Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe but half of the first quarter of school has already passed. About this time, it is probable that some students will receive an Interim Report which may spark a conversation with your child. Homework is frequently a topic of these discussions and supporting your child with homework and remembering that it is their homework and not yours is an important task for parents.

Homework is an opportunity to practice previously taught material, as well as to demonstrate responsibility. The extra time spent reading definitely develops reading skills. Extra practice and application of skills help children of all levels of ability. Homework influences achievement because the total time spent studying affects how much is learned. Meaningful, relevant homework practice has definite advantages for learning.

Teachers typically assign between 20 minutes (primary grades) and 45 minutes of homework a night (intermediate grades); an additional 20 -30 minutes of nightly reading may also be assigned. Students in grades 3-6 have an assignment planner, a written record of assignments and due dates. Parents should review their child’s planner on a regular basis. In addition, each teacher’s blackboard site displays weekly or daily homework.

If your child is spending an unusual amount of time on homework or this time is becoming a battleground at home, talk to your child’s teacher. We want to support each child to be a successful learner. We have a large bag of tricks to draw from. Never hesitate to let us know if you have a question or concern.

Remembering to bring homework assignments back to school and give them to the teacher is an important responsibility your child must develop. Help your child develop the habit of always putting completed assignments in the same place each night. Once you have agreed on where completed homework is placed, respect this spot, and don’t let other things clutter or cover it.

Help your child choose a location at home where homework will be done. Even if your child does most homework at another location after school, there still should be a place in the home in which she or he can study. Your child does not need a lot of space to do homework. The kitchen table or a corner of the living room is fine, as along as the area is well-lit and quiet during homework time.

Children respond to the encouragement and support of those people whose opinion they value the most, their parents. Your consistent praise can encourage your child to feel good about his or her ability and motivate them to do their best work. Each night praise your child about some specific accomplishment.

Thank you for being our partner in education,

Susan Z. Owner
## October 2007

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Columbus Day Holiday - NO SCHOOL</td>
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**FIRE PREVENTION WEEK**

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<td></td>
<td>Kinder Field Trip to Burke Garden Ctr.</td>
<td>2nd Gr. Field Trip Huntley Meadows (Coburn/Morris)</td>
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**CUSTODIAN APPRECIATION WEEK**

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<th>27</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1pm Parent Field Day Meeting</td>
<td>Field Day K-3</td>
<td>Field Day 4-6</td>
<td>5-7pm Preschool Fall Dinner, Café</td>
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**NATIONAL SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK**

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<tr>
<td>5-8pm Book Fair Family Night</td>
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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

- **November 5&6** - Student Holidays
- **November 5&6** - Parent/Teacher Conferences
- **November 9** - 5th Gr. Field Trip, Luray Caverns
- **November 14** - Fall Picture Make-up Day
- **November 21** - Two-hour early dismissal
- **November 22-23** Thanksgiving Holiday
Meet Mary Tam - Assistant Principal

I am so happy to be here at Island Creek ES. I enjoyed meeting many of you at arrival and/or dismissals, in the cafeteria, at Kiss and Ride, and at Back to School Night. I am a proud product of Fairfax County Public Schools and attained my degrees at George Mason University. This is my 9th year with Fairfax County. Before becoming an Assistant Principal, I was a classroom teacher, ESOL teacher and School Based Technology Specialist (SBTS). Although I do not have children of my own as of yet, I am the proud Aunt of twin nieces (First graders) who keep me young and enjoying all the fun things life has to offer. This November, I will be an Aunt once again when my niece Emily arrives around Thanksgiving time. I love football and am a loyal Washington Redskins fan. I look forward to more interactions with you and your family. Thank you for your warm welcome to the Island Creek community!

Meet Joy Neyland – GT Specialist

Since my husband was in the Air Force, I have had the privilege of teaching children in Florida, Guam, California, Germany and here in Virginia. I have been teaching for 15 years, with a 12 year break in the middle of that time to stay home with my two children. I have a son who is 21 years old and studying oceanography in Florida. I have a daughter who is 25 years old and working for a British firm here in Washington, D.C. that supports the Department of Homeland Security. My husband is retired from the military and now working for General Dynamics. Our family pets include a panther chameleon lizard and a grey cat (both of which belong to my son) and a wild and crazy rat terrier dog named Maggie, that belongs to my daughter.

I love to travel and I love teaching! I especially enjoy the excitement of challenging students to think and then sharing their “AHA!” moments of understanding!
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. 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 most recent 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.

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

ISLAND CREEK BOOK COLLECTION
A GREAT SUCCESS!

