Dear Parents,

Today we honored our wonderful volunteers at our luncheon. I am hoping many of you were able to join us, and that all of you know how much we appreciate all you do for Island Creek Elementary. We are better because of you.

Next week is teacher appreciation week, and a fitting time to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of our teachers. Their tireless efforts to make instruction relevant, meaningful and fun are reflected in the accomplishments of our students. I am also struck by the number of teachers who volunteer their time before and after school hours to provide individual attention and enriching opportunities to a variety of students. Groups such as our Drama Club, Chess Club, GEMS, Helping Hands, Writers Block, and Sixth Grade Book Club are all examples of activities made possible by teachers who volunteer their time. Island Creek Elementary is indeed fortunate to have such talented, and dedicated staff.

I cannot think of May without thinking of SOL testing. If you are a parent of a third through sixth grade student, you are undoubtedly keenly aware of these upcoming opportunities for students to shine. Here are a few test-taking tips. The most important, of course, is to help your child relax. Keep testing in perspective, and do their best.

- Get plenty of sleep the night before the test.
- Eat a healthy breakfast.
- Arrive at school on time.
- Think positively -- “I can do this!”
- Relax. You are prepared and ready.
- Listen carefully to the directions.
- Look over the entire test before beginning.
- Read the directions carefully.
- Answer the easiest questions first.
- Mark your answers neatly.
- If you change your answer, erase it completely.
- Use the process of elimination if you do not know the answer.
- Check and reread your work before turning it in.

You are your child’s number one achievement cheerleader. I am confident our students are well prepared. (As an aside, children are often concerned that their promotion to the next grade is tied to their SOL performance -- it is not.)

Remember, this is a journey, not a destination.

Thank you for being our partner in your child’s education,

Susan Z. Owner
### May 2008

**SPECIAL NOTE:** The sixth grade classes will be doing their techno art lesson soon. Please send in your old electronics, computers, toasters, radios, etc.  
(No monitors, objects with blades or glass please)

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<td>8:30am Young Scholars Parent Meeting</td>
<td>1st Gr. Field Trip to Mason</td>
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<td>Memorial Day Holiday NO SCHOOL</td>
<td>SOL Make-ups</td>
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<td>4th Gr. SOL Testing (SS)</td>
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**TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK ~ NUTRITION EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION WEEK**

**MUSIC OPEN HOUSE**

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Special Note: The sixth grade classes will be doing their techno art lesson soon. Please send in your old electronics, computers, toasters, radios, etc. (No monitors, objects with blades or glass please)
√ Check-it Out
at the
Library

Library Happenings

Ms. Trudeau’s class is finishing their research for the Global Awareness & Technology Project. Island Creek is a pilot school for the county for this project. Students have used a variety of print and online resources. They have discovered that there is a lot of information available to them. The challenge is to find the most relevant, current and accurate information for the topic they are researching.

Connecting Books to the Virginia Elementary SOLs

Connections, http://www.fcps.edu/cpsapps/connections/index.cfm, is a database designed to assist parents and teachers in selecting books that reinforce the Virginia Standards of Learning in the four core content areas of English, history, math and science. The books in the database are a great starting point but are not inclusive of all the books that are available.

Library Books Due: June 3rd

It is hard to believe but the end of the school year is drawing to a close. All student library books need to be returned to the school library no later than Monday, June 3rd!

6th Grade Book Club

The last meeting of the school year is May 15th at 7:30am in the library. We are reading the classic 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea by Jules Verne. New members are encouraged to attend! See you there!!

You can access the library catalog from home: http://libcat.fcps.edu/uhthin/cgisirsi/x/0/0/5749?
user_id=129WEB
DANCE FOR HEALTH MARATHON

Congratulations to all the students and staff who participated in the Dance for Health Marathon. The event was a fun event for everyone involved.

