Dear Parents,

The month of May has become synonymous with SOL testing throughout Fairfax County Public Schools. It is important that you understand that this test is just one assessment of one moment in time, and that the focus should remain on developing good test taking skills, and measuring what your student has learned. Each of us, educator, parent, and student, has an important role in test preparation.

The following are a few testing tips you may find helpful:

- 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 throughout this year and previous years.
- 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.
- Children have been taught test taking strategies; ask them what strategies they use for their tests.
- 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, remind the student to think about their test taking strategies.
- Never underestimate the importance of home support: a good night sleep, a good breakfast, and a positive send off from home. You provide the launching pad!

One of the best things about tests is that when they're over, they're over. The results won't be known for several weeks or months, so the best thing to do after the test, for both parents and students, is to breathe a big sigh of relief and then celebrate!

In closing, it was so nice to see so many of our volunteers at our recognition luncheon. It was a wonderful opportunity to thank the many parents and community members who contribute to making Island Creek Elementary School such a special place.

Thank you for your continued support!

Michael G. Macrina
Principal

When visiting the school or picking up students please don’t park in the bus lanes.
## May 2013

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√ Check-it Out at the Library

April Library Happenings
Here are just a few of the many things that have happened:

- Preschool classes have been learning about bears and fruits in library. They enjoy listening to electronic books.
- All kindergarten classes have been learning about nonfiction text features. Students selected a photograph of an animal and, using Pixie, wrote their own caption for it. With the help of adults, students recorded their voices reading the caption. The captions are very informative!
- All first grade students have been practicing putting books and words in alphabetical order. They are learning that the Everybody section is in alphabetical order by the author’s last name and that dictionaries are also in alphabetical order.
- All 2nd grade classes have been learning about guide words and are practicing their inferencing skills.
- All 5th grade classes are doing research for the Global Awareness & Technology Projects. They are doing a great job taking notes and citing their sources.

Stay tuned for more library happenings...

Library Books Due: June 4th

It is hard to believe but the end of the school year is drawing near. All student library books should be returned to the school library no later than Tuesday, June 4th!

6th Grade Book Club

The 6th grade book club is meeting, Thursday, May 9th at 7:15AM in the library. Sixth graders are selecting an adventure book of their choice to read and discuss. See you there!!

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

Thank you to everyone who visited and helped at the 10th annual ICES Book Fair. It was a success because of you!
Counselors’ Corner

Cooperation

Cooperation is our highlighted word this month and we must use it to “hang in there” and not allow our brains to leave school before the end of the year!

- Keep preparing for your SOL tests, don’t give up – cooperate.
- There are still many great things to learn, cooperate with your brain to learn.

Not only are there things to learn, there are also fun things to do . . .

- Fun Days
- Field Days
- 6th Grade Bowling trip
- 5th Grade Medieval Day
- Strings Concert

And that’s just a few of the fun things coming up!

Cooperate to earn Croc Stocks, there will be a surprise on the backs of some Croc Stocks in the near future. 😊

Have a happy and safe May!

Your partners in Character Education,

Virginia Hulke
Stefanie Shelesky
School Counselors
BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE

Starting on Monday, December 3, students at Island Creek Elementary School were permitted to bring a personally owned computing device to school to support their learning. We are very excited about how this initiative will change learning in the classroom and present opportunities to improve communication, collaboration, and creative learning amongst our students. Approved devices include laptops, tablets, smart phones, and eReaders.

It is essential that any parents considering allowing their child to bring a personal device thoroughly read all documents (linked below) and sign the Personal Device Permission & Registration form before these personal devices can come to school.

Some items to be aware of:

- All use of personal devices should be to support student learning and it will be at the discretion of the teacher as to when and how devices will be permitted.
- Personal texting, phone calls, and other communications will NOT be permitted during school hours.
- Students can only access the FCPSMobile network to connect to internet. Connecting via personal data plans is not permitted.
- Fairfax County Public Schools and Island Creek ES are not responsible for any device or data loss, theft, damage or other associated costs of replacement or repair incurred during the school day.
- All required information must be included on the Personal Device Permission & Registration form before the device can be used. A sticker identifying the device as officially registered will be attached to the device. The permission form should be brought, along with the device, to the Main Office.
- All students will be bound by the FCPS Student Rights and Responsibilities, FCPS Acceptable Use Policy, and Hayfield Pyramid Personal Device Policy. Use of personal devices at Island Creek ES is a privilege and can be revoked if these policies are violated.

Please know this personal device initiative merely allows devices to be used at school. At no time will students be required to purchase or bring in devices. The decision of whether or not to send a device to school with your child is a family decision.

