you will see and feel it in many places – in your family, in your neighborhood, here at Island Creek Elementary School. It has been well documented that many people who give generously of their time, energy and money to help those in need report that they get more from the giving than from receiving. Kindness is an essential character quality for the developing child. Kindness comes naturally to most children, but they usually need help transforming these feelings into acts of kindness to others.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARENTS TO HELP CHILDREN LEARN KINDNESS

• Treat your child and other family members with kindness.
• Find kind words to convey your requests to your children and others.
• As real life problems arise with childhood friends, ask your child to imagine, “How would you feel if you were on the receiving end of hurt feelings”?
• Praise your child’s daily efforts to show kindness and consideration to others.
• Encourage your child to do good deeds for others on a regular basis.
• Set clear limits and express firm disapproval for unkind words and actions.
• Be available to listen and talk with your child about the unkind words and actions of other children.
• Find ways for your whole family to give to other children in need.
• Help your child identify (or brainstorm about) what he/she can do to make a small difference to a friend in need.
• Tell your child about kindness shown to you or your family by others who cared, in the past and present.
• Be a good role model: Show kindness to others in your community, neighborhood and workplace.

Your partners in character education,

Virginia Hulke
Steff Shelesky
School Counselors

MESSAGE FOR PARENTS OF CURRENT 5TH GRADERS

Effective July 1, 2006, all students in Virginia 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 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.

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.

It is most important that you plan ahead to attend to this matter. Sixth graders cannot begin school without documentation of having had the Tdap booster or having had a tetanus-containing vaccine within the past five years.

Please contact Gail Acker, the school public health nurse, at 703-704-6100 or gail.acker@fairfaxcounty.gov, if you have any questions.

Register For Keep in Touch

Register now for Keep in Touch, a service that allows employees, parents and others interested in emergency messages and other information about the school system to receive updates via e-mail. Participants set up individualized profiles and receive the most up-to-date information as soon as it is available. To sign up, visit the FCPS web site at www.fcps.edu and choose ‘Keep in Touch’ on the left hand side.

Or, visit direct:
http://fcps.medianext.com(fcps/signup.html

Text Message Option Added to Keep in Touch

Employees, parents and others interested in emergency messages from the school system can now receive those messages to cell phones and other text message devices. Register for this service at the FCPS home page, www.fcps.edu; choose ‘Keep in Touch’ on the left hand side.

New subscribers should start by entering an e-mail address. Current subscribers should select the “update my profile” link. To receive emergency messages to a cell phone, simply enter the cell phone number in the fields provided. Questions can be directed to Rose Kaspersen in the Office of Community Relations by e-mailing her at Rose.Kaspersen@fcps.edu.
ISLAND CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
EMERGENCY CLOSING/DELAYED OPENING
QUICK REFERENCE

Two-Hour Late Opening on Monday

Grades K-6
Regular Monday Schedule
8:25-12:35

Preschool
Regular Monday Schedule
a.m. 9:15-11:15
p.m. 11:15-1:15
Full Day 9:15-1:15

Grades K-6
Two-Hour Late Opening on Monday
10:25-3:05

Preschool
Two-Hour Late Opening on Monday
a.m. Classes Canceled
p.m. 12:20-3:45
Full Day 11:15-3:45

Two-Hour Late Opening on Tuesday Through Friday

Grades K-6
Regular Tues-Fri Schedule
8:25-3:05

Preschool
Regular Tues-Fri Schedule
a.m. 9:15-12:30
p.m. 12:20-3:45
Full Day 9:15-3:45

Grades K-6
Two-Hour Late Opening on Tues-Fri
10:25-3:05

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Two-Hour Late Opening on Tues-Fri
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p.m. 12:20-3:45
Full Day 11:15-3:45

Two-Hour Early Dismissal on Monday

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a.m. 9:15-11:00
p.m. Classes Cancelled
Full Day 11:15-1:45
EMERGENCY CLOSING AND DELAYED OPENING PROCEDURES

All-Day Closing
1. All schools shall be closed for the day.
2. Extracurricular activities, interscholastic contests, team practices, field trips, adult and community education classes, and recreation programs in schools and on school grounds are canceled.

Two-Hour Late Opening on Monday
1. Half-day morning kindergarten students, and students in grades 1-6 shall report two hours later than their regular schedule.
2. Half-day morning kindergarten students shall be dismissed approximately one hour later than the usual Tuesday through Friday time.
3. Half-day afternoon kindergarten students shall report approximately one hour later than the usual Tuesday through Friday time.
4. Elementary schools shall not close early but shall observe the usual Tuesday through Friday schedule.
5. Morning field trips are canceled.
6. Adult and community education classes start on time.
7. Morning preschool classes (special education) shall be canceled. Full-day preschool and Family and Early Childhood Education (formerly known as Head Start) classes shall report approximately two hours later than the regular schedule. Afternoon preschool classes shall report on the usual Tuesday through Friday time. No makeup classes are required for preschool or Family and Early Childhood Education.

