Dear Parents,

This school year Island Creek Elementary has made a concerted effort to reduce paper consumption. As role models for future generations we have a responsibility to increase our collective awareness of the human imprint we leave on the earth. Reflect on this, last year our school used 3,600 reams of paper which is equal to 259 trees (http://www.conservatree.com). Not only does this represent an impact on our natural resources, it also represents a lot of money. At current costs, 360 cases of paper for copying costs about $12,000. What if we could reduce this by a half? We would save the school $6,000 and that money could be put to other uses, such as SMART Boards in our classrooms!

We have set a school goal to try and reduce our paper use by one half compared to last year. You can guess some of the ways we have started this. We now keep important information posted on our website at www.fcps.edu/islandcreekes. This year parents did not receive a paper copy of our school handbook in the annual back to school packet; it is posted on our website! Teachers are urged to keep their Blackboard sites current and post important classroom information and activities on this secure site. We encourage parents to sign up for Keep In Touch (KIT) on the FCPS website. The Island Creek KIT email messages reach over 1,056 unique email addresses. We currently use KIT as our main delivery of school newsletters, advertisements, and announcements. 546 students or 71% of our student body, receive electronic communications (no paper) from the office. Teachers are encouraged to “recycle” paper, to print on two sides whenever possible, to post and share digitally whenever practical. We also make extensive use of our Wiki site to post information which was previously shared through paper distribution.

So have we been successful?? YES!! Compared to this time last year we have reduced our paper consumption by 130 cases, representing a cost savings of over $4,400! And yes, this money has already been used to bring more technology into our classrooms. School wide, we have 35 SMART Boards. At this point very few teachers need to share access to this motivating, interactive instructional tool. I encourage you to ask your child, would they rather complete a worksheet or use the smart board to help them learn? They will not hesitate!

I am proud of our school for this contribution to the planet Earth and helping us reprioritize our school funds. If you are interested in signing up for KIT or Parent View for Blackboard, I am just an e-mail away!

Thank you for being our partner in education.

Susan Z. Owner
# March 2009

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<td></td>
<td>Read Across America Day</td>
<td>5th Grade SOL Testing (multiple choice)</td>
<td>5th Grade SOL Testing (Direct Writing)</td>
<td>7:30-8:15 Writer’s Block, 3/4 Pod</td>
<td>3:15-4:30 Girls on the Run, Rm. 253</td>
<td>SCA Spirit Day - All Across America Day (Kids can wear something that represents their heritage, bring in an artifact to share.)</td>
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<td>8:30-9:30am Room Parent Meeting, Prof. Lib.</td>
<td>3:15-4:30 Girls on the Run, Rm. 253</td>
<td>7:30-8:15 Writer’s Block, 3/4 Pod</td>
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<td>3:15-4:30 Girls on the Run, Rm. 253</td>
<td>3:05-4:05 Chess Group, Cafe</td>
<td>7:30-8:15 Writer’s Block, 3/4 Pod</td>
<td>3:15-4:30 Girls on the Run, Rm. 253</td>
<td>6pm PTA Corner Cuisine Event</td>
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<td>PTA Restaurant Night - Lucky’s</td>
<td>Happy St. Patrick’s Day</td>
<td>3:15-4:00 GEMS</td>
<td>SPRING PICTURE DAY</td>
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<td>7:30am Writer’s Block</td>
<td>7:30am 6th Gr. Book Club</td>
<td>7:30-8:15 Writer’s Block, 3/4 Pod</td>
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<td>3:15-4:15 Helping Hands, Theater</td>
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The next meeting of the 6th Grade Book Club will be Thursday, March 18th at 7:30AM in the library. We are reading the third book in the 39 Clues series, The Sword Thief, by Peter Lerangis. New members are encouraged to attend. See you there!!
Counselor’s Corner

Honesty

President Lincoln is well known as being "Honest Abe" and although his birthday is in February, we celebrate honesty every month at Island Creek. This school year we have designated Honesty as our Croc's Creed Character quality of the month.

We teach lessons of honesty in grades K through 6th. We read books, show films, and often do skits depicting honest acts. We discuss the benefit of telling the truth and show examples of what happens if you do something and admit what happened as opposed to being dishonest and what the consequences are in each case. Students are given the opportunity to share their own successes at being honest.

Today we like to look for more current examples of honesty to illustrate to our children the positive nature of being honest. Unfortunately, many people who are famous do not set the proper examples in the media making it more important than ever to be aware of the influences, both positive and negative on your children. Children will try to "be" like their idols and need your guidance to ensure they are only mimicking the "positive" aspects of these individuals' behaviors.

Remember to point out the people in the public eye who reflect positive characteristics to your children. Preview the movies your children watch and point out the positive aspects and negative aspects of the film.

As always model honest behavior for your students and point out honest and dishonest behaviors to them as part of the learning process.

Yours partners in Character Education
Virginia Hulke
Stefanie Shelesky
School Counselors
MESSAGE FOR PARENTS
OF FIVE-YEAR OLD CHILDREN

State law requires that any child who is five years old on or before September 30, 2009 must be enrolled in kindergarten for the 2009-2010 school year, unless the parent notifies the school in writing that they do not wish their child to attend school until the following year.

Island Creek will hold its Kindergarten Registration on Monday, April 27th, from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. in our cafeteria. Parent and rising kindergarteners are invited to attend. If you wish to receive a packet of registration and informational materials, please call the school office at 571-642-6300 to be added to the mailing list.

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, please do not delay in getting the immunization. The Tdap booster can be obtained from your child’s physician. Immunizations required for school also are available at the Fairfax County Health Department at no charge. 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.

Documentation must be provided 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 Tdap booster shot. If your doctor will not administer the shot until your child’s 11th birthday, we need a note from the doctor so stating. Sixth graders cannot begin school next year without documentation.

Please contact Gail Acker, the school public health nurse, at 703-704-6100 or gail.acker@fairfaxcounty.gov, if you have any questions.
The Kinder Crocs had a fabulous February! We reached a milestone in Kindergarten - the 100th day of school. We celebrated this special day on Thursday, February 12th. The students participated in a parade around the school chanting 100 day songs, counting by 5s and 10s to 100, with the first graders. We made 100s day sunglasses and hats to celebrate the occasion.

Mrs. Saccoccia’s Class was presented with a Quilt and photo from the fire department. This was a gift of thanks for letters that the class wrote about fire safety.

Sixth grade students on a recent field trip to the National Gallery of Art
More pictures than ANY other book in school.

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