Parents – Thank you for a terrific opening! The students were prepared for the first days of school and this made for a smooth transition! Way to go!

### 2015-2016 SCHOOL HOURS

**Kindergarten - 6th Grade**

| Monday - Friday | 8:30-3:15 |

**Preschool/PAC**

| AM Session | Monday - Friday | 9:15am - 12:35pm |
| PM Session | Monday - Friday | 12:35pm - 3:55pm |
| PAC class | Monday and Wednesday | 9:15am-12:35pm |
| PAC class | Tuesday, Thursday, Friday | 9:15am-3:55pm |

**STUDENT ARRIVAL / SCHOOL OPENING**

The building opens for all students at 8:10 am. Classes begin promptly at 8:30 am. Students are expected to be in the classroom when the bell rings at 8:30 am. Attendance records are marked “tardy” when a student is late for and not in their classroom by 8:30 am. Do not send your child to school before 8:10 am. There is no supervision of students before 8:10 am. There is also no supervision after school dismisses at 3:15 pm.
**ABSENCES AND TARDIES**

When parents know their child is going to be absent or tardy from school, they should call Island Creek’s Attendance Line answering machine at 571-642-6363 by 8:30 am. Messages can be left on this line 24 hours a day. Parents can also send this information via email to IslandCreekESAAttendance@fcps.edu. This system is designed as a safeguard to ensure that children reach school. Parents should give their child’s name, the teacher’s name, reason for absence and/or if your student is sick, a general description of the illness. This will eliminate the need for the school to make a call to the home or workplace to confirm absences. In addition, it is important for the school to know if your child has contracted a communicable disease such as chicken pox, conjunctivitis, or strep throat. State law requires that parents provide a satisfactory explanation for a child’s absence for all or any part of the school day. Absences are understandable in situations of: illness; death in the family; medical or dental appointment; observance of a religious holiday; or a family emergency.

Respecting the importance of attendance, parents of students with excessive absences and unexcused tardies can expect follow up from the school administration. An accumulation of unjustified absences and/or tardies is reason for the school administration to follow up. The attendance guidelines for Island Creek are as follows:

- When unexcused absences or tardies accumulate during a quarter, a letter from the principal’s office will be sent home.
- When additional absences or tardies accumulate, a follow-up letter will be sent.
- If unexcused tardies or absences continue, a conference and a referral could be made to Fairfax County Public Schools attendance officer.

Families are expected to make travel plans during times of school vacations. Parents should seriously consider educational implications of disrupting educational progress for family holidays. Absences for family holidays when school is in session are considered unexcused. Teachers do not provide homework assignments for family holidays. Make up class work can be requested from the teacher after two consecutive days of absence from school due to excused absences.

**SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY**

School Safety and Security are high priorities at Island Creek. As a security measure all staff members and workers display school ID badges. All individuals entering Island Creek must sign in at the front office, and receive a visitor’s badge each time they enter the building. Please be prepared to leave your picture ID when you sign-in. This allows our staff to easily recognize you, and for security to be able to identify all adults in the building at any given time.

**EMERGENCY CARE FORM, HEALTH FORM & STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES ACKNOWLEDGEMENT PAGE**

Thank you for returning your completed emergency care form, health form & Student Rights and Responsibilities acknowledgement page. If you have not turned them in, please do so ASAP.

**DOES YOUR CHILD WANT TO JOIN BAND OR STRINGS THIS YEAR???

GREAT NEWS! Band and Strings lessons happen during specials, so your child will NOT miss out on classroom instruction! Look for the signup forms in the Thursday folders and SIGN UP TODAY!!

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

- September 22 – Fall Pictures for Preschool & Grades 4-6
- September 23 – Fall Picture for Kinder – 3rd grade
- September 29 - Back to School Night for Preschool - 2nd Grade
- September 30 - Back to School Night for Grades 3-6
ADVANCED ACADEMIC PROGRAMS (AAP) CONTINUUM OF SERVICES

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) offers a continuum of advanced academic services for all students in grades K-8. Learning experiences are designed to develop higher-level thinking through enrichment, acceleration, and extension of the Program of Studies (POS). Teachers, administrators, and advanced academic resource teachers (AARTs) work together to provide the following levels of services:

• Critical and Creative Thinking Lessons, Grades K-6 (Level I)
The first level is provided to all students in grades kindergarten through grade six and consists of model lessons that are designed to teach critical and creative thinking skills. The lessons are modeled in all classrooms by AARTs and the thinking strategies are then used throughout the year by classroom teachers and other teachers who work with students. Student responses to these lessons are used as part of the identification process for levels II-IV. Parents may also practice these strategies during family conversations and activities. A description of the nine critical and creative thinking strategies can be found at http://www.fcps.edu/is/aap/level1.shtml.

