Dear Parents,

As we move into December we find ourselves thankful for all of the support you provide here at Island Creek. We could not do everything that we do without the many hours of volunteer service provided by our parents and community. Our PTA continues to be a huge success and is an important advocate for our school. I want to say thank you Ms. Maben and the entire PTA team for all that they do to support our students and school.

As a school, we continue to address the safety of our students. Island Creek will maintain its protocols for Kiss-N-Ride, fire drills and other established safety procedures. You can refer to the “Parent-Student Handbook” for details on these important procedures and so much more. The document is available on the school website at http://fcpsnet/index.shtml.

Our teachers continue to meet in their collaborative teams to support the instruction within the school and at their grade levels. The School Improvement Plan (SIP) team will be meeting this week to focus on our strengths and reflect on our struggles. The teachers are working diligently on several new initiatives that support student learning. Please take time to say thank you to your teachers for the many hours they dedicate to our students. Great Job Teachers!

To all our families, I want to wish you all a safe and peaceful holiday season.

Michael G. Macrina
Principal

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**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. **Please be sure and put names on coats and lunch boxes!**

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**School Hours for Grades K-6**

For the 2012-13 school year at Island Creek, we have new school hours. School starts promptly at 8:10 a.m. each day. Students who arrive at school after 8:10 are considered tardy.

On Monday, we dismiss at 12:20 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, school dismisses at 2:50 p.m.

**Special Note:** Please refrain from checking students out the last 15 minutes of class. This helps to protect those essential last few minutes of class for homework and other instructions.
## December 2012

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<td>3-4:30 Beyond the Bell</td>
<td>7:15-9:05 6th Gr. Book Club</td>
<td>3-4:30 Beyond the Bell</td>
<td>3-4 PTA FLEX Spanish</td>
<td>SCA Spirit Day (Pajama Day) 6th Gr. Field Trip (Barton, Thompson, Vaughan)</td>
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<td>2:50-4:15 GEMS 3-4:30 Beyond the Bell</td>
<td>3-4:30 Beyond the Bell PTA Spirit Night at Outback</td>
<td>3-4:30 Beyond the Bell 3-4 PTA FLEX Spanish</td>
<td>10-1 PTA Childrens’ Holiday Gift Shop</td>
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<td>2:50-4:15 WISE Guys</td>
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**SCA Toys for Tots Drive**

**Winter Break 12/24 - 1/1**

**Winter Break 12/24 - 1/1**
Did you know?

Students may access electronic books that have been purchased by the county. Password and user name information is available from @ The Library with Mrs. Woodall, 2012-2013 Blackboard site.

Dear Island Creek Families,

It is going on five 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.

Library Staff:

Jill Woodall,
Librarian

Debi Poole,
Library Assistant

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 in addition to Everybody books there are nonfiction books in the library. They have learned a lot about fuzz from tennis balls and prairie dogs. Ask them to retell you the story of The Great Fuzz Frenzy!

♦ First grade classes are learning more about nonfiction text features. They can identify nonfiction text features in print and electronic books. They are doing a great job!

♦ Second grade classes are learning that nonfiction books come in both print and electronic formats and that all nonfiction books give us facts and information. Ask them what they have learned about frogs.

♦ 5th grade classes have been learning how to evaluate websites, and the importance of crediting the information or images they use when researching. Ask them about tree octopuses!

Stay tuned for more library happenings!

6th Grade Book Club

The next meeting of the 6th Grade Book Club is Thursday, January 10th at 7:30AM in the library. We are reading a fantasy book. Check my Blackboard site to see which book(s) have been chosen. See you there!!

Library Catalog

You can access the Island Creek library catalog from home: http://libcat.fcps.edu/chtbin/cgisirsi/x/0/0/57/49?user_id=429WEB
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
LEVEL IV SERVICES PARENT INFORMATION MEETING

A parent information meeting will be held at Island Creek ES on Wednesday morning, January 9, 2012, at 7:50am in the Theater. Mrs. Neyland, the AART, will provide specific information about the Level IV Referral screening process and the timeline for submitting the referral files. The meeting is open to parents of students in grades 2-6 who are interested in referring their child for Level IV services.

