Dear Parents,

February is a busy month at Island Creek with several opportunities to showcase the skills and talents of our students. Your child may have mentioned that they are the stars in the Island Creek TV program, “Spotlight”. Last week the students of Ms. Spiro, Mr. Morris, Mrs. Fay, Ms. Mersinger, Ms. Grenwis and Mrs. Harris’ classes gave a meaningful musical tribute to Martin Luther King Jr. This week, Ms. Coburn, Ms. Garrett, Ms. Asbie and Mr. Stillions’ classes celebrate Mr. Groundhog. While these programs are filmed and viewed in school, you can also see them on the music page at fcps.Blackboard.com.

Our students will have more opportunities to perform this month. February 7th from 7:00 -8:00pm, will be the first Strings Concert of the school year; the following week, February 15th from 7:00-8:00pm, is the Band Concert. These promise to be memorable evenings. The famed Island Creek Rhythms Showcase will be February 22 and February 23. This features all students performing dance and step routines with their class. You will not want to miss it. Students will bring home their scheduled performance time shortly. A big note of appreciation goes to the teachers who help our students recognize the talent within. Thank you to Mrs. Kraft, Mr. Pettis, Mrs. Keenan, Mrs. Creque, Mr. Taguding and Mr. Scott.

Providing opportunities for students to perform guarantees our school will welcome countless visitors--parents, grandparents, sisters and brothers. Family support is the foundation of this community. Your involvement and support of your child’s education makes this school what it is, and what it will continue to become. When parents are involved in education, their children like to go to school and want to do well here; they complete more homework, have better attendance, receive better grades and achieve better test scores. Parents help their children be successful learners by creating a learning environment at home, having a positive attitude toward education and having high expectations. It is a pleasure to be a part of a community that appreciates the importance of parents in the education of their children.

Please mark your calendars for the upcoming Crocs Creed Crocs Read Read-A-Thon. Instructions and pledge envelopes will go home February 8th and are due back to school by February 16th. Ten days celebrating reading will begin March 2nd and include the festivities surrounding Read Across America. Please join us for the fun of reading and learning.

Thanks for being our partner in learning,

Susan Z. Owner
# February 2007

## School Board Appreciation Month

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<td>George Washington’s Birthday Holiday</td>
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**PTA Candy Gram Sale ~ 8:00-8:20am In the Lobby**

**CROCS’ CREED - CROCS’ READ READ-A-THON MARCH 2nd - MARCH 12th**
Virginia Readers Choice

The purpose of Virginia Readers Choice (VRC), formerly Virginia Young Readers, is to encourage young readers to become better acquainted with contemporary books with outstanding literary appeal, broaden student’s awareness of literature as a life-long pleasure, and honor favorite books and their authors. Ten books are selected each year for the primary grades. This year the books are:

- The Turn-Around Upside Down Alphabet Book by Lisa Campbell Ernst
- Absolutely Not! by Matthew McElligott
- Do You Have a Hat? by Eileen Spinelli
- Mr. Putter and Tabby Write the Book by Cynthia Rylant
- Ish by Peter Reynolds
- Hunter’s Best Friend at School by Laura Elliott
- Manana Iguana by Ann Whitford Paul
- Homespun Sarah by Verla Kay
- Guji Guji by Chich-Yuan Chen
- Mouse Went Out to Get a Snack by Lyn McFarland

Island Creek students will soon be voting on their favorite VRC. Later this Spring the Virginia State Reading Association will announce the winner.

6th Grade Book Club

Join us on February 15, 2007 for the 6th Grade Book Club. We are reading “Molly Moon’s Book of Incredible Hypnotism” by Georgia Bang. All sixth grade students are welcome. New members are encouraged to attend!