Two-Hour Late Opening on Tuesday Through Friday
1. Half-day morning kindergarten students, all-day kindergarten students, and students in grades 1-12 shall report two hours later than their regular schedule.
2. Half-day morning kindergarten students shall be dismissed approximately one hour later than the usual time.
3. Half-day afternoon kindergarten students shall report approximately one hour later than the usual time.
4. Morning field trips are canceled.
5. Adult and community education classes start on time.
6. Morning preschool classes (special education) and morning double session Family and Early Childhood Education classes shall be canceled. Afternoon preschool and double session Family and Early Childhood Education classes start on their normal schedule. Full-day preschool and Family and Early Childhood Education classes start approximately two hours later than their regular schedule. No makeup classes are required for preschool and Family and Early Childhood Education.
7. All offices are open on time.
Two-Hour Early Closing on Monday

1. All students shall be dismissed two hours early, including all-day kindergarten students.
2. Elementary schools shall close two hours earlier than the Tuesday through Friday schedule.
3. Afternoon classes shall be canceled for half-day kindergarten students.
4. Half-day morning kindergarten students shall be given a lunch at no cost and released with other students. Those morning kindergarten students who were bused to school shall be bused home with other students without special kindergarten bus stops. Kindergarten students living within the normal walking boundary will not be bused.
5. Makeup of canceled kindergarten classes is required if schools cannot meet the 180-day state attendance requirement.
6. Morning preschool classes (special education) and Family and Early Childhood Education classes are dismissed at approximately 11 a.m.
7. Afternoon preschool classes (special education) and Family and Early Childhood Education classes are canceled. No makeup classes are required for preschool or Family and Early Childhood Education classes.
8. Field trips and adult and community education classes shall be canceled.
9. Extracurricular activities, interscholastic contests, team practices, field trips, adult and community education classes and recreation programs in schools and on school grounds are canceled.

Two-Hour Early Closing on Tuesday Through Friday

1. All students shall be dismissed two hours early, including all-day kindergarten students.
2. Half-day afternoon kindergarten shall be canceled.
3. Half-day morning kindergarten students shall be given a lunch at no cost and released with other students. Those morning kindergarten students who were bused to school shall be bused home with other students without special kindergarten bus stops. Kindergarten students living within the normal walking boundary will not be bused.
4. Makeup of canceled kindergarten classes is required if schools cannot meet the 180-day state attendance requirement.
5. Morning preschool classes (special education) and Family and Early Childhood Education classes are dismissed at approximately 11 a.m. Full-day preschool and Family and Early Childhood Education classes go home two hours earlier than the regular schedule. Afternoon preschool and double session Family and Early Childhood classes are canceled. No makeup classes are required for preschool or Family and Early Childhood Education classes.
6. Afternoon preschool classes (special education) and double session Family and Early Childhood Education classes are canceled. No makeup classes are required for preschool or Family and Early Childhood Education classes.
7. Field trips and adult and community education classes shall be canceled.
8. Extracurricular activities, interscholastic contests, team practices, field trips, adult and community education classes, and recreation programs in schools and on school grounds are canceled.
Cancellation of Activities

1. When schools are closed early due to snow or inclement weather (other than heat), all events scheduled in school facilities and on school grounds, all interscholastic contests (including practices), and all late buses shall be canceled. Any exception shall require approval of the Division Superintendent.

2. When schools are closed early due to excessive heat, interscholastic contests (including practices) and any after-school or evening activities not involving transportation may be held at the individual principal’s discretion, unless a systemwide decision is announced. In general, community use, recreation programs, and adult education classes will be held as scheduled.

Weekend Activities

In the event of snow or inclement weather, events scheduled in school facilities and on school grounds during weekend hours, including interscholastic contests and practices, may be canceled.

Emergency Closing of a Single School or a Small Group of Schools

The Division Superintendent must approve the closing of an individual school or a special group of schools, which may be necessitated due to local emergency conditions. Cluster directors and principals shall collaborate to arrange alternate housing or other measures to prevent the loss of a day, if possible. Principals of elementary schools shall make every effort to contact parents and shall make arrangements to provide for children who do not have emergency care.

ANNOUNCEMENTS TO PARENTS, STUDENTS, AND EMPLOYEES

A. Web Site
All emergency closings and delayed openings shall be listed on the Fairfax County Public Schools web site: www.fcps.edu.

B. Electronic Mail
All emergency closings and delayed openings shall be sent by electronic mail (email) to all employees and to the community through the division’s e-mail notification system.

C. Hot Line
All messages shall be recorded and carried on the division’s emergency hot line, 800-839-FCPS (3277).

D. Cable Channel 21
All messages shall be carried on the division’s public access channel, Cox Cable Channel 21.

E. Radio and Television
1. All-day closings and delayed openings are provided to local radio and television stations no later than 5:30 a.m.
2. Early closings are provided to local stations no later than 10:30 a.m.

F. Keep In Touch
1. All FCPS schools are able to send messages with Keep in Touch. If you subscribe you will have the option of receiving various information including emergency closures and delayed openings. To subscribe go to: www.fcps.edu and click on “Keep in Touch”.

2. Electronic mail
3. Hot line
4. Cable Channel 21
5. Radio and Television
6. Keep In Touch