The books collected from Island Creek students have arrived in South Africa! We sent 16 boxes of books that were collected last school year.

The children at Loding Primary School north of Pretoria are thrilled to receive such a wonderful gift. Katy Prouty, a Peace Corps volunteer from Burke, Virginia, is creating libraries in 3 different schools. Everyone is thrilled by the quantity and quality of the books that were donated. They were for every age, from simple picture books to adult novels.

Thank you to all those who made a contribution. It is much appreciated!
Are school breakfasts and lunches nutritious?
Recent Government Accounting Office (GAO) reports state “school meals are healthy and children who eat school meals consume more fruits, vegetables, whole grains and dairy items than children who do not eat school meals.”
Research has shown lunches from home include a sandwich and three times more snack foods. This combination contains more carbohydrates, fat, and sugar. Milk was included in 87% of the school lunches and only 7% of lunches from home.
School lunches sometimes get falsely accused of contributing to the childhood obesity issue but the research is evidence that school lunch plays a major role in keeping our children healthy.

Are school lunches high in fat, sodium and calories?
FCPS meals are planned by Registered Dietitians and according to federal regulations provide 1/3 of the students’ Recommended Dietary Allowances and contain no more than 30 percent calories from fat and 10 percent calories from saturated fat averaged over the week. This information is printed on the parent monthly menu.
Food items such as chicken nuggets and pizza served in our schools are specified to contain limited amounts of fat and sodium. The nutrient content is different than those sold in local fast food restaurants. To reflect the new MyPyramid for Kids – Eat Right, Exercise, Have Fun recommendation whole wheat rolls, pizza crust, breakfast cereals, etc. and a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables are offered on menus. In addition special attention is paid to limit sodium and trans fatty acids.

How do I put money on my child’s lunch account?
Parents have three options to pay for their child’s lunch account:
Online – Using www.myLunchMoney.com. The service is easy to use, convenient, private, and secure. There is a convenience fee of $1.95 per transaction. Once the account is open, parents may check the fund at any time from computer or phone.
Check – Write a check to (child’s school name) Food and Nutrition Services and bring the check to the food service manager’s office. Parents who want their checks for meals only should write “MEALS ONLY” on their check.
Cash – Cash may be brought to the food service manager’s office for deposit on student’s account, or students may pay cash on a daily basis.Status of student’s meal account balances and purchases:
Option #1: How can I view my child(ren)’s meal account balance and meal purchases (meal history) on-line without using the credit card option?If prepayments are made with a check or cash at the school parents can view their child(ren)’s balances and seven days of meal purchases (meal history) on mylunchmoney.com. Log onto mylunchmoney.com and set up an account to access the information.
A $1.95 fee is assessed only when purchasing meals with a credit card. There is no fee for viewing balances and meals purchased with cash or a check.
Option #2: How do parents know when their child’s lunch account is running low? Food service managers have been instructed to notify students when their lunch account has a three-day balance. The individual school determines what friendly method of notification will be used…hand stamp, sticker or note. These will be given to the student each day and hopefully will be carried home. The parent can always contact the food service manager to request the current account balance. A detailed printout of student purchases is available upon request.

What happens if a student forgets his/her lunch money?
Meals are available to students who pay cash or are eligible for free and reduced-price meals. Federal regulations prohibit lunch charges. However, elementary schools have procedures in place to ensure students do not go without lunch. The procedures determined by the school principal may include PTA lunch accounts; peanut butter sandwich, cheese sandwich or cereal and milk. The school office not the food service manager is responsible for the collection of lunch charges. Check to see what procedure is available in your child’s school.

Can parents limit their children a la carte purchases?
To assist parents who do not want their children to purchase a la carte items, food service managers are able to limit money in the students’ account to breakfast and lunch only. A la carte items are offered as a supplement to lunches purchased at school or brought from home. In elementary schools students are limited to only one a la carte item provided they have a lunch from home, or a school lunch.
A la carte items must meet the federal standards for food of minimal nutritional value and must contain at least 5% of one specific nutrient per serving. The nutrients are protein, calcium, Vitamin A and Vitamin C, riboflavin, niacin, thiamine, calcium, and iron. In Fairfax County Public Schools the a la carte nutrient standards have been enhanced to reflect the Virginia Governor’s Health Initiatives.
HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR
ISLAND CREEK
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

OCTOBER

TAKING CHARGE
OF
EDUCATION

The Target “Take Charge of Education” program is really
making a difference. Simply go to
https://target.com/target_group/schools/search_school.jhtml
and enter our school Id (121320) to designate.

