Dear Parents,

As we bring this school year to a close, I reflect with pride on the dedication of our entire staff, and I want to take a moment to publicly acknowledge the significant contributions of Island Creek Elementary teachers, specialists, assistants and staff to the lives of the children in this community. These dedicated professionals have tirelessly demonstrated their strengths, skills, talents and character. It is such an honor to be counted among this elite group. I also take this opportunity to express our shared appreciation for the phenomenal parental support you provide our school community. Your participation in your child’s education, which is so essential to the success of each child, makes a difference. To so many of you who make time in your busy lives to help us in many visible and not so visible ways throughout our school, we extend to you a special thanks. Your efforts are appreciated; I know how this extra help contributes to our everyday lives here at Island Creek. Finally, a big thank you to our PTA Board: Jane Horowitz, President; Andi Caulfield, Vice President; Jane Kelly, Treasurer, and Pam Haberstroh, Secretary. Island Creek Elementary is indebted to you for the time, effort and caring you so selflessly shared so that our school can be a better place for all to learn and grow. A warm welcome to our 2011-2012 PTA board members: President – Terri Maben, Vice President – Karen Patrick, Secretary – Stephanie Reybitz, and Treasurer, TBA.

We extend to the Island Creek Elementary community, wishes for a safe and restful summer break. You will help prepare for the fall by enjoying your family time together and reading and writing together with your child!

This will be my last contribution to the Crocodile Courier, as I transition to my new life. I have learned so much from you, your children and the school family that is Island Creek Elementary. Thank you for the many kindnesses you have shown me and the successes we have shared. Most of all thank you for the great privilege of sharing the lives of these delightful young learners with me. I will treasure my memories and will always consider Island Creek the ideal community school. I will carry a bit of this community always in my heart. It is a great comfort to me to know that I leave this very special place in the capable and caring hands of Mike Macrina.

Thank you for being our partner in education.

Susan Z. Owner, Ph.D.
Principal

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS
The school office will be open from 9-3 during the summer. Since there is limited staff during this time, please call ahead 571-642-6300.

Please call to schedule appointments for registration.
## June 2011

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<td>7pm Choral Concert</td>
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<td>July 5th - Aug 11th - PAC Preschool Summer Session</td>
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<td>September 1st - 2-3pm School-wide Open House</td>
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<td>September 12th - 7-8:40pm Back to School Night</td>
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HAVE A SAFE AND ENJOYABLE SUMMER BREAK!
√ Check-it Out  
at the  
Library

LIBRARY BOOKS: All student library books need to be returned to the library by Tuesday, June 7th!

JUNE 2011
Library Staff:
Jill Woodall,
Librarian
Debi Poole,
Library Asst.

Enjoy your summer and remember to read lots of great books!

What I Learned in Library in First Grade

- Alpha box
- Photographs
- Illustrations
- Nonfiction
- Fiction
- Wrote poems
- Bold words
- Index
- Glossary
- Table of Contents
- David Shannon
- Kate Loves the Kittens
- Checked out books
- Patriotic symbols
- Chester
- Characters
- Setting
- Too Many Toys
- Rhyming Dust Bunnies
- Hansel and Gretel
- Heart of the story

Library Highlights for May

- Preschool students used the SMART Board every week as part of their library lesson. They love it and are great at using the touch technology.
- As a final activity, all primary classes wrote lists poems about what they learned in library this year.
- First grade classes completed their research on American symbols. They are using this information to help them write patriotic poetry.
- Fourth grade classes finished their research on Virginia historical figures.
- Fifth grade students finished their Global Awareness research and learned to use an online citation builder.
- Mrs. von Kolnitz’s 6th grade class reviewed reference resources in preparation for the SOLs.