Frequently Asked Questions
Hayfield Pyramid Personal Device Policy
How To Find MAC Address
Personal Device Permission & Registration Form
**Strings Concert**

**For the ICES Strings Concert**

**Thursday, June 6th**

**at 7PM**

**ISLAND CREEK CAFETERIA**

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**Are you moving?**

The school needs to have current addresses for all our students! If you have moved, please call the school office so we can update our records. If you are planning to move away from Island Creek, also be sure you let the school office know. We really hate to see you go, but there are important documents that need to be filled out by parents in order for a smooth transition to take place and for school records to be sent to your child’s new school.

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**IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR PARENTS OF CURRENT FIFTH GRADERS**

It’s not too early to check!

As a parent of a current 5th grader, you need to know that all students in Virginia schools 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).

This is not an Island Creek Elementary rule, and is not a Fairfax County regulation; it is a State regulation that all schools must follow.

Please -- check your child’s immunization records carefully. If you need a copy of your student’s record call the school office and we will provide you a copy.

If your child is required to have a Tdap booster, we ask that your child receive it as soon as he or she is old enough, and most importantly that you provide documentation 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 most recent Tdap booster shot. If your child won’t be old enough for the shot until a specific date, we need a note from the doctor stating that.

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 online at [http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/hdcclinicsite.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/hdcclinicsite.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.

Please, plan ahead to attend to this matter at your earliest convenience. When the 2013 school year begins, sixth graders for whom the office has no documentation of the Tdap shot will not be assigned to a teacher.

If you have any questions about this immunization requirement, you may contact Deborah Jackson, the school public health nurse, at 703-704-6100, or email her at deborah.jackson@fairfaxcounty.gov. You also can call the school office at 571-642-6300.
Let’s Have a Picnic

Food Safety Tips

1. Preparing, serving, and eating safe food is important whether we are at home, or on a picnic. We must constantly practice safe food handling to avoid illness.

2. Keep cold foods cold (below 41°F)
   - Chill all meats, egg products, starchy salads, and custards to below 41° F before packing for the picnic.
   - Put cold food into a well insulated, lidded cooler with ice around it.
   - Put the cooler in the passenger area of your car rather than in the hot trunk.
   - Keep your cooler in the shade and avoid opening and shutting the lid too often.

3. Don’t spread the bacteria, which may infect the food and ultimately you.
   - Wash your hands before working with food.
   - Wash your hands again after working with raw meat or poultry.
   - Put the cooked meat onto a clean place for service.

4. Cook meat thoroughly to an internal temperature of 160° F and serve immediately.
   - Put leftovers in the refrigerator immediately when you get home if you have not been gone more than 4 hours.
   - Providing you have practiced all the above safety tips, your food should be safe to keep and eat the next day.

Pack your picnic basket and cooler and enjoy a safe picnic.

Vamos a tener un Picnic
Consejos de Seguridad para su Alimento

1. Preparar, servir, y comer alimentos sano es muy importante endonde sea que estemos, en casa, o en un picnic. Debe mos practicar constantemente el correcto manejo de los alimentos sanos para evitar las enfermedades.

2. Mantenga las comidas frías en el frío (bajo 41°F)
   - Enfrie todas las carnes, productos con huevo, ensaladas que contengan almidon, y cremas bajo 41 ° F antes de empacar para el picnic.
   - Ponga el alimento frío en una nevera portátil con tapa y bien insulada, con hielo alrededor.
   - Ponga la nevera portátil en el carro en el area del pasajero en vez de ponerla en la cajuela caliente.
   - Mantenga su nevera portátil en la sombra, evite abrir y cerrarla muy amenudo.

3. No extienda la bacteria, que pueda infectar su alimento y finalmente a usted.
   - Lave sus manos antes de trabajar con el alimento.
   - Lave sus manos otra vez después de haber trabajado con carne cruda o rojas blancas (aves).
   - Ponga la carne cocinada en un lugar limpio para servicio

4. Cocine la carne a fondo a una temperatura interna de 160° F y sirva inmediatamente.
   - Ponga los restos de comida en el refrigerador inmediatamente cuando llegue a su casa si no ha estado fuera por mas de 4 horas.
   - Si usted ha practicado todos los consejos de seguridad mencionados arriba, su comida debera estar seguro, para guardarla, y comerla, al día siguiente.

Empaque su cesta de picnic, su nevera portátil y disfrute de un picnic.
The ICES WISE GUYS members were able to take turns steering the robot and launching the Frisbees!

Mr. Dereck Turner, the Hayfield HS Robotics Club Advisor, makes an adjustment on the robot as the GEMS girls wait their turn to drive it.

In April, the Hayfield High School Robotics Club brought their robot to ICES. The GEMS girls took turns driving it and launching Frisbees!

The ICES WISE GUYS had a great time catching the Frisbee that the robot launched!

Members of the Hayfield HS Robotics Club explain how they built their competition robot to the ICES WISE GUYS Club at the April meeting.