ADvanced Academic Programs

CONTINUUM OF SERVICES

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) offers a continuum of advanced academic services for all students in grades K-8. Learning experiences are designed to develop higher-level thinking through enrichment, acceleration, and extension of the Program of Studies (POS). Teachers, administrators, and advanced academic resource teachers (AARTs) work together to provide the following Levels of Service:

Critical and Creative Thinking Lessons, Grades K-6 (Level I)

The first level is provided to all students in grades kindergarten through grade six and consists of model lessons that are designed to teach critical and creative thinking skills. The lessons are modeled in all classrooms by AARTs and the thinking strategies are then used throughout the year by classroom teachers and other teachers who work with students. Student responses to these lessons are used as part of the identification process for levels II-IV. Parents may also practice these strategies during family conversations and activities. A description of the nine critical and creative thinking strategies can be found at http://www.fcps.edu/is/aap/level1.shtml.

Differentiated Lessons in Areas of Academic Strength, Grades K-6 (Level II)

The AART collaborates with classroom teachers to provide additional challenge through lessons and resources that extend and enrich the POS. Screening for this level of service is ongoing throughout the school year. The Young Scholars Model begins at this level and is designed to find and nurture advanced academic potential in students from historically underrepresented populations.

Part-Time AAP, Grades 3-6 (Level III)

Students identified by a local school screening committee for part-time advanced academic services Level III are challenged through models and strategies designed to extend and enrich the POS in the four core subject areas. Screening for this level of service is ongoing throughout the school year.

Full-Time Advanced Academic Placement, Grades 3-8 (Level IV)

Students found eligible for placement in full-time Advanced Academic Programs Level IV through a central selection process receive a highly challenging instructional program in the four core subject areas. Screening for this level of service occurs in the fall for students who are new to FCPS and in the spring for all other students. The referral deadline is in October for students who are new to FCPS and the first week of February for spring screening. Additional information is available in the Parent Information Packet, published on the AAP website, http://www.fcps.edu/is/aap.
International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program (IBMYP): Selected Schools, Grades 6-10

The IBMYP is designed for students ages 11-16. The program helps students develop the knowledge, understanding, attitudes, and skills necessary to participate actively and responsibly in a changing world. The curriculum is supported by the fundamental concepts of intercultural awareness, holistic learning, and communication.

Honors, Grades 7-8

Advanced and/or accelerated classes are available for students in grades 7-8 through an open enrollment process. Students receive instruction that is differentiated for advanced learners in the four core subjects in one or more areas of academic strength or interest.

SCREENING

Multiple criteria are reviewed to determine eligibility for all FCPS advanced academic services. The local school committee determines student eligibility for part-time school-based services. The countywide central selection committee determines eligibility for full-time AAP Level IV placement.

TESTING

Each fall all FCPS first grade students are administered the Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT). Students in second through seventh grades who do not have an NNAT score may also be administered the NNAT. Each fall all FCPS second grade students are administered the Fairfax County Public Schools CogAT - Custom Form, grade 2 Test. Students in grades 3-6 who do not have an ability test score may also be administered the NNAT or Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT). A second grade screening pool is established using the test results from first and second grade testing. Students in the second grade pool are automatically screened for full-time AAP Level IV placement. Parents or guardians may exercise a one-time retest option during the fall testing cycle.

REFERRALS for FULL-TIME ADVANCED ACADEMIC PLACEMENT LEVEL IV (Grades 2-7)

Parents or guardians of students not in the second grade screening pool may initiate the full-time AAP Level IV screening process by completing and submitting an Advanced Academic Program Level IV Referral Form to the local school principal no later than February 8, 2013. No late referrals will be accepted. Second graders not in the pool and all students in grades 3-7 are screened only by referral. Forms are available on the AAP website (http://www.fcps.edu/is/aap/forms.shtml) and in the Parent Information Packet available at the local school. (Please note: Parents or guardians of students who are in the grade 2 pool will be notified by the school. Students who are not in the grade 2 pool will not receive notification. The benchmark score used to create the grade 2 pool will be published on the AAP website mid-January.) A parent information meeting will be held at Island Creek ES on Wednesday morning, January 9, 2012, at 7:50am in the Theater to explain this process more specifically and to answer questions about the process.
**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 1381 pounds of canned goods that will help local families in need. Each class kept track of how much they collected. Congratulations to Mr. Vaughan, Mr. Stillions, Ms. Ducko, Mrs. Cromwell and Mrs. Reininger whose classes all were the top collectors in the school. Congratulations and thanks for all of your hard work Island Creek!

