Dear Parents,

May begins a month of testing, an opportunity to show what we have learned. A test schedule is included in this newsletter to help you plan appointments around your child’s tests. The following are a few testing tips you may find helpful:

- It is important to take tests seriously. Students always want to do their best. Reassure your child that testing time is their opportunity to shine and to show how much they have learned.
- Talk to your child about the test and why they are taking it. Let your child know the test is important, but don’t be overly anxious about their performance on it.
- Encourage your child to relax, and try not to be nervous before the test, they can practice at home taking a few deep breaths, closing their eyes for a moment and tell themselves, to just stay calm and focused.
- Remind your child to listen up. To pay close attention to the teacher’s instructions and carefully read the test instructions to make sure they understand exactly what they are supposed to do.
- If you are having a hard time with one question, it is usually a good idea to leave it and go on to the other questions.
- As a rule, you should stick with your first answer. But if you’ve thought about it afterward and now think that answer is better, go ahead and change it.
- Never underestimate the importance of home support: a good night sleep, a good breakfast, and positive send off from home, you provide the launching pad!

I am confident our students will put forth their best efforts and reflect their learning. In large measure this is because of the families that make up this community. Island Creek Elementary families send us children ready to learn. Our students achieve because they have a positive attitude toward learning and a willingness to try their best. Most importantly, our students achieve because you, their parents, are involved with their education. You are families who support school efforts to build strong learners, cultivate enduring study skills, and answer a call when parent support is needed. You are the dads, moms, aunts, uncles, grandpas and grandmas, who are our student’s role models for character education. You make the strong values of Crocs Creed connect with the real world. You are the parents who keep your child’s education in focus. You take time to talk with your child, to follow through with teachers, see that homework is a priority. You are at school for special events, and remain in communication with teachers. We can depend on you to volunteer, helping out when we need an extra boost. You are the helping hands, both visible and invisible, who support the PTA and support our teachers. You are the great treasure of our school community. That you are here for your children, supporting their efforts and accessible to teachers, is what makes Island Creek Elementary a special place to learn.

I will end with a final word of appreciation to Island Creek’s outstanding teachers and staff. My career has been blessed by working with exceptional educators, but nothing like the outstanding professional environment that exists at Island Creek. The synergy that this team creates is exciting and contagious. Most important, the end result is a strong education for our students, your children.

Thank you for being our partner in education.

Susan Z. Owner
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<td>3:15-4:30 Girls on the Run</td>
<td>7pm PTA Mtg.</td>
<td>School Nurse Day</td>
<td>3:15-4:30 Girls on the Run</td>
<td>7-8pm Chorus and Beatmasters Concert</td>
<td>3:15-4:30 Girls on the Run</td>
<td>6:30-7:30pm Mrs. Markon’s Coffee</td>
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<td>7:30am GOR Race at Fair Oaks Mall</td>
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<td>11:00 Safety Patrol Meeting</td>
<td>3:15-4:30 Girls on the Run</td>
<td>3:15-4:00 GEMS</td>
<td>7:30-8:15 Writer’s Block</td>
<td>6:00-8:00pm GOR Dinner, Cafe</td>
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<td>Memorial Day Holiday</td>
<td>No School</td>
<td>5th Gr. SOL (math)</td>
<td>6th Gr. SOL (math)</td>
<td>3:15-4:00 GEMS</td>
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√ Check-it Out
at the
Library

2-for-1

Scholastic Book Fair
The Scholastic Book Fair comes to the Island Creek library June 1-3. Students and families will be available to purchase two books for the price of one. This is a great way to purchase books for summer reading. The hours of the fair are:

- Monday, June 1st, 8:00AM to 1:30PM
- Tuesday, June 2nd, 8:00AM to 4:00PM
- Wednesday, June 3rd, 8:00AM to 4:00PM

For more information contact Jill Woodall at 571-642-6319 or jill.woodall@fcps.edu.

Connecting Books

to the

Virginia Elementary SOLs

Connections, http://itweb.fcps.edu/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 4th

It is hard to believe but the end of the school year is drawing to a close. All student library books should be returned.

