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 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.

Your partner in education,

Michael G. Macrina
Principal

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

Please help keep our school and school grounds in tip top shape by doing the following:

● If you see trash, please pick it up and dispose of it in a trash receptacle.
● Please do not allow children to hang from trees or run through bushes and garden areas.
● Stay on the sidewalk and off grassy areas.
● If you see a project that could improve the appearance of the school and you are willing to help, let the office know.

We are in our 9th year and we would like to keep our school and grounds in the best condition possible. Thanks for your support!
# May 2012

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<td>9:45 6th grade panoramic photo</td>
<td>6th Grade Field Trip</td>
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<td>3:30 Lead</td>
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<td>9am 6th Gr. Parent Mtg. Rm. 254</td>
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<td>3:30 GOTS</td>
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<td>3:30 GOTS</td>
<td>7:30 6th Gr. Book Group</td>
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<td>9am 1st Gr. Mother’s Day Tea</td>
<td>5th &amp; 6th Gr. SOL Testing</td>
<td>3:30 GOTS</td>
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<td>1pm PTA FLEX French</td>
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<td>Kinder Field Trip</td>
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<td>1pm PTA FLEX French</td>
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<td>9am Are you smarter than a 4th grader?</td>
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<td>5th &amp; 6th Gr. SOL Testing</td>
<td>4th Grade SOL Testing</td>
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<td>STUDENT HOLIDAY No School</td>
<td>SOL Makeups</td>
<td>3rd Grade SOL Testing</td>
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<td>3rd Grade SOL Testing</td>
<td>7pm 5th &amp; 6th Grade Talent Show</td>
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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 butterflies and bugs in the library. A SmartBoard activity is part of each lesson. Preschoolers do a wonderful job using the SmartBoard!

- All kindergarten classes have been learning about nonfiction text features. Students selected a photograph of an animal and wrote their own caption for it. Kindergartners wrote their captions using Pixie. 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 and Fiction sections are in alphabetical order by the author’s last name and that dictionaries and indexes are also in alphabetical order.

- All 2nd grade classes have been learning about poetry. In the library students have been learning about haikus, sensory poetry, diamante poetry and cinquains. They are wonderful poets.

- 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 1st
It is hard to believe but the end of the school year is drawing to a close. All student library books should be returned to the school library no later than Friday, June 1st!

6th Grade Book Club
The 6th grade book club is meeting, Thursday, May 10th at 7:30am in the library. We are reading The Throne of Fire by Rick Riordan. See you there!!

You can access the library catalog from home: http://libcat.fcps.edu/uhtbin/cgiisirs/i/x/0/49749?user_id=429WEB

Celebrate Children’s Book Week May 7th-13th, Read with your Child!
Counselor’s Corner

Pool Safety

Swimming pools will be opening soon. With that in mind we are sending you a few pool safety tips to use with your children for the summer. Some are for public pools and some are for privately owned pools.

- Never leave children alone in or near the pool or spa, even for a moment.
- Keep rescue equipment (a shepherd's hook - a long pole with a hook on the end - and life preserver) and a portable telephone near the pool. Choose a shepherd's hook and other rescue equipment made of fiberglass or other materials that do not conduct electricity.
- Avoid inflatable swimming aids such as "floaties." They are not a substitute for approved life vests and can give children a false sense of security.
- Children age 4 and older should be taught to swim. Parents may choose to start swimming lessons before age 4 if their children are developmentally ready, but swim programs should never be seen as "drown proofing" a child of any age.
- Whenever infants or toddlers are in or around water, an adult should be within arm’s length, providing "touch supervision."
- Avoid Entrapment: Suction from pool and spa drains can trap an adult underwater. Do not use a pool or spa if there are broken or missing drain covers. Ask your pool operator if your pool or spa’s drains are compliant with the Pool and Spa Safety Act.
- Make certain children do not run poolside. They are susceptible to falls and could fall unconscious into the pool, or sustain other injuries.
- Ensure children know not to go into the pool unless adult supervision is present.
- Teach children how to be safe when diving for toys in the pool; they can become obsessed with getting the object and staying under water too long.
- Enjoy your family time at the pool. Stay safe and happy and make new memories whenever you can!

Your partners in Character Education

Virginia Hulke
Stefanie Shelesky
School Counselors

Source: http://www.aap.org/family/tipppool.htm
IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR PARENTS OF CURRENT 5TH GRADERS

It’s not too early to check!

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).

Please check your child’s immunization records carefully. If your child is required to have a Tdap booster, we ask that you provide documentation to the school office before the end of the school year. 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.

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/hdclinicsite.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. When the 2012 school year begins on September 4, 2012, sixth graders will not be assigned to a teacher without documentation being received by the school.

If you have any questions about the immunization requirement, you may contact Deborah Jackson, the school public health nurse, at 703-704-6100, or email her at deborah.jackson@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Band Concert

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE ISLAND CREEK BAND SPRING CONCERT THURSDAY, May 3rd AT 7PM ISLAND CREEK CAFETERIA

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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Let's Have a Picnic
Food Safety Tips

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.

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.

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.

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.

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Vamos a tener un Picnic
Consejos de Seguridad para su Alimento

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

Mantenga las comidas frías en el frio (bajo 41°F)
- Enfrié todas las carnes, productos con huemo, ensaladas que contengan almidon, y cremas bajo 41 ° F antes de emparar para el picnic.
- Ponga el alimento frio 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.

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 despues de haber trabajado con carne cruda o rojas blancas (aves).
- Ponga la carne cocinada en un lugar limpio para servicio.

Cocine la carne a fondo a una temperature interna de 160° F y sirva immediatamente.
- 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 guardarlo, y comerlo, al dia siguiente.

Empaque su cesta de picnic, su nevera portátil y disfrute de un picnic.