You can access the library catalog from home: [http://libcat.fcps.edu/uhthbin/cgisirsi/x/0/0/57/49?user_id=129WEB](http://libcat.fcps.edu/uhthbin/cgisirsi/x/0/0/57/49?user_id=129WEB)
Cluster V

Advanced Academic Programs

Two highly-regarded advanced academic programs, the Advanced Placement (AP) Program and the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program, are offered in Cluster V high schools. We encourage parents and students to learn about the program commonalities, differences, and requirements. Please join us for any one of the following three meetings to hear the details of each program.

**February 15**
7:00 p.m.
Edison
High School

**March 5**
7:00 p.m.
Hayfield
Secondary

**SNOW DATE**
March 7
7:00 p.m.
Hayfield
Secondary
Counselor’s Corner

COOPERATION

Cooperation is the character quality for the month of February, 2007. At Island Creek Elementary we are interested in not only how students can achieve independently, but also how they learn to work with other people in varied situations to enable them to work more successfully in the future in various and unanticipated situations.

Cooperation is a character trait we must possess to work successfully in our society.

Cooperation brings more success at home and in play.
Cooperation brings more success at school
All must cooperate when working together on a project or task, it is essential to team work.

To Cooperate is to Work and Grow Together

It takes more than one person to cooperate.
It takes a positive attitude for good cooperation.
With team cooperation, there is a better chance of winning.
When each member does cooperate, each job is smaller and easier to do!

During your daily activities at home with your children, please help us here at Island Creek by reinforcing as aspects of cooperation. By working together “cooperating” we can assure a better future for all of our students.

Your partners in character education.
Stefanie Shelesky and Virginia Hulke

CONGRATULATIONS
ISLAND CREEK
ALL-COUNTY
CHORUS REPRESENTATIVES

Haseeb Mohammed
Elizabeth Mekonnen
Victoria Wilson
Leah Edwards
Areeba Azad
Gabi Stapula
Michaela Freeman
Riley Smith

The first rehearsal will be on Thursday, Jan. 25th at 2:45 in Rm. 242.

STRINGS AT
ISLAND CREEK

The fourth, fifth, and sixth grade strings students have been working very hard in preparation for their Winter Concert. The concert will be held in the cafeteria on Wednesday, February 7 at 7:00 PM. Come listen to the more than 110 string students of Island Creek, as they display their talents and skills. All interested are invited to attend.

Special recognition goes out to those sixth grade students who participated in the December 13 concert at Hayfield Secondary School. Our sixth grade strings performed with Hayfield’s Middle School Orchestra and did a fabulous job! Island Creek is very proud of the performance the sixth graders gave.

NEWS FROM THE
BAND TEACHER

Please welcome Laura Scheidt, a Student Teacher from George Mason University who will be working with Mrs. Creque until mid March.

Upcoming Events:

February 6th, 9:30am-1:00pm - 6th Grade Band Students Field Trip to Hayfield Secondary

February 15, 7pm - Band Concert, Cafeteria (Band Student should arrive by 6:30pm)

Please encourage your child to continue to practice at home and please do not hesitate to contact me should you have concerns in your child's progress.
The Fairfax County Health Department would like to take this opportunity to inform citizens of the dental health services it offers for several categories of patients. The primary importance is given to children of school age and preschool age. The treatment is comprehensive and is offered to those who are unable to seek treatment from private dentists due to financial limitations.

The categories who can receive care are listed below:

1. Children of families who have current income papers recorded in the Health Department, by a Family Assistance Worker.
2. Children in families holding a valid Medicaid/Smiles for Children card.
3. Adults 18 - 20 years old holding a valid Medicaid card.

Currently there are no services offered for citizens aged 21 and over. If the patient has a valid Medicaid card such as regular Medicaid, Anthem Healthkeepers Plus, Unicare, FAMIS Plus, or Amerigroup, they should call the dental clinics directly, numbers listed below. If they are not under Medicaid, they should call the numbers below and ask for the Family Assistance Worker (FAW), to arrange meeting with the FAW to establish a current income level and find out if the children are eligible.