6th Grade Book Club

The last scheduled 6th grade book club of the school year is May 21st at 7:30am in the library. We are reading Indigo’s Star by

access the library catalog from home: http://libcat.fcps.edu/uhtbin/cgisirsi/x/0/0/57/49?user_id=429WEB
Counselor’s Corner
Stranger Safety

We highlight safety both in April and in May each year. There are many different types of safety and this month we emphasize "Stranger Safety".

Please talk to your children frequently about strangers. **Tell them:**

- Do NOT help adults or older children. Responsible adults and older children should not ask for help from a young person.
- Do NOT help look for a missing pet.
- Do NOT give directions.
- Do NOT take anything from a stranger.
- Do NOT go with a stranger, in a car or walking.
- Do NOT stand and speak to a stranger, run the other direction and yell "STRANGER".

To help children feel secure we discussed code words to use with families. A code word is a safe form of communication to help you and your child when there is an emergency. This word allows you to send someone to find your child. As stated below this code word cannot be used to send someone to collect your child from Island Creek Elementary School. (See below)

Here is some homework for you and your student.

**Homework - Code Word**

- Speak with the adults in your family, whoever it is who takes care of you.
- Choose a code word
- A code word is a secret word only you and your trusted adult know.
- To use a code word is when your trusted adult sends someone to give you information or pick you up.

**For example:**

- Mom gets hurt and cannot pick you up from the birthday party.
- She sends another person to come get you. You ask the person "what is the code word"?
- The person should say the secret word. **If they cannot say or remember it, do NOT go with them!!!**
- If they know the word, you know they were sent to you by your family
- If you use the code word, make a new word. **Never use the same word twice.**

If you are being picked up at Island Creek, your parent/trusted adult must send in a note to the school, it must be in writing sent by e-mail, fax, or delivered by hand. The code word will not work; your family member must tell the school in writing. If you are going to go to another students house, the school needs a note from both parents.

**Yours partners in Character Education**
**Virginia Hulke**  
**Stefanie Shelesky**  
**School Counselors**
MAY HAPPENINGS
FOR STRINGS

May 4, 5, 6 – Hayfield Orchestra auditions for 6th grade strings only

May 9 – 9:30-11:30 AM – STRING SYMPOSIUM for advanced 6th grade strings at Hayfield SS Orchestra Room

Monday, May 11 – 7:00 PM Hayfield Area Orchestra Concert, Hayfield Auditorium

May 27 – 7:00 PM Hayfield SS Spring Concert: 6th grade performing

NOTES FROM THE CLINIC

Spring is here, and so are allergies! If your student has allergies, please be sure and treat them with allergy medicine at home prior to their departing for school. When medication must be administered during the school day, please follow the guidelines established in the current version of FCPS Regulation 2102:

1. Complete the FCPS Medication Authorization forms (available online at www.fcps.edu).
2. Provide the school with properly labeled containers (your pharmacist will usually provide an extra container if you request it).
3. Medications must be transported to and from school by a parent or guardian; except, with parent or guardian approval, a high school student may carry over-the-counter (OTC) medications to and from the school clinic.
4. Medications must be kept in the school clinic or other school-approved location.
5. OTC medications may be given up to ten consecutive school days with the parent’s or guardian’s signature on the FCPS Medication Authorization form before a physician’s authorization is required.
6. OTC medications that are pain relievers may be given as needed throughout the school year with only the parent’s or guardian’s signature on part I of the FCPS Medication Authorization form.

Cough drops and throat lozenges may be carried and used by students in kindergarten through grade 12 as needed throughout the school year, provided that they are in the original container or packaging. Students must not share cough drops or throat lozenges under any circumstances.

Please Note: Exemptions from physical education or recess require a doctor’s note.
Spring Is In The Air!

And So Is Music!

JOIN THE
BEAT MASTERS
AND
THE ISLAND CREEK CHORUS
FOR OUR
SPRING CONCERT
TUESDAY, MAY 12TH
AT 7PM
ISLAND CREEK CAFETERIA

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR CURRENT FIFTH 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!