Dear Parents,

Welcome back! I want to personally thank you for all the treats, candy, and gifts the school has been given during this holiday season. We are so fortunate to have such a supportive and generous community.

I hope you had an enjoyable break, and are ready to tackle the New Year with renewed vigor. We are looking forward to many more fun experiences here at Island Creek in the new year. Know that we continue to keep safety as a top priority, along with providing a supportive and enriching environment for our students.

Thank you for being our partners in education!

PS…Please make sure your child is prepared to go outside during recess with a jacket, gloves, and a hat. :)

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**Attention Parents of Students in Grades 2-6**

There will be an Advanced Academics Parent Information Meeting About the 2013 Level IV AAP Referral Process

**WHEN:** Wednesday, January 9, 2013 from 7:50 to 9:00AM

**WHERE:** ICES Theater

**WHAT:** Mrs. Neyland, the Advanced Academics Resource Teacher, will explain the 2013 Level IV Referral timeline and procedures to parents interested in referring their child for Level IV AAP services. No reservations needed.

**Deadline for submitting application: Friday, Feb. 8, 2013**

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**Are you moving?**

We really hate to see you go! If you are planning to move away from Island Creek, please be sure you let the school office know. There are documents that need to be filled out by parents in order for a smooth transition to take place and for school records to be sent to your child’s new school.

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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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<td>7:50-9am Advanced Academics Parent Information Meeting, Theater</td>
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<td>12:30-1:30 PTA FLEX French</td>
<td>3:00-4:00pm PTA FLEX French</td>
<td>2:50-4:15 GEMS</td>
<td>3:00-4:00pm PTA FLEX Spanish</td>
<td>7:30-8:00am Friday Friends</td>
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<td>Martin Luther King Holiday</td>
<td>No School</td>
<td>3:00-4:00pm PTA FLEX French</td>
<td>2:50-4:15 WISE Guys</td>
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<td>3:00-4:00pm PTA FLEX Spanish</td>
<td>Mark your Calendar</td>
<td>Friday 2/1 PTA Bingo</td>
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- **Winter Holiday**
- **Art Show at Apple Credit Union 1/3 - 2/28**
- **SCA Spirit Day (Twins/Triplets Day)**
6th Grade Book Club

The next meeting of the 6th Grade Book Club is Thursday, January 10th at 7:15AM in the library. Students may choose to read one of three books: “The Tale of Despereaux” by Kate DiCamillo, “Dealing with Dragons” by Patricia Wrede or “Peter and the Starcatchers” by Dave Barry. See you there!

Check-it-out at the Library

Virginia Readers Choice (VRC): 2012-2013

VRC encourages young readers to become better acquainted with contemporary books with outstanding literary appeal. Each year ten books are selected for primary grade students to vote on. This school year the books are:

- “I Need My Monster” Amanda Noll
- “Underground” Shane Evans
- “City Dog, Country Frog” Mo Willems
- “Dinosaur Versus Bedtime” Bob Shea
- “Blue Chameleon” Emily Gravett
- “Say Hello to Zorro” Carter Goodrich
- “Immi’s Gift” Karin Littlewood
- “I Want My Hat Back” Jon Klassen
- “Goal!” Mina Javaherbin
- “The Fox in the Dark” Alison Green

ICES students in the primary grades will vote late February or early March for their favorite VRC book.

Library Staff:

Jill Woodall, Librarian
Debi Poole, Library Assistant

40 By June

Inspired by “The Book Whisperer: Awakening the Inner Reader in Every Child” by Donalyn Miller, students and staff are challenging themselves to read 40 books by June. Last year Mrs. Woodall read 57 Chapter books. How many can you read by June?

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=129WEB
**Counselors’ Corner**

**Happy New Year**

At this time of year we think more positively about everything. Fresh starts, new thoughts and renewed energy. As our word of the month is “**Cooperation**” - we encourage our students to think about cooperation in many ways.

- Cooperating with families at home; to help each other, share, care, and enjoy.
- Cooperate at school; be ready to learn, be kind to everyone, and enjoy their friends.
- Cooperate with friends outside of school, learn to work to together and play together especially when they are not in a structured environment.
- Of course, they always learn the most from watching the loved ones in their lives.
- Keep up the good work in the new year.

Have a great New Year.

Virginia Hulke
Stefanie Shelesky

**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.
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
MyPlate
Eat Right, Exercise, Have Fun!
MyPlate is the new food icon based on the 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

To make healthy eating choices:

- Make half your plate fruits and vegetables.
- Eat every color of MyPlate daily.
- Eat whole grain cereals and breads.
- Limit sweets and salt.
- Drink water instead of sugary drinks.
- Drink fat-free and low-fat milk.
- Be physically active every day.

[MyPlate diagram]

http://www.choosemyplate.gov

MiPlato "MyPlate"
Come correctamente, Ejercita, Diviértete!
MiPlato "MyPlate" es el nuevo ícono basado en las Guías de Dietas para Americanos 2010.

[MyPlate diagram in Spanish]

Opciones para tomar decisiones saludable:

- Divide tu plato en la mitad de frutas y vegetales.
- Come cada color de MiPlato diariamente.
- Consume panes y cereales integrales.
- Limita los dulces y la sal.
- Toma agua en vez de bebidas azucaradas.
- Toma leche libre de grasas o bajas en grasas (1%).
- Trata de tener actividad física cada día.

http://www.choosemyplate.gov
What's happening on the island?

Kindergarten had a busy December! We spent part of the month reading different versions of *The Gingerbreadman* and comparing and contrasting the stories. We then made our own Gingerbread men for snack only to have them run away around the school! Don’t worry, we tracked down those tasty tricksters and ate them up, yum! We spent the last part of the month learning about each other’s Holiday Traditions. Students presented traditions that they have during the winter months and shared treats with the class. We also enjoyed holiday readings from Ms. Brennan our reading teacher as she read *The Polar Express* and also Mrs. Rogers before she left for her new school, read us *Pete The Cat Saves Christmas*. The kindergarten students all signed a copy of the book to present to Mrs. Rogers as a gift to remember the Island Creek Kinder Crocs. We ended our December with a winter celebration in which we made crafts, played games and had tasty snacks. We are looking forward to a great 2013 with a lot more excitement and fun in the New Year!

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Success! WISE GUYS members tried multiple robots following different lines!

Mr. Dereck Turner, Advisor for the Hayfield HS Robotics Club, assists WISE GUYS members in programming the robot to follow a line.

Serious concentration is required to program the robot’s light sensor to follow a line at December’s WISE GUYS meeting!