You can access the library catalog from home: http://libcat.fcps.edu/uh/in/ctsi/x/0/0/57/497
user id=429WEB
Counselor’s Corner
Sun Safety

June is here, it’s time for hot weather and our summer break. Children will be excited to be able to play for longer time periods and may not be thinking about their safety. Sunburn and heat exhaustion are too very common problems that are experienced in the Northern Virginia area. We have found some tips for you to use to keep your children safe in the warm summer months.

FUN IN THE SUN
Source: http://www.aap.org/advocacy/archives/tanning.htm

Babies under 6 months:
The two main recommendations from the AAP to prevent sunburn are to avoid sun exposure, and dress infants in lightweight long pants, long-sleeved shirts, and brimmed hats that shade the neck to prevent sunburn. However when adequate clothing and shade are not available, parents can apply a minimal amount of sunscreen with at least 15 SPF (sun protection factor) to small areas, such as the infant’s face and the back of the hands. If an infant gets sunburn, apply cold compresses to the affected area.

For All Other Children:
- The first, and best, line of defense against the sun is covering up. Wear a hat with a three-inch brim or a bill facing forward, sunglasses (look for sunglasses that block 99-100% of ultraviolet rays), and cotton clothing with a tight weave.
- Stay in the shade whenever possible, and limit sun exposure during the peak intensity hours - between 10am and 4pm.
- On both sunny and cloudy days use a sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or greater that protects against UVB and UVA rays.
- Be sure to apply enough sunscreen - about one ounce per sitting for a young adult.
- Reapply sunscreen every two hours, or after swimming or sweating.

Use extra caution near water and sand (and even snow!) as they reflect UV rays and may result in sunburn more quickly.

HEAT STRESS IN EXERCISING CHILDREN
Source: http://www.aap.org/policy/re9845.html

- The intensity of activities that last 15 minutes or more should be reduced whenever high heat and humidity reach critical levels.
- At the beginning of a strenuous exercise program or after traveling to a warmer climate, the intensity and duration of exercise should be limited initially and then gradually increased during a period of 10 to 14 days to accomplish acclimatization to the heat.
- Before prolonged physical activity, the child should be well-hydrated. During the activity, periodic drinking should be enforced, for example, each 20 minutes, 5 oz of cold tap water or a flavored sports drink for a child weighing 90 lbs, and 9 oz for an adolescent weighing 130 lbs, even if the child does not feel thirsty.
- Clothing should be light-colored and lightweight and limited to one layer of absorbent material to facilitate evaporation of sweat. Sweat-saturated shirts should be replaced by dry clothing.

Practices and games played in the heat should be shortened and more frequent water/hydration breaks should be instituted.

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Your partners in Character Education
Virginia Hulke
Stefanie Shelesky
School Counselors
Strings Concert

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE
ISLAND CREEK STRINGS
SPRING CONCERT
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8th
AT 7PM
ISLAND CREEK GYM

Band Concert

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE
ISLAND CREEK BAND
SPRING CONCERT
THURSDAY, JUNE 9th
AT 7PM
ISLAND CREEK CAFETERIA

FCPS Facilities Planning Advisory Council Schedules Listening Tour in Cluster IV

Cluster 4 parents are invited to a community meeting being held by the Facilities Planning Advisory Council (FPAC) on Tuesday, June 7, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Whitman Middle School as part of its listening tour series. FPAC members will be listening to the community members of Cluster IV schools as they share their concerns and ideas about facilities issues. If you plan to attend, please register at http://www.fcps.edu/fts/planning/fpac/index.htm or call 571-423-2330.

Important Immunization Requirement for Rising Sixth Graders

If you have a rising sixth grader, he or she may need a booster dose of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis). Sixth grade students cannot begin school in the fall without documentation of having had either the Tdap booster OR documentation of having had a tetanus containing vaccine within the past five years. Parents and guardians of current fifth graders should check their child’s immunization records.