The top classes in participation and fundraising for the Dance for Health Marathon were: Ms. Trudeau’s 5th grade class, Ms. Putnam’s 3rd grade class, Ms. Krasberg’s 4th grade class and Ms. Grenwis’ 1st grade class. These classes will each receive a bonus P.E. class.

The top three individual fundraisers were: Matthew Colasanto, Lauren Upah and Lilleen Rochelle Franck. These students will get to be principal of the day.

Prizes have been ordered and will be distributed to students soon. The winner of the Wii System will be drawn on the morning news show on Monday, May 5th.

CHALLENGE 24
CLUSTER COMPETITION

Congratulations to the following students who participated in the Challenge 24 CLUSTER competition:

Kyle Seelman, 4th Grade was a strong Competitor
Emily Johnson, 5th Grade, Placed and will represent ICES at the county level
Faris Gebril, 6th Grade, placed and will represent ICES at the county level

Congratulations to all!

ALL COUNTY CHORUS

The All-County Chorus Festival 2008 and was recently held at Hayfield Secondary School. Island Creek was lucky enough to send 8 students this year to the festival who auditioned and made the team.

Congratulations to:

Ashley Bolanos  Julia Eklund
Lexi Klein     Donee Pettaway
Darby Sharp   Madeline Taber
Michaelyn Sipes Brenna Thomas

These young ladies have been working since January to get ready for this concert. These young ladies represented Island Creek ES wonderfully. Their behavior was outstanding and their dedication evident. They carried themselves like true professionals. These Island Creek students were the example of what "to do." They sang beautifully, along with the other 850+ students, to give an amazing performance to a packed house.

CHORUS AND BEATMASTERS CONCERT
May 1, 2008
7:00-8:30 pm
Island Creek ES Cafeteria

Croc Creed Safety Drawings

The Croc Creed Committee organized a drawing contest for the theme of safety in the month of April. All students were welcome to submit one drawing that shows how they are safe. A few examples were riding a bike and wearing a helmet, holding on to the banister going down stairs, or wearing a seat belt. The students chosen will be painting their drawing on the windows that overlook the fish pond on the second floor. The croc creed committee was looking for originality, and effort. Thank you to all the participants each drawing that was submitted was wonderful. Congratulations to our winners Mason Bonner, Anela Pajimula, Maggie Markon, Bridget Keenan, Michael Sipes, Natalie Williams and Hannah Bishop. Stop by and see the beautiful paintings the next time you visit!
R KELLY LYRICS

“I Believe I Can Pass”

I used to think I could not go on
And life was nothing but an awful song
But not I know the meaning of hard work
I’m learning to become the best I am

If I can see it, then I can do it
If I just believe it, there’s nothing to it
I believe I can pass
I believe I can do my best
I study hard every night and day
Hold my pen and write away
I believe I can score
I see me running through that open door
I believe I can pass
I believe I can pass
I believe I can pass

See I was on the verge of giving up
Sometimes easy work can often seem so hard
There are miracles in life I must achieve
But first I know it starts inside of me, oh

If I can see it, then I can do it
If I just believe it, there’s nothing to it

[Repeat 1]

Hey, cuz I believe in me, oh

If I can be it, then I can do it
If I just believe it, there’s nothing to it

[Repeat 1]

Hey, if I just spread my wings
I can pass
I can pass
I can pass, hey
If I just spread my wings
I can pass

New Face of FCPS’ Summer School of 2008

The FCPS summer school program this year will be significantly different than students and parents have experienced in the past. A limited number of enrichment opportunities for students in grades 4 - 12, such as the Institute of the arts and tech Adventure Camp, as well as Extended School Year for some special education students, will continue to be offered. However, due to budget reductions, the traditional morning summer school that many Island Creek students have attended in the past will not be offered. Encore 2008, the summer school programs booklet, will be available in the late spring to families of FCPS students through the mail, at public libraries, in FCPS administrative offices, and at www.fcps.edu/news/summer.htm. Elementary, middle, and high school programs are contingent upon final approval of the FCPS budget by the school board on May 22.
Counselor’s Corner
General Safety Reminders

We have two months at Island Creek Elementary to emphasize the safety precautions we use all year. Last month we focused mainly in internet safety. This month we will talk about general safety tips.