Need more information? Please call our Target Education
Hotline at 1-800-316-6142, from 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. (CST),
Monday – Friday.

SIGN UP ONLINE
It’s quick, convenient and you start earning $ right away!

Island Creek Elementary School
Group Name
153435214
Group ID:

Last Name:

First Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Safeway Club Card Number:

Signature*  *Required Information

Send the completed form to:
Safeway, PO Box 8888,
Auburn, CA 95604
Or
Return to any Safeway Customer Service Desk.
Allow 4-6 weeks processing time.

The required information is necessary so you can receive updates on your contributions.

Giant Food A+ BONUSBUCKS

Please remember, if you designated a school last year, you
must re-designate your school this year. From October
- April, every time you shop with your BonusCard, you’ll be
helping your school earn cash.

To access Giant Food online, go to:
www.giantfood.com/bonuscard_aplus_pin.cfm

Our School Number is:
04519
# Check-it Out at the Library

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Library Staff</th>
<th>6th Grade Book Club</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Garrett</td>
<td>Jill Woodall</td>
<td>The second meeting of the 6th Grade Book Club will be October 15th at 7:30AM in the library. The title of the book we are reading in October will be sent home in a flyer. New members are encouraged to attend. See you there!</td>
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<td>Flint</td>
<td>Debi Poole</td>
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<td>Weimer</td>
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<td>Harold</td>
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<td>Kranberg</td>
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<td>Vaughan</td>
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<td>Herman</td>
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<td>Pritchard</td>
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<td>Asiha</td>
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<td>Shroba</td>
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<td>Coburn</td>
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<td>Pilul</td>
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<tr>
<td>Connell</td>
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<td>Connwell</td>
<td>Book Fair Blizzard:</td>
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<td>Leach</td>
<td>Chill Out with a Good Book</td>
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<td>Spioo</td>
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<td>Crennals</td>
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<td>Jackson</td>
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<td>Shillons</td>
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<td>Reese</td>
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<td>Preschool</td>
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<td>Evans</td>
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<td>Markon</td>
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<tr>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Library books should be returned to school the morning of the day each class has library.</th>
<th>Volunteers Welcome!</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benar</td>
<td></td>
<td>If you are interested in helping in the library, please contact Jill Woodall at 571-642-6319 or <a href="mailto:Jill.Woodall@fcps.edu">Jill.Woodall@fcps.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Farker</td>
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<td>Kreutz</td>
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<td>Trudeau</td>
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**Library Catalog**

You can access the Island Creek library catalog from home: [http://library.fcps.edu/ubth-in/express/00/01/49?user_id=42WEB](http://library.fcps.edu/ubth-in/express/00/01/49?user_id=42WEB)
Register For Keep in Touch

Register now for Keep in Touch, a service that allows employees, parents and others interested in emergency messages and other information about the school system to receive updates via e-mail. Participants set up individualized profiles and receive the most up-to-date information as soon as it is available. To sign up, visit the FCPS web site at www.fcps.edu and choose ‘Keep in Touch’ on the left hand side. Or, visit direct: http://fcps.medianext.com/fcps/signup.html Click on the following images to view the complete graphic which can then be placed in your newsletter.

Text Message Option Added to Keep in Touch

Employees, parents and others interested in emergency messages from the school system can now receive those messages to cell phones and other text message devices. Register for this service at the FCPS home page, www.fcps.edu; choose ‘Keep in Touch’ on the left hand side.

New subscribers should start by entering an e-mail address. Current subscribers should select the “update my profile” link. To receive emergency messages to a cell phone, simply enter the cell phone number in the fields provided. You will receive a short version of the e-mail text. Please be aware that text messaging fees charged by your service provider do apply.

Questions can be directed to Rose Kaspersen in the Office of Community Relations by e-mailing her at: Rose.Kaspersen@fcps.edu.

FCPS Parent Information Nights Scheduled for October 2007

An overview of the continuum of gifted and talented services, screening, testing and identification procedures, and timelines.

Visit our web site about this event at www.fcps.edu/DIS/gt/connections.htm

Attend the session that works for you:

October 15, 2007 • 7:30 - 9pm
Oakton High School
2900 Sutton Road
Vienna, VA 22181

October 18, 2007 • 7:30 - 9pm
Annandale High School
4700 Medford Drive
Annandale, VA 22003

October 23, 2007 • 7:30 - 9pm
West Potomac High School
6500 Quander Road
Alexandria, VA 22307

October 24, 2007 • 7:30 - 9pm
Langley High School
6520 Georgetown Pike
McLean, VA 22101

Meetings are open to the public. No registration is required.
Responsibility is the character quality of the month. We will be going into the classrooms this month discussing responsibility and how it relates to choices and consequences. **RESPONSIBILITY = CHOICE + CONSEQUENCE.**

Responsibility is the ability to recognize and understand limits and consequences, earned privileges and responsibility. For example, if a student chooses to play outside before doing his/her homework, then finds him/herself too tired to complete it; the consequence will be a lower grade. The student may also lose the privilege to decide for him/herself when to play.