For dental services please call the numbers below for the Health Department which is in your area:

1. 8350 Richmond Highway, 2nd Floor, Alexandria 703-704-6181
2. 3750 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax 703-246-7100
3. 1850 Cameron Glen Dr., Suite 100, Reston 703-481-4242

Attention: PRESCHOOL PARENTS

The non-categorical preschool special education program at Island Creek is looking for typically developing peers to join our classrooms for the 2007-2008 school year. We are looking for children aged 2-5 who meet basic requirements:

- Must be toilet trained
- Speak English relatively well
- Parents must provide transportation

Community children will attend 3 days a week for either morning or afternoon sessions. There is no tuition, but families will be expected to pay monthly snack fees. Parents are asked to contribute their time to help out in the classroom or with projects at home. If you are interested in learning more about this program, please contact the Island Creek preschool staff (571-642-6347) or stop by the school office for an application. Applications will be due by March 16, 2007.
**Summer Program Information Available**

Summer programs are available for students who will complete grades K-11 during the 2006-2007 school year. Summer programs include opportunities for students to strengthen the skills and knowledge required for the Standards of Learning (SOL) tests and for middle school Promotion Benchmarks. Enrichment opportunities in academic areas are available as well as extended day programs, camps, and online courses.

The summer school booklet, *Encore 2007*, will be mailed to families whose children attend Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). *Encore 2007* will also be available at every Fairfax County public school, public library, other FCPS administrative offices, and online in March. Fees, transportation, dates, eligibility, and registration procedures vary by program.

Summer school dates for general summer school for 2007 are available:

- **Elementary School** ------------ July 9, 2007 - August 3, 2007
- **Middle School** --------------- July 9, 2007 - August 8, 2007
- **High School** ------------------ July 9, 2007 - August 9, 2007

The locations for summer school are available at [http://www.fcps.edu/news/summer/locations.htm](http://www.fcps.edu/news/summer/locations.htm).

Information about summer programs offered by camps, schools, colleges, and universities nationwide and abroad is also available at [http://www.fcps.edu/suptapps/summeropportunities/ProgramSearch.cfm](http://www.fcps.edu/suptapps/summeropportunities/ProgramSearch.cfm).

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**Adult and Community Education Classes**

The Fairfax County Public Schools Office of Adult and Community Education serves more than 61,000 individuals. Classes are offered in many categories, including:

- Life enrichment.
- Career planning and development.
- PreK-12 education programs.
- English for adult speakers of other languages.
- Parent education.
- Adult high school completion.
- Distance learning.

To check out a complete list of Adult and Community Education course offerings, as well as registration information, go to [http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/OACE/classesetc.html](http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/OACE/classesetc.html).

For more information about Adult and Community Education, go to [http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/OACE/index.html](http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/OACE/index.html).

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The SCA will be selling **Kindness Candy Grams**

February 1-9 from 8:00-8:20 in the lobby

COST $0.25 each for a note and a piece of candy

These will be delivered on February 14.

Proceeds will be put in the SCA fund and will be used for a school gift and other projects.

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**“Riding The Wave 2: Tools for Parents and Youth to Safely Surf The Elementary through High School Years!”**

Saturday, March 3rd, 2007 from 8:30 am – 12:30 pm at South County Secondary School, 8501 Silverbrook Rd., Lorton, VA 22079 and check-in begins at 8 am.

**GREAT WORKSHOPS FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARENTS!**

Translated sessions for speakers of other languages will be provided upon request.

**ENJOY CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST, EXHIBITORS, DOOR PRIZES FOR YOUTH & MORE!**

Phone 703-690-6808 for more information.
FCPS Accepting Applications for Magnet School Programs

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) is currently accepting applications for its elementary magnet school programs for students entering grades K-5 for Bailey’s Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences and for students entering grades 1-6 for Hunters Woods Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences for the 2007-08 school year. Selection for available magnet school spaces is based on a lottery.