Help your student memorize their address and telephone number.

Always leave emergency instructions for them in the home.

Teach them when and how to call 911 for emergency situations.

Fire Safety: Call the fire department from another unattached building or cell phone well “away” from the burning building.
If you are inside during a fire, feel a door for heat before going through the door.
Do not run back into the home for anything, fires accelerate at a rapid rate.

Do not open the door for anyone when Mom and Dad are not home.

Do not answer the telephone if you do not know who is calling (caller ID).

When out of the home: do not talk to strangers
    do not take candy or gifts from strangers
    do not help adults or unknown children search for lost pets
    do not give directions, or walk with another person to help them find a building (such as a library, grocery store.)
        Adults should be able to find directions without the assistance of children.
    do not accept rides from stranger

If a stranger makes you feel uncomfortable, yell STRANGER!! STRANGER!! and run away to a safe location that has been chosen by your family or towards groups of people for safety.

When you are out of the home, travel a route that is known by parents and by doing that if something happens they will know where to look for you.

Discuss a “code word” to use with your family. For example: In the event you need to send someone to find/pick up your child in an emergency, use a pre-determined word or phrase. A video we use in school uses the phrase “purple goldfish” – choose your own unique word and never divulge the word to anyone.
Once you have used the code word, switch to a new word/phrase for safety purposes.

For school purposes, a written note is needed to have your student picked up by another person who is not already on the list.

Car Safety: Always wear your seatbelt
    Keep your hands and feet inside the car at all times.
    Sit in the back seat of the car.

When crossing the street: STOP! LOOK BOTH WAYS!!
    CROSS AT A CROSSWALK OR TRAFFIC LIGHT!!

In general, as we always comment, the most important aspect of safety is spending time talking with your child, but for safety, sometimes it makes a stronger impression to role play these safety tips. It helps your child be better prepared for an emergency and makes the discussion more fun for all involved.

Keep up the great parenting.

Virginia Hulke
Stefanie Shelesky
School Counselors
IMPORTANT IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION!

Rising Sixth Graders

BEFORE STARTING SIXTH GRADE, all students must receive a booster dose of Tdap vaccine if at least five years have passed since the last dose of tetanus-containing toxoid. A medical exemption is also acceptable.

The Tdap booster is available from your physician. OR

The Fairfax County Health Department provides school immunizations at no cost.

Health Department Clinic Sites:
- Falls Church 703-534-8343
- Herndon-Reston 703-481-4242
- Mount Vernon 703-704-5203
- Springfield 703-569-1031
- Fairfax City 703-246-7100

STUDENTS CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL WITHOUT REQUIRED IMMUNIZATIONS!
¡INFORMACIÓN IMPORTANTESobre Vacunas!

Alumnos promovidos al 6º grado

ANTES DE EMPEZAR EL SEXTO GRADO,
todos los alumnos deben recibir una dosis de refuerzo de la vacuna Tdap si en los últimos cinco años no han recibido una dosis de una vacuna que contenga el toxoide tetánico.
También se acepta una exención médica.

Puede pedirle a su médico la dosis de refuerzo de la vacuna “Tdap”.

O

El Departamento de Salud del Condado de Fairfax ofrece, sin costo alguno, las vacunas necesarias para asistir a la escuela.

Consultorios del Departamento de Salud:
Falls Church 703-534-8343
Herndon-Reston 703-481-4242
Mount Vernon 703-704-5203
Springfield 703-569-1031
Fairfax City 703-246-7100

¡LOS ALUMNOS NO PUEDEN ASISTIR A CLASES SIN LAS VACUNAS EXIGIDAS!