Dear Parents,

November and December are traditionally an exciting and busy time of the year as holiday plans begin to take shape. It is also a wonderful time to reflect on all the things for which we are grateful.

Island Creek is thankful for our motivated students who are eager to learn and our exceptional staff who work hard every day to encourage and inspire your children. We are so grateful for our extraordinary PTA and volunteers who support our learning community to come together, as one, in the best interest of our students.

As you prepare to spend time with your family and friends, remember that you are also part of the Island Creek family and community; each playing an important role in our success. Together, let’s bring the same commitment and enthusiasm into the new year.

As we move into 2016, school safety and security continue to be a high priority at Island Creek. We have reviewed our policies and will continue to tighten our procedures as we move into the new year. Please review the items on the following page for more details.

Best wishes to you and your family for a happy, healthy and safe holiday season!

Mike