To be eligible for the magnet school lottery, students must be working at or above grade level in language arts and math and must demonstrate positive interpersonal and school behaviors. For Bailey’s Elementary, students entering kindergarten should be attending preschool during the current school year. An information night will be held for families interested in the elementary magnet school program at Bailey’s at 7 p.m. on Thursday, February 8, at the school; the snow date is February 15. An information night will be held for families interested in the elementary magnet school program at Hunters Woods at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, February 6, at the school; the snow date is February 13.

More information about both programs, including online application forms, is available at http://www.fcps.edu/news/magnet.htm. Applications must be postmarked by Thursday, March 1, and submitted to the FCPS Office of Elementary Instruction, Magnet Program, Lacey Instructional Center, 3705 Crest Drive, Annandale, VA 22003.

2007-08 School Year Calendars and Registration Requirements Available

The calendars for the 2007-08 school year have been posted and are available online at http://www.fcps.edu/cal.htm. Registration requirements for 2007-08 are also available at http://www.fcps.edu/ss/StudentServices/StudentRegistration/stsvctr1.htm.

Online Registration Now Open for FCPS Elementary Foreign Language Immersion Programs

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) online registration for the 2007-08 school year for elementary two-way and partial-immersion foreign language programs is now open. Children who will be five years old by September 30, 2007, may apply for the two-way Spanish immersion program and current kindergarten students may apply for the partial-immersion foreign language program. The programs are only open to residents of Fairfax County.

The two-way immersion kindergarten program is only available in Spanish at Bailey’s Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences and Lake Anne, London Towne, and Rose Hill Elementary Schools. In the two-way program, kindergarten students receive instruction in one language in the morning, and the same instruction is repeated in the other language in the afternoon. The partial-immersion program is offered at 12 elementary schools. In the first grade partial-immersion program, students spend approximately half of each day learning mathematics, science, and health in French, German, Japanese, or Spanish. The other half of the day is spent learning social studies, language arts, and reading in English.

Online registration, as well as more information and a list of scheduled parent information meetings can be accessed at www.fcps.edu/DIS/OHSICS/forlang/partial.htm; application forms must be submitted by Friday, February 23. If there are more applicants than available spaces at a specific school, students will be selected for the program by lottery. Families will be notified by Monday, April 23, about selection or placement on a waiting list. Parents of students outside the school’s regular attendance area will need to provide transportation for their children if they are selected for the program.
These are writing samples from Mrs. Berman’s sixth grade class

FREEDOM
To me freedom means to have a life to have your own rights. It’s like you can live without being afraid to get beat or whipped. But people still are being mistreated because of what their skin color looks like. It takes a special person to take away their past and live in the future. When Martin Luther King Jr. gave his speech it changed how a lot of people thought about us. I’m thankful for all the people who helped get colored people get out of slavery! Harriet Tubman, Abraham Lincoln, and Sojourner Truth. I’m thankful for the courage they had to step up like that. Freedom just means to me that we how have our own life to live, our own decisions to make. I’m just thankful for God watching over us.

by DeeCelreyell Shabazz

I HAVE A DREAM
I have a dream that there would be no poverty. Children would all have homes and a family that loves them, even if they are adopted. I have a dream that they would find a cure for deadly diseases like cancer or aids. I have a dream that kids just like me wouldn’t suffer so much, it breaks your heart. I have a dream that there would be no violence in the world or wars. I have a dream that voices that needed to be heard would be heard. I have a dream that there would be no fear and everybody would be safe. I have a dream that my dreams will come true.

by Yvette Ankunda

MY FAMILY TRADITIONS
My one and only family tradition is that every Sunday my family and I spend practically the whole day together. Most of the time we watch movies or cartoons. Usually my mom, aunt, or grandma feeds my grandpa who has cancer and cant even walk or sit up for that matter, but sometimes my brother and I feed him. Also, my grandma cooks a scrumptious home made treat. I spend as much time as possible with them. In conclusion, this is a phenamental family tradition because I get to spend as much time as possible with my family, I get a delicious homemade treat and I get to see my grandpa before he dies.

