Dear Parents,

“March is “music in our schools” month; a time to showcase the importance of physical activity, music and the arts in daily instruction. We have many opportunities to witness the creative efforts of Island Creek students. Today, March 1, our own Rhythm Showcase is featured on a CNN news special highlighting the importance of children’s daily physical activity and fitness. We also proudly support the Island Creek Drama Club, Spotlight Performances, Chorus, Orff Performing Groups, Band, Orchestra, and the continuous gallery of fine art in our halls. These demonstrate the depth and breath of skill and talent demonstrated by our students, cultivated by our teachers.

Recent research demonstrates what most people have long believed; children’s participation in arts programs raises their abilities, motivation and test scores. A recent report documented a positive correlation between years in performing arts classes and raised SAT math scores. Howard Gardner, author of the theory of multiple intelligence, say that music helps organize the way we think and work by developing our math, language and spatial reasoning skills. Art provides distinctive images and experiences that encourage children to use their imagination, explore options, combine materials and take risks. Music, art and movement are essential to children’s education because they heighten their ability to learn through the senses and promote thinking skills. One of the most important outcomes of arts education is the extension of children ability to imagine what might be and consider multiple perspectives, understand that there can be many ways to solve problems and provide answers, and learn to make choices from these possibilities. As adults, we recognize the value of these skills.

When you see your child’s work proudly displayed on the wall or watch them dance and, take their bow, you see first hand that music, drama, art and athletics teach the valuable lessons of hard work and perseverance.

Thanks for being our partner in education!

Sincerely,

Susan Z. Owner

P.S. Thanks for supporting our Read A Thon, March 2 – March 12, Pledges are still welcome!!
# March 2007

**MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH ~ YOUTH ART MONTH ~ WOMENS HISTORY MONTH**

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<td>7:00 pm Strings Concert, Cafe</td>
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<td>3-4pm Drama (all)</td>
<td>Full Band Rehearsal</td>
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<td>3-4 Chess group</td>
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<td>7pm PTA Mtg.</td>
<td>5th Grade SOL’s</td>
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<td>3-4 Chess group</td>
<td>7:30-8:15 Spring Choral and Orff Instrument Concert</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:15-1 Challenge</td>
<td>3-4pm Drama Auditions Only</td>
<td>3-4 Chess Group</td>
<td>7:30-8:15am 6th grade book club</td>
<td>9:15-12:30 6th Grade field trip to National Bldg. Museum</td>
<td>12:15-1 Challenge</td>
<td>St. Patrick’s Day!</td>
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<td>24 Competition</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-4pm Drama Actors Only</td>
<td>3-4 Chess Group</td>
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<td>SPRING PICTURE DAY!</td>
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<td>12:15-1 Challenge</td>
<td>3-4pm Drama Actors Only</td>
<td>3-4 Chess Group</td>
<td>7:30-8:15 Spring Choral and Orff Instrument Concert</td>
<td>1:30-2:30 Virginia Opera Performance</td>
<td>SNOW MAKE-UP DAY</td>
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<td>24 Competition</td>
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**ISLAND CREEK READ-A-THON ~ March 2 thru March 12**

- **3rd Grade SOL’s**
- **5th Grade SOL’s**
- **READ-A-THON**
- **READ-A-THON**
√ Check-it Out at the Library

Connecting Books to the Virginia Elementary SOLs

*Connections* is a database that lists over 2,000 works of children’s literature. It is designed to assist parents and teachers in selecting books that reinforce the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOLs) in the four core content areas of English, history, math and science. *Connections* also includes links to primary sources in the Library of Congress American Memory Collection. The books in the database are a great starting point but are not inclusive of all the books that support the SOLs. Check it out!!

http://www.fcps.edu/cpsapps/connections/index.cfm

**National Library Week**
April 15th-21st

Celebrate National Library week by visiting a library or reading a good book. Remember, Island Creek students and staff are “Wild About Books and Reading”!

**6th Grade Book Club**

The next meeting is March 15th at 7:30am in the library. We are reading *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan. New members are encouraged to attend!

You can access the library catalog from home: http://libcat.fcps.edu/uhthin/cgisirsi/x/0/0/57/49?user_id=429WEB

**March 2007**

**Library Staff:**
Jill Woodall, Librarian
Debi Poole, Library Asst.

**Upcoming Events:**
- Read Across America
- Read-A-Thon
- National Library Week

**Favorite Virginia Readers Choice**

In a very close race, Island Creek students voted the book, *Absolutely Not* by Matthew McElligott their favorite Virginia Readers Choice. The story is about two ant friends, Gloria and Frieda, who go on a walk and learn that the world can be a surprisingly wonderful place and not at all frightening.

http://www.fcps.edu/cpsapps/connections/index.cfm
Honesty is the character quality for the month of March.

Being honest shows others your good character.
- When others see you as honest, they respect you as a person.
- If you model honesty, there may be others who will follow your lead. Honest actions yield a good reputation.

Being truthful builds your own self-respect.
- When you are truthful on the outside, you will be peaceful on the inside.
- Respect for yourself can only come with complete truthfulness.
You cannot respect yourself if you did not tell the truth.

Being truthful takes courage.
- Being truthful means admitting your own mistakes, which takes real courage.
- Being truthful, even when your friends are not, takes real courage.
Being truthful when it would benefit you at that moment to cheat, takes true courage.

Cheating equals NOT being truthful. Remember - cheating eventually hurts you most in many ways.
- When you choose to cheat, you have chosen to lie to yourself and others.
- When you choose to cheat, you are not practicing good character.
If someone else sees you cheating, they will lose some of their respect for you.