• Differentiated Lessons in Areas of Academic Strength, Grades K-6 (Level II)
The AART collaborates with classroom teachers to provide additional challenge through lessons and resources that extend and enrich the POS. Screening for this level of service is ongoing throughout the school year. The Young Scholars Model begins at this level and is designed to find and nurture advanced academic potential in students from historically underrepresented populations.

• Part-Time Advanced Academic Programs, Grades 3-6 (Level III)
Students identified by a local school screening committee for part-time advanced academic services Level III are challenged through models and strategies designed to extend and enrich the POS in the four core subject areas. Screening for this level of service is ongoing throughout the school year.

• Full-Time Advanced Academic Placement, Grades 3-8 (Level IV)
Students found eligible for placement in full-time Advanced Academic Programs Level IV through a central selection process receive a highly challenging instructional program in the four core subject areas. Screening for this level of service occurs in the fall for students who are new to FCPS and in the spring for all other students. The referral deadline is October 9, 2015 for students who are new to FCPS and January 15, 2016 for spring screening. Additional information is available in the Parent Information Packet, published on the AAP website, http://www.fcps.edu/is/aap.

• International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program (IBMYP): Selected Schools, Grades 6-10
The IBMYP is designed for students ages 11-16. The program helps students develop the knowledge, understanding, attitudes, and skills necessary to participate actively and responsibly in a changing world. The curriculum is supported by the fundamental concepts of intercultural awareness, holistic learning, and communication.

• Honors, Grades 7-8
Advanced and/or accelerated classes are available for students in grades 7-8 through an open enrollment process. Students receive instruction that is differentiated for advanced learners in the four core subjects in one or more areas of academic strength or interest.
SCREENING

Multiple criteria are reviewed to determine eligibility for all FCPS advanced academic services. The local school committee determines student eligibility for part-time school-based services. The countywide central selection committee determines eligibility for full-time AAP Level IV placement.

TESTING

In the spring, the Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT) is administered to all FCPS first grade students. In the fall, the CogAT- Custom Form is administered to all FCPS second grade students. During the fall testing cycle, the NNAT and/or Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) may be administered to students in grades 3-6 who do not have an ability test score. A second grade screening pool is established using the test results from first and second grade testing. Students in the second grade pool are automatically screened for full-time AAP Level IV placement. Parents or guardians may exercise a one-time retest option during the fall testing cycle.

REFERRALS for FULL-TIME ADVANCED ACADEMIC PLACEMENT LEVEL IV (Grades 2–7)

Parents or guardians of students not in the second grade screening pool may initiate the full-time AAP Level IV screening process by completing and submitting an Advanced Academic Program Level IV Referral Form to the local school principal no later than January 15, 2016. No late referrals will be accepted. Second grade students not in the pool and all students in grades 3-7 are screened only by referral. Forms are available on the AAP website (http://www.fcps.edu/is/aap/forms.shtml) and in the Parent Information Packet available at the local school. Parents or guardians of students who are in the second grade pool will be notified by the school. Students who are not in the second grade pool will not receive notification. The benchmark score used to create the second grade pool will be published on the AAP website mid-January.

Please do not wait for test scores before submitting a referral for your student in grades 2-7 as there will be no referrals for level IV screening accepted past the January 15, 2016 deadline. If you are waiting for test scores and would like your student screened for level IV please submit the referral by the published deadline (even if you have not received the test scores for your student).

PARENT INFORMATION MEETING

A parent information meeting will be held at Island Creek Elementary School’s cafeteria on Thursday, October 1, 2015 at 8:45am. The AART, Mrs. Hoda Kwaik, will provide information about levels of service and examples at Island Creek as well as explain and answer questions about the screening processes for part-time school based and full-time Level IV services. The meeting is open to all K-6 parents.