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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).

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](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.
Counselor’s Corner

This month we are focusing on our “Gold Croc Stock” program in our cafeteria. The Gold Croc Stock Program is an incentive program to help keep cafeteria behaviors positive. A Gold Croc Stock is awarded only to an entire class. The award is given to a class when during the entire lunch period all three tables for one class have met three criteria:

- Bring all necessary materials to the table – utensils, napkins, condiments
- Stay in seats
- Use inside voices, talk to friends at the same table

When a Gold Croc Stock is awarded to a class, two are actually given. One is put into a jar in the cafeteria and one goes back to the receiving classroom.

The Gold Croc Stock from the jar is entered into a grade-level drawing once monthly (All grade levels have a drawing). The class that is drawn receives one lunch period of “Fine Dining” during which their three tables (and possibly the nut-free table) will be decorated in seasonal décor.

The croc stocks that go back to the classroom are accumulated to also receive a prize. After five (5) Gold Croc Stocks are earned, the winning class can choose a small reward.

This month several classes have won more than five GOLD CROC STOCKS!!! Keep up the great work Island Creek.

Your partners in Character Education.
Virginia Hulke
Stefanie Shelesky
School Counselors
Healthy Tips for the Holidays

Eating at least five servings of different colored fruits and vegetables each day is important for better health. No one color provides all the needed nutrients. Select and eat fruits and vegetables from the rainbow -- red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, and white. Include a variety of fruits and vegetables in your holiday food festivities.

- Start the day with breakfast.
- Eat plenty of fruits and vegetables.
- Eat lighter meals at night.
- Limit portion sizes of favorite holiday foods, especially desserts.
- Eliminate night-stress-related gorging, especially in front of the TV.
- Go to bed feeling light, not “full”.
- Enjoy your feast, family, and friends.
- Remember to exercise 60 minutes per day.

Consejos Saludables para los Días Festivos

Comer por lo menos cinco porciones de frutas y vegetales de diferentes colores al día es importante para tener una mejor salud. El consumir frutas y vegetales de un solo color, no nos proporciona todos los nutrientes necesarios. Selecciona y consume éstos recordando los colores del arco iris—rojo, naranja, amarillo, verde, azul, purpura y blanco. Incluye variedad de frutas y vegetales en las comidas de tus actividades festivas.

- Comienza el día con el desayuno. Come abundantes frutas y vegetales.
- Come alimentos ligeros en la noche.
- Limita las porciones grandes de tus comidas favoritas en las fechas festivas, especialmente los postres.
- Elimina las noches relacionadas con estrés-en las que comes en abundancia, especialmente frente a la TV.
- Ve a la cama sintiéndote ligero o liviano, no “lleno”.
- Disfruta de tus festividades, familia y amigos.
- Recuerda hacer ejercicios por 60 minutos al día.
The preschoolers are studying "Three" stories—Goldilocks and the Three Bears, Three Little Pigs and Three Little Kittens. Here is Mrs. Alf's class wearing their pig noses they made out of egg cartons.

November was a busy month for Kindergarten. We went on a squirrel walk and looked for squirrels and their nests. Everyone had a great time taking pictures and sharing what they saw. We also had our Thanksgiving feast. All the children were dressed up as Native Americans or Pilgrims. The children preformed a few songs for their parents and then sat down to eat yummy turkey and other traditional Thanksgiving food! Our kinder parents had a great time spending this special moment with their children!

WISE guys study the programming guide to help them decide what kinds of turns to add to their robot's program.

Mr. Derek Turner, Hayfield Robotics Advisor, and a senior from Hayfield secondary, assist students with programming their robot to complete an obstacle course.