Being truthful helps keep us safe (remember “The Boy Who Cried Wolf”)
- If you practice always telling the truth, others will believe you.
When you constantly tell lies as pranks or jokes, others will not know when you need to be taken seriously.

The above examples are excellent discussion starters. Please help support our March guidance lessons by talking to your children about honesty.

Your partners in character education,

Virginia Hulke & Steff Shelesky
School Counselors

Excerpted from, 180 Days of Character, by Donna B. Forrest, Ed.S. L.P.C.
How Do I Use Blackboard’s Music Site?

Log onto www.fcps.edu

Go to the list at the left of the screen and find FCPS 24-7 Learning. Select this by clicking on it.

Once the explanation screen for 24-7 learning comes up, click on FCPS 24-7 Learning (it is the first link on the page.)

Enter your user name (your student number) and the password (ices6).

You will now have a screen that shows all of the “courses” you are enrolled in. Look for Music At Island Creek 2006-2007 and click on it (clicking on the announcements only will not allow you to access any links.)

Now choose from the buttons at the left of the screen or choose from any of the announcements on the page.

Happy browsing!
MESSAGE FOR PARENTS OF CURRENT 5TH GRADERS

Effective July 1, 2006, all students in Virginia 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 you receive it and that you provide documentation to the school prior to June 18, 2007. 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 listed on the back of this letter and are available 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.

It is most important that you attend to this matter soon. Sixth graders cannot begin school in the fall without documentation of having had the Tdap booster or having had a tetanus-containing vaccine within the past five years.

Please contact Gail Acker, the school public health nurse, at 703-704-6100 or gail.acker@fairfaxcounty.gov, if you have any questions. Thank you for your cooperation.

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.

“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.
Need a Helping Hand?

Helping Hands is a new group at Island Creek. Made up of a selected group of diverse students in kindergarten through sixth grade, with ICE Peer Mediators serving as student leaders. Helping Hands was developed to promote service learning. Service learning is an inclusive program that engages youth in community service. The students learn to research, plan, and execute service projects under the guidance of Ms. Hulke, Mrs. Shelesky, Mrs. Alf and Mrs. Osborne.

This unique program enables youths of all developmental levels the opportunity to take an interest in their community and build relationships across grades. The first project the students have undertaken is to help the Animal Shelter on Eisenhower Ave in Alexandria. A woman from the shelter came to speak to the students about what the animal shelter does and how kids could help. The students spent a session brainstorming how to help and are now executing the project to collect items for the Shelter. Later in the year, the students will help children in homeless shelters by making blankets.

Helping Hands aims to teach social skills, effective teamwork skills, compassion, patience, respect for diversity and analytical thinking. The group meets monthly.

Parent Resource Center Workshops

The Parent Resource Center, part of the Office of Special Education, is offering three workshops for parents. Please be sure to call the Parent Resource Center at 703-204-3941 to reserve space if you are interested in attending.

**Sensory Integration: Supporting Your Child's Performance from a Sensory Perspective Framework**

Friday, March 2, 2007
9:30 to 11:00 am
Dunn Loring Center, Room 11

**The Nuts and Bolts of Medicaid Waivers**

Wednesday, March 7, 2007
7:30 to 9:15 pm
Dunn Loring Center, Parent Resource Center

Dunn Loring Center is located at 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring, VA 22027. For more information, download the flyers from the website of the Parent Resource Center at [www.fcps.edu/ss/prc](http://www.fcps.edu/ss/prc) (choose “Workshops”) or call 703-204-3941.
KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP

Island Creek Elementary kindergarten orientation for parents and students is scheduled for Monday, April 30 from 1:00-3:00 p.m., in the school cafeteria.

At the orientation, Dr. Susan Owner, the principal, will make a brief presentation and afterwards, parents and students will have the opportunity to visit the classrooms and meet the wonderful kindergarten teachers. The staff will be available to register children at this time as well.

Presently, the Island Creek Elementary kindergarten program is a half-day program, although the budget submission currently being considered does provide for a full-day program. We are anxiously awaiting final word on whether the budget will be approved as submitted and will move to a full-day kindergarten program. Interested parents are encouraged to make their views known to their representative at the School Board.

Kindergarten program at Island Creek Elementary provides opportunities for children to experience success and a love of learning through play, active exploration, investigations, and interaction with adults, other children, technology and a variety of learning materials. Independence, responsibility and self-direction are promoted as children make decisions and solve problems. Our students learn through participation in self-directed play and the guidance of skilled professionals. The kindergarten curriculum of Fairfax County Public Schools is designed to meet the diverse needs of children in all developmental areas: social/emotional, physical, and cognitive. It integrates skills and concepts from all disciplines into learning activities that are interesting, meaningful, and supportive of children’s learning.

The school community of Island Creek maintains a strong commitment to building and maintaining strong home-school partnerships, a critical cornerstone to a child’s overall school success. Children need their family involved in education throughout their educational careers. Communication between home and school is vital–be assured you will feel a part of our kindergarten program and have opportunities to follow your child’s progress.
100th Day

This year, the entire first grade celebrated the 100th day of school. First graders participated in activities like writing about what they will be like when they are 100 years old, listening to books being read aloud, and making 100 valentines for a local nursing home. The valentines were sent to Sunrise of Springfield, an assisted living home. The 100th day turned out to be a really fun day!

6th Grade Techno-Art

The sixth grade classes have been working on their techno-Art. Techno-Art consists of three parts:

1. Take things apart
2. Create an original piece of artwork using the parts.
3. Write about what you took apart, what you created, and what you learned

Correction to February Croc Courier

The following poem was incorrectly attributed:

PEACE POEM

Peace
World Peace
Does peace exist?
Harmony within each other
Will peace ever happen here?
Will war and violence ever end?

By Natalia Tramontana