by George Schuler

IF I COULD CHANGE ONE THING
If I could change one thing in the world it would be that there would be no fights and there would be world peace. If we had no fights everyone would be happy and cheerful because the news people wouldn’t be so depressing. Also, if we had world peace, maybe the scientists could come together and work on something good for earth like a hover car that doesn’t let out pollution and saves energy. Also, it would get rid of bad pollution. This would be the one thing that I would change.

by Jessica Painter

I HAVE A DREAM
I have a dream that one day Martin Luther King Jr. will look upon us and smile seeing that his efforts were not in vain. And that love and peace have taken the world up into a cloud of his dreams. No war, just peace. That all of the King family will be royalty and sit on their thrones of peace and justice. That God will make Dr. King come back to give us just one more speech, one more march and one more day of peace.

by Isabel Incorvati

IF I COULD CHANGE ONE THING

by Isabel Incorvati

FREEDOM
Freedom means to me ... free to help the world, free to have rights and have a voice, a voice that is able to make a difference in the world and to change the world. Free to say what you feel like saying and free to make your own choices. This is what freedom means to me.

by Kellie Jordan

PEACE POEM
Peace
World Peace

by Natalie Fry

PEACE POEM
Peace
No Wars

by Kellie Jordan

PEACE POEM
No Wars

by Travis Hicks
Help your child learn from mistakes

It has been said that “there are no mistakes, save one: the failure to learn from a mistake.” Children can learn a lot from mistakes, but they need help with this. You can:

- **Say positive things about mistakes** so your child doesn’t fear them. For example, “That’s okay. Let’s learn from this.”
- **Own up to your mistakes.** Don’t blame others, cover up or make excuses for actions. Stay calm and show that you value honesty and responsibility.
- **Thank your child** when he points out mistakes. Mention how you’ll fix things. You might say, “You’re right. I’m sorry I interrupted you. Next time I’ll be patient.”
- **Tell stories about little mistakes** you made as a child. Emphasize that you survived them—and your child will, too.
- **Focus on what your child does right,** not on what he does wrong. When he makes mistakes, avoid angry remarks. Talk about solutions.
- **Remember that making mistakes** (and learning from them) encourages your child to be brave and persistent. When minor problems occur, don’t be surprised if he bounces right back!


You can make reading a social activity

In elementary school, many kids get wrapped up in organized activities, such as sports teams and dance classes. Yet free-time reading is also important. It builds reading skills and appreciation for books. To add reading to your child’s schedule, try creative ideas such as:

- **Book swaps.** These allow kids to exchange and discuss favorite books.
- **Book clubs.** Some clubs even focus on popular series.
- **Mystery book parties.** Stage a mystery or play Clue®.
- **Write-a-story parties.** Let each child write at least one sentence of the story. Then read it aloud!
- **Play-reading parties.** Give a copy of a short, easy-to-read script to all attendees. Encourage kids to be dramatic and ham it up.


Prevent procrastination

By elementary school, children develop good attention spans. But they still need to be encouraged not to quit before reaching goals. To help your child develop an “I can do it” attitude:

- **Comment** on what your child does well.
- **Criticize** nicely, helpfully and rarely.
- **Reassure** your child that she can take a break and try again.
- **Say** that persistence is much more important than perfection.
- **Refuse** to finish the project for your child—no matter how much she whines!


‘Actively’ improve family relationships

Some families are like bears in the winter—they hibernate! But being active is a great way to build family relationships. Go sledding, build a snow fort or hike a new path. Ask your child what he’d like to do. Then come home for a special family meal.

Adjust the idea of ‘TV time’

Many parents set limits on “TV time.” But today, parents need to think in terms of “screen time.” Keep track of how much time your child spends watching TV, playing video games and going online. If it’s more than ten hours per week, consider making adjustments.
Ayudando a los Niños a Aprender

Consejos que las Familias Pueden Usar para Ayudar a los Niños a Salir Mejor en la Escuela

Island Creek Elementary School

Febrero 2007

FEBRERO

Ayang a su niño a aprender de los errores

Se ha dicho que “no hay errores, excepto uno: la omisión de no aprender de un error.” Los niños pueden aprender mucho de los errores, pero necesitan que se les ayude con esto. Usted puede:

- **Decir cosas positivas respecto a los errores** para que su niño no les tenga miedo. Por ejemplo, “Eso está bien. Aprendamos de esto.”
- **Reconocer sus errores.** No culpe a los demás, disimule o se justifique por las acciones. Manténgase tranquilo y muestra que usted valora la honestidad y la responsabilidad.
- **Darle las gracias a su niño** cuando señale los errores. Mencione la forma como usted arreglará las cosas. Usted podría decirle, “Tienes razón. Lo siento, te interumpí. Esta vez tendré paciencia.”
- **Narrar historias de pequeños errores** que cometió cuando era niño. Recaule que los superó—y que su niño también lo hará.
- **Centrarse en lo que su niño hace bien**, no en lo que hace mal. Cuando él cometa errores, evite hacerle observaciones de enojo. Hable de soluciones.
- **Recordar cuándo cometió errores** (y aprender de ellos) alegra a su niño a ser valiente y perseverante. Cuando ocurran problemas menores, ¡no se sorprenda si se recupera inmediatamente!


Haga de la lectura una actividad social

En la escuela primaria, muchos niños se embeben en actividades organizadas, como equipos de deportes y clases de baile. Sin embargo, la lectura de tiempo libre también es importante. Esto desarrolla destrezas de lectura y aprecio por los libros. Para agragar lectura al horario de su niño, pruebe ideas creativas tales como:

- **Intercambios de libros.** Estos permiten que los niños intercambien y hablen de los libros favoritos.
- **Clubes de Libros.** Algunos clubes incluso se enfocan en series populares.
- **Fiestas de libros de misterio.** Organice un evento de misterio o juegue Clue®.
- **Fiestas de escribir cuentos.** Deje que cada niño escriba por lo menos una oración del cuento. ¡Juegole lana a voz alta!
- **Fiestas de lectura de guiones.** Déles una copia de un guión corto, fácil de leer a todos los asistentes. Aliene a los niños a que lo actúen con exageración.


Evite la postergación

A partir de la escuela primaria, los niños desarrollan buenos periodos de atención. Pero todavía necesitan que se les aliente a no desistir antes de lograr sus objetivos. Para ayudar a su niño a desarrollar una actitud positiva:

- **Haga comentarios sobre lo que hace bien.**
- **Critique sutilmente, amablemente y poco.**
- **Asegúrele a su niño que puede hacer una pausa e intentar de nuevo.**
- **Digale** que la perseverancia es mucho más importante que la perfección.
- **Refuse** hacer el proyecto por su niño—no importa cuánto lloriquee.


Mejore las relaciones familiares ‘activamente’

Algunas familias son como los osos en el invierno—¡invi dental! Pero estando activo es una estupenda forma de fomentar las relaciones familiares. Vayan a deslizarse en trineo, construyan un fuerte de nieve o vayan de excursión en un camino nuevo. Pregúntele a su niño qué le gustaría hacer. ¡Después regrese a casa para disfrutar de una comida familiar especial!

Altere la idea de ‘hora de televisión’

Muchos padres establecen límites respecto a la ‘hora de televisión.’ Sin embargo, hoy en día, los padres necesitan pensar en términos de ‘tiempo de pantalla.’ Sigale la pista de cuánto tiempo pasa su niño viendo televisión, jugando juegos de video y consultando en línea. Si esto es más de diez horas a la semana, considere hacer ajustes.