Dear Parents,

Reading is one of the most important life skills. As you check your child’s homework each night, don’t forget to make time for at least 20 minutes of reading. Children who are good readers do well in other subjects, because so much of learning depends on the ability to read well!

The single most important way to encourage a love of reading is to read aloud to your child. No child is too old to benefit from this time together. There can be few more precious moments spent with your child than time spent reading. Read books you love, read books your child loves, then read them again and again. Read at the breakfast table, on the couch, or under the blankets. Read fairy tales, the comics, or sports stories from the newspaper.

Developing readers sometimes focus so much on individual words that they can miss out on the story. For some children it is helpful to encourage them to read along with you, or you may want to consider borrowing books on tape from the library. As children experience the excitement of a great book, they will begin to make a habit of the wondrous world of reading.

Young readers are rapidly developing their awareness of the sounds in words. While we know each child develops in their own way and at their own pace, we also know how parents can help to build critical early literacy skills. Enjoy playing rhyming games and singing songs together. Read to get information such as game directions, recipes and web pages. Look for ways to show how you use your reading skills.

Good readers are curious. They ask questions about what they’re reading and about words they don’t understand. These are good times to talk about why characters do what they do, and predict what might happen next, or how the story will end. It can be a good time to get your child to think about how he or she might change the ending, or how the story would be different if the main character were old rather than young.

Setting a good example is always the best way to teach children to do anything. If we want our children to become readers, they need to see us read and to listen to us reading to them. When your family develops a shared love of reading, you are building family memories. This holiday season, make time for reading together; you will make reading one of your family’s treasures.

The school community wishes you a joyful, peaceful holiday season.

Thank you for being our partner in learning.

Susan Z Owner
Principal

Lost and Found

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.
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<td>3:30-4:30 GEMS</td>
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<td>12:55-1:55 Mad Science</td>
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<td>3:30-4:30 GEMS</td>
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Check-it Out at the Library

Our music collection has been expanded thanks to books being donated in Mrs. Kraft’s name upon her retirement!

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

Dear Island Creek Families,

It is going on three years since we went to unlimited check out! Our circulation statistics remain high but more importantly students are learning to choose the number and types of books that are just right for them. Sometimes a student may pick a book that is too easy, or perhaps, too challenging, and that is okay because we want them to follow their interests. I encourage you to share with your child the kinds of books that you would like them to check out.

Happy Reading, Mrs. Woodall

November Library Happenings

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

• Kindergartners are learning that Everybody books are in alphabetical order by the author’s last name and how to use shelf markers when choosing their books. Ask them about silly, sally books!
• First grade classes are learning more about nonfiction text features. Each first grader is using their own table of contents and index to locate information. They are doing a great job!
• Second grade classes are learning that nonfiction books give us facts and information. Ask them what they learned about frogs from listening to the book Why Frogs are Wet. Some things were quite unexpected, e.g., frogs eat their skin after they shed it!
• Mr. Stillions, Ms. Kwaik’s and Ms. Putnam’s 3rd grade classes learned about the many features of a thesaurus and the importance of guide words in looking up synonyms. Students practiced using a thesaurus by rewriting a short story.
• Ms. Connell’s 4th grade class is doing research in the library for their Weather Wiki. They are distinguishing between information that is important vs. information that is interesting. They are also learning to cite their sources.

Stay tuned for more library happenings!

6th Grade Book Club

The next meeting of the 6th Grade Book Club is Thursday, December 16th at 7:30AM in the library. We are reading is The Angel Experiment by James Patterson. New members are encouraged to attend. See you there!!

Library Catalog

You can access the Island Creek library catalog from home: http://libcat.fcps.edu/uh/bin/cgisirsi/x/0/0/57/49?user_id=429WEB
PTA GIRLS ON THE RUN - Reindeer Romp

Girls on the run is running the Reindeer Romp 5k, Saturday December 4th at the Reston Town Center. Girls on the Run offers a curriculum-based youth development program for girls in the third through sixth grades. The goal of the program is to educate and prepare girls for a lifetime of self-respect and healthy living. The curriculum is delivered in 10-week sessions by volunteer coaches who have been trained by GOTR and culminates in a celebratory 5K running event.

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 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.

Please, plan ahead to attend to this matter. When the 2011-12 school year begins on September 6, 2011, sixth graders will not be assigned to a teacher without documentation being received by the school.

