Dear Parents,

It is a humbling experience to turn to your child and ask for their help to operate the latest technology - not surprising, however, when you watch children navigate an iPad before they recognize their letters and sounds.

According to a recent survey from security software maker AVG, children can grasp new tech skills long before they learn how to tie their shoes. This survey included 2,200 parents with children between the ages of two and five in the US, Canada, UK, France, Italy, Germany, Spain, Japan, Australia and New Zealand. Nineteen percent said their children know how to access a smartphone application, including 17 percent of 2-3 year olds. Another 58 percent can play a computer game, and a fourth of children can open and operate a Web browser. By comparison, only nine percent of children between two and five can tie their shoes, 20 percent can swim without help and 43 percent can ride a bike.

It is powerful to consider that we are preparing children for a world that will be unrecognizable to most of us. It also emphasizes that as adults responsible for guiding young learners, we need to educate children about navigating the online world safely at an earlier age than we may have thought.

A wide range of internet safety resources are available on the Fairfax County Public School website at [http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/OITI/InternetSafety](http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/OITI/InternetSafety). FCPS also partners with i-SAFE to provide Internet safety education in all K–12 schools, including Professional Development for faculty and staff, curriculum and leadership opportunities for students, and resources for parents and community members. You can visit the FCPS i-SAFE site at [www.isafe.org/fcps](http://www.isafe.org/fcps).

There is no doubt that the internet has become an important part of our lives, and an even bigger part of our children lives. While we enjoy the expanded horizons of new technologies, we need to educate ourselves regarding safe online behaviors and practices. Keep in mind, however, that numerous safety tips cannot replace good parenting. A trusting relationship, open communication, shared family time and “old fashioned” family bonding will help you guide your child as they explore technology today and tomorrow.

Thank you for being our partner in education

Susan Z. Owner, Ph.D.
Principal
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<td>Student Holiday NO SCHOOL</td>
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<td>3rd Grading Period Begins 3:45-4:30 Writer’s Block Grades 5&amp;6</td>
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<td>2:15-3:15 Parent Volunteer Hour PTA Basket Bingo Doors open 6pm First game 7pm</td>
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<td>3:25-4:25 Chess Group 7pm PTA Meeting</td>
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<td>Candy Gram Sale Ends Report Cards go home</td>
<td>Candy Grams Delivered 2:15-3:15 Parent Volunteer Hour</td>
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<td>1:00-2:00 PTA Mad Science Challenge 24 cluster competition (Belle View ES)</td>
<td>12:12:30 Full SCA Meeting 1-2 Full Strings Rehearsal</td>
<td>1-2 Full Strings Rehearsal 3:30-4:30 PTA Mad Science 3:45-4:30 Writer’s Block Grades 5&amp;6</td>
<td>7:30am 6th Grade Book Club 7:00-8:00 Night of the Arts</td>
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<td>SNOW MAKE-UP DAY SCHOOL IN SESSION NO EARLY RELEASE</td>
<td>2-3:00 Beginning Strings Rehearsal 3:25-4:25 Chess Group</td>
<td>2-3:00 Beginning Strings Rehearsal 3:30-4:30 PTA Mad Science 3:45-4:30 Writer’s Block Grades 3&amp;4</td>
<td>7:00-7:30pm Beginning Strings Concert</td>
<td>4th Grade Field Trip 2:15-3:15 Parent Volunteer Hour 2:45-3:15 Distinguished Student Ceremony</td>
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**SAVE THE DATE**

Authors and Artists
Thursday, April 7th
9am-10am
6th Grade Book Club

The next meeting of the 6th Grade Book Club will be February 17th at 7:30AM in the library. The title of the book we are reading is *The Giver* by Lois Lowry. New members are encouraged to attend. See you there!!

January Library Happenings

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

- Preschool students have been learning about recycling in the library. After listening to stories about recycling they used the SmartBoard to sort items into a trash can and a recycling bin. They are great recyclers!
- Primary classes voted, using the SmartBoard, on whether the character on the front cover of the book *Duck! Rabbit!* was a duck or a rabbit. Using their results, each class created a bar and circle graph. Results for all classes are being tabulated.
- After listening to the Virginia Readers Choice book, *Chester*, primary classes wrote list poems about the elements of the story. The poems are funny and will be on display in April.
- 1st grade classes have coming to the library to do animal research. They are learning the importance of nonfiction text features, e.g., table of contents, index, glossary, photographs, captions, headings, etc.
- 3rd grade class have been coming to the library to do research on ancient civilizations. The information on their civilization will be available in a wiki.

Library Catalog

You can access the Island Creek library catalog from home: [http://libcat.fcps.edu/uhtbin/cgiisitr1/x/0/0/57/49?user_id=429WEB](http://libcat.fcps.edu/uhtbin/cgiisitr1/x/0/0/57/49?user_id=429WEB)
IMPORTANT CHANGE FOR KINDERGARTEN BUS RIDERS

Effective February 14th, all kindergarten students riding regular afternoon school buses must be met at their bus stop by the parent, a guardian, or a sibling in 7th grade or higher.

In the event that there is no one to meet your kindergarten student, they will be returned to school.

The decision to allow an older sibling to meet a kindergarten student reduces the likelihood of them being let off the bus with one or more other students under the mistaken impression that one of the other students is going to escort the kindergartener.

Thanks in advance for your support of this policy.

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 your child receive it and 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.

Snow Make-up Date 2/21/2011

Because of the recent snow days and based on the calendar established by the School Board, Monday, February 21, will now be a makeup day for all FCPS students. All schools and offices will be open.