Responsibility is a concept that blends reliability and accountability. Children, as they mature, must gradually learn that they are responsible for themselves and accountable for their actions. They must learn that responsibility requires commitment and good judgment.

Children learn to be responsible by:

- Observing responsible adults
- Having specific tasks assigned to them
- Doing, with trial and error being their greatest teacher

You are your child’s “partner in responsibility.” You must help guide your child through the daily opportunities that encourage responsibilities throughout the many years of childhood.

**Job Description for “Partner in Responsibility”**

1. Be a good role model. Tackle your family and work responsibilities with a positive attitude.
2. Assign your child age-appropriate tasks that involve caring for him/herself and helping with family chores.
3. Help your child understand the connection between responsibility and privilege; give appropriate additional privileges as your child demonstrates his/her ability to manage them. When he/she is blatantly irresponsible, withhold corresponding privileges.
4. Expect mistakes along the way; allow your child to make mistakes without feeling guilty or inadequate. Encourage and guide your child who has failed to learn from his/her mistakes and try again.
5. Give your child recognition for jobs well done and responsibilities maintained.

Your partners in character education,

Virginia Hulke
Steff Shelesky
School Counselors

This year at Island Creek Elementary School we are continuing with L.I.F.E. (Literacy is for everyone). “Literacy is no longer used as a single finite thing. It is a flexible group of skills and strategies that are closely linked to context and purpose. Literacy is the ability to read, write, use written information and to write appropriately in a range of context. It also involves the integration of speaking, listening, viewing, and critical thinking with reading and writing. It includes the cultural knowledge which enables a speaker, writer, or reader to recognize and use language appropriate to different social situations.”

This year we will be focusing on deepening our understanding of the comprehension strategies which include: monitoring comprehension, activating prior knowledge and connecting, questioning, inferring, visualizing, synthesizing and determining importance.

The components that make up a balanced literacy program include:

- Shared reading
- Independent reading
- Guided reading
- DEAR time
- Literature Circles
- Shared writing
- Independent writing
- Interactive writing
- Writer’s notebook
- Writer’s Workshop
- Word Study

Please help promote at home how important reading and writing is!
ART SUPPLIES NEEDED

If you happen to be looking for a good home for any clean yogurt cups, old button down dress shirts or large t-shirts please donate them to the art room. We are in need of yogurt cups for paint stations as well as smocks. Thank you for your help we appreciate it!

SAVE THE DATE

December 3, 2007

Island Creek Elementary School will host a shopping night at the Kingstowne Barnes & Noble Bookstore. This will be a fundraising event with lots of fun activities planned for the students.

Dear "Kiss and Ride" Parents,

You will notice red cones guiding a right hand only exit from the "Kiss and Ride" lot. These cones were recommended and provided by the Fairfax County Police Department in response to our concern for the safety of the school environment as well as the local community.

The purpose of the cones is to restrict vehicles from making left hand turns from the "Kiss and Ride" driveway onto southbound Morning View Lane. These cones will be erected and removed before and after our school’s arrival and departure time.

Here is a visual that will provide additional guidance:

![Diagram of school parking lot with red cones indicating right hand only exit]

We appreciate your support of our efforts to ensure the safety of all our students.

P.S. Thank you for always maintaining a slow and safe speed in the "Kiss and Ride" lane and parking lot.
P.S.S. Thank you for always making sure your child’s seat belt is fastened.
This year Island Creek Elementary will be having a Yearbook Cover contest.

If you are interested in entering this year's cover contest, please submit your entry on 8 1/2 X 11 Unlined paper. Your drawing should be aligned vertically on the page. No pencil please—we need color!! Turn your entry into the office no later than November 2nd. GOOD LUCK!

Note: Entries submitted on lined paper, drawn in pencil or submitted on incorrectly sized paper will be disqualified.

Grand Prize—Your design will be on the front cover of the Yearbook.

1st-2nd Place Winners—Your design will be on the back cover.

TIPS:
- Use your imagination
- Be Creative
- Use lots of color
- Have Fun!!!