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

SCA GIVING TREE

SCA will be sponsoring the Giving Tree. Bring in new or gently used hats, coats, scarves, gloves, mittens, etc. Place them in the box in the lobby and then fill out an ornament to put on the tree to show your donation. We will donated these to a local charity. It runs December 8-17.

SCA CANNED FOOD DRIVE

The holiday season is upon us and this is a time when we love to give to others in need. The SCA, along with students at Island Creek showed their giving spirit during our Annual Food Drive. We collected canned goods and toiletries that will help local families in need. Each class kept track of how many items they collected. At the end of the food drive, the class that collected the most items won. Congratulations to Mr. Stillion’s and Mrs. Tampio’s 3rd grade class (primary) and Mr. Carmack’s class (upper) for collecting the most. Thanks for all of your hard work, Island Creek!
We celebrate respect as our target Croc’s Creed word for the months of December 2010 and January 2011.

In December part of our focus will be on respect for the environment. It is refreshing to see how evolved our society has become in recognizing the need for taking care of our natural resources and consequently the habitat of animals thus ensuring our own safety and comfort.

Arbor Day was one of the first signs of respect for our natural resources in trees. J. Sterling Morton from Nebraska, who was a member of the Nebraska board of Agriculture started the holiday on April 10th, 1872. He was worried about people in Nebraska living without trees. During the first Arbor Day more than a MILLION trees were planted and every year more trees are planted. Arbor Day changed people’s minds from forest destruction to forest preservation, respect for the environment. All states have adopted Arbor Day and the tradition has spread to other countries, to include Australia!

Earth day another day to respect the environment was started by Senator Gaylord Nelson in 1970, on April 22 to increase awareness and appreciation of the earth’s natural resources. Since that time it has grown in popularity here in the United States and is now being celebrated in 175 countries each year (Wikipedia).

We are always proud of our work at Island Creek. Last year all classrooms received their own recycling containers to ensure we were doing our part in teaching recycling in the classrooms. We also have recycling containers in the cafeteria so our children and staff may put their cans and bottles in the proper place.

This year at Island Creek our own SCA has started a Terra Cycle campaign. Terra Cycling is different than typical recycling inasmuch the item is being “UpCycled” when something is up cycled, it is not being broken down and turned into another product. It keeps the original form and is reused intact – but for a different purpose, thus saving the energy to transform or breakdown an item.

The members of the SCA are working very hard to collect newly recyclable items. Terra Cycling is yet another innovative way to respect our natural resources and of course Island Creek is on top of it through the SCA. There are containers in place in the cafeteria to recycle empty juice pouches, snack bars, granola bar packaging, and other recyclable items. SCA packages up these recyclable items, delivers them to a UPS using a free shipping label and receives money for the items. They then generously use their funds to supply Island Creek with “extra” items. Just one of the items SCA has purchased for the school in the past is a wonderful “reading rug” that is used outside the cafeteria. Thank you SCA.

Respect is a wonderful thing with amazing consequences. We respect the earth and the environment and we get a beautiful place for our families with fresh air, clean water, trees, and places to live and play.

Your partners in Character Education
Virginia Hulke
Stefanie Shelesky
School Counselors
HEALTHY TIPS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

- Choose a variety of foods from MyPyramid.
- Start the day with breakfast and energy to tackle all projects.
- Eat plenty of fruits and vegetables.
- Eat lighter meals at night.
- Remember to exercise 60 minutes per day.
- Eliminate night-time stress-related grazing.
- Go to bed feeling light not “full.”
- Limit portion sizes of favorite holiday foods, especially desserts.
- Enjoy your feast, family, and friends.

Consejos Saludables para los días Feriados

Elija una variedad de comida de (MyPiramid)
Comience su día con el desayuno y con energía para enfrentar todos los proyectos.
Coma muchas frutas y vegetales.
Coma comidas ligeras por la noche.
Acuérdate de hacer 60 minutos de ejercicio por día.
Elimine el hartarse de noche por tensión.
Acuéstese sintiéndose liviano, no "lleno".
Limite el tamaño de porción de comidas favoritas de los días feriados, especialmente el postre.
Disfrute de su banquete, familia, y amigos.
The SCA, along with students at Island Creek showed their giving spirit during our Annual Food Drive. We collected canned goods and toiletries that will help local families in need.

For Veteran’s Day, the kindercrocs made giant flags using their handprints and cards to send to our deployed parents in our classrooms.

The kindergarten crocs sang thanksgiving and turkey song for their families and shared in a family feast provided by the parents. Students created their own native American and pilgrim costumes and each class made a food item to bring to the feast. We all ate until we were stuffed.