- If your child is 11 years old, he or she should get the Tdap immunization, and documentation should be provided to the school.
- If your child is still 10 years old, he or she may receive the Tdap vaccine, Boostrix, which is approved for 10-year-olds, or you may wait until the 11th birthday to receive the vaccine approved for 11-year-olds. 
- If your child’s 11th birthday is after the first day of school, your child must have a medical exemption from the doctor stating when he or she will receive the Tdap immunization in order to attend school.

Documentation that your student has received this immunization should be brought to the school registrar no later than June 21, 2011. Fairfax County Public Schools tracks compliance for this state requirement. **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.
Chess winners for 2011

4th Grade
Rheyan Ampoyo
Amr Mahmoud
Jacob Macrina

5th Grade
Peter Buschman
Austin Jewett
William Wilkerson
Hosam Mohamed
Alvin Huynh

6th Grade
Stephen Liechty
Bryan Sykes

Anna Rae Buschman is a third grader at Island Creek Elementary School. Please take a moment to read about her recent charity work with Children's Hope International. In addition to her charity work, Anna Rae also helps her father with his ESOL ministry at Immanuel Bible Church in Springfield.

Spring Birthdays Sprout Orphan Ambassadors
Source: http://www.helpanorphan.org

Inspired by her little brother, Anna Rae Buschman told her friends and family coming to her 9th birthday party to skip the trip to Target and donate to orphans in Vietnam. Her big heart for orphans led her to this big sacrifice on her birthday. She explained in the note that accompanied the donations, "...because my little brother was an orphan in Vietnam."

We’ve seen so many kids lately who are finding satisfaction in making a difference as opposed to getting "cool new things".

If anyone ever asks, can one person with an idea make a difference? Yes, you can.

Do you know an Island Creek student who has “Made a Difference”? Email details to Theresa Painter at tepainter@fcps.edu

The Island Creek Physical Education Department is one of three schools in Fairfax County to pilot a special program from Microsoft Corporation. Microsoft donated two X Box/ Kinect game systems to use in their PE program. The Kinect game system has students working on movement skills to video games and fitness activities, without the use of any hand-held devices. Island Creek students are currently using Kinect in their PE throwing and catching unit.
TIPS FOR A HEALTHY SUMMER!

During the “fun” time of summer vacation it is very easy to forget our healthy school year practices. Remember to make the following healthy tips a part of each day.

- Eat Breakfast
- Eat at least five servings of fruits and vegetables
- Make wise snack choices such as crackers, cheese, milk shakes, yogurt and pudding
- Limit consumption of soft drinks and candy
- Drink at least eight glasses of water
- Exercise at least 60 minutes each day
- Wear sunscreen

NOTES FROM THE ENERGY ZONE

¡CONSEJOS PARA UN VERANO SALUDABLE!

Durante el tiempo "de diversión" de vacaciones de verano es muy fácil olvidar nuestras prácticas sanas del año escolar.

Acuérdate de hacer los siguientes consejos sanos parte de cada día.

- Coma desayuno
- Coma por lo menos 5 porciones de frutas y vegetales
- Haga selecciones de meriendas sabias como galletas, queso, batidos de leche, yogurt y budín
- Límite el consumo de refrescos y caramelo
- Beba al menos ocho vasos de agua
- Haga al menos 60 minutos de ejercicio cada día
- Use protección en contra del sol
WHAT’S HAPPENING ON THE ISLAND?

Our Kindergarteners have definitely blossomed this year! And to that extent, they had a busy May. It started with a field trip to the Reston Zoo where they got to feed the animals and go on a safari ride - seeing a buffalo with 8 foot span of horns on its head. Then some of our parents came in to talk about their role as a community helper. We had a welder, a marine pilot, a nurse, and a Physical Therapist to our own President of the United States. We will end our month with a visit from the White House Detectives Program!

Six graders have been busy working on building roller coasters.

The speaker at the last GEMS Club meeting for the year was Ms. Terri Taylor, Assistant Director, K-12 American Chemical Society. She led the girls in an experiment demonstrating the amazing ability of some chemical compounds to be absorbent.