Elementary schools will follow a full-day schedule with no early dismissal.

SACC programs will operate on a regular schedule. Schools will be open for community use.

For more information about the calendar and makeup days see http://www.fcps.edu/about/10-11cal.htm.
In February our key Croc Creed word is “Honesty.” Honesty is something we hope to foster in all aspects of our children’s/student’s lives. This month, we thought we would share some famous-, and some not-as-famous quotations about honesty with you.

Level with your child by being honest, no one can spot a phony faster than a child. *Mary MacCracken*

If you tell the truth, you don’t have to remember anything. *Mark Twain*

Honesty is the best image. *Tom Wilson (Ziggy cartoon)*

No legacy is as rich as honesty. *William Shakespeare*

The true measure of life is not length – but honesty. *John Lyly*

Honesty is not something you can wear out. *Waylon Jennings*

Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom. *Thomas Jefferson*

Honest hearts produce honest actions. *Brigham Young*

Honesty: The best of the lost arts. *Mark Twain*

When in doubt, tell the truth. *Mark Twain*

I hope I shall possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain what I consider the most enviable of all titles, the character of an honest man. *George Washington*

No man has a good enough memory to make a successful liar. *Abraham Lincoln*

When you stretch the truth, watch out for the snapback. *Bill Copeland*

We tell lies when we are afraid... afraid of what we don't know, afraid of what others will think, afraid of what will be found out about us. But every time we tell a lie, the thing that we fear grows stronger. *Tad Williams*

The elegance of honesty needs no adornment. *Merry Browne.*

When somebody lies, somebody loses. *Stephanie Ericsson*

Lying can never save us from another lie. *Vaclav Havel*

Your partners in Character Education

Virginia Hulke
Stefanie Shelesky
NOTES FROM THE ENERGY ZONE

NUTRIFAX

CHILDREN’S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

The two major oral health diseases are tooth decay (dental caries) and gum (periodontal) disease. Both diseases are influenced by nutrition and diet. Nutrition plays an important role in the development of teeth and oral tissue. Dental caries result from the interaction between the tooth, oral bacteria, and dietary carbohydrates (sugar and starch).

Plaque is a sticky film of bacteria that forms on our teeth and turns the sugars and starches in our food into acids. These acids act on the tooth enamel and cause tooth decay. If high-acid producing or sugar foods (raisins, cookies, cakes, potato chips) are consumed, they should be eaten with meals, not as snacks. Cheeses, popcorn, raw fruits and vegetables are low-acid producing food and make healthy snacks.

To prevent dental disease, remember to:

1. Brush teeth after every meal with fluoridated toothpaste.
2. Floss teeth daily.
3. Visit the dentist and dental hygienist regularly.
4. Eat a nutritionally balanced diet.
5. Avoid foods that stay in the mouth a long time and stick to teeth (raisins, hard candies, and caramels).

NUTRIFAX

MES DE SALUD DENTAL DE NIÑOS

Las dos enfermedades principales de salud oral son el decaimiento de diente (caries dental) y la enfermedad (periodontal) de encia. Ambas enfermedades son influenciadas por nutrición y dieta. La nutrición desempeña un papel importante en el desarrollo de dientes y tejido oral. Las caries dentales son el resultado de la interacción entre el diente, las bacterias orales, y los hidratos de carbono alimenticios (azúcar y almidón).

La placa es un residuo pegajoso de bacterias que se forma en nuestros dientes y convierte los azúcares y almidones en nuestro alimento en ácidos. Estos ácidos actúan en el esmalte del diente y causan decaimiento de diente. Si la producción de ácido es alta o la comida de azúcar (pasas, galletas, pasteles, papitas fritas) son consumidas, estos deberían ser comidos con comidas, no como meriendas. Los quesos, las palomitas de maíz, las frutas crudas y los vegetales son alimentos que producen bajo ácido y hacen meriendas sanas.

Para prevenir la enfermedad dental, recuerde:

1. Cepille sus dientes después de cada comida con pasta de dientes con fluoruro.
2. Use hilo de seda diariamente.
3. Visite al dentista y el higienista con regularidad.
4. coma una dieta nutricionalmente balanceada.
5. Evite las comidas que se queden en la boca por mucho tiempo y se adhieren a los dientes (pasas, dulces difíciles, y caramels).
Mrs. Berman and Mrs. Buckley assist 5th and 6th Grade GEMS Club members with an experiment using heat transfer. Guest Speaker was Mrs. Joanne Silbermann, Mechanical Engineer.

First graders are studying measurement. We used tape measures to measure various parts of our partner’s body. For example, we measured a ‘cubit,’ which is the distance from your elbow to your finger tip. We measured a ‘fathom,’ which is your arm span from finger tip to finger tip. We measured the width of a digit, the span of a hand, and even the length of a pace. First graders are fabulous mathematicians!

Kindergarten Publishing Party

During second quarter, kindergarteners were working hard on writing, specifically small moments. As writers, they learned to focus on the most important part of a story and stretch the idea across three pages. They used the transitional words first, then, and last to tell their story in three parts. After winter break, these wonderful writers picked one piece to publish. They “fancied up” their writing with crayons and added a cover with an illustration, title, and author. All the classes got together in the pod and had a celebration. We toasted to them being great writers. They walked around and shared their stories with each other and some faculty. It was a huge success!

Mr. Szramoski spoke to Mrs. Connell’s class about Children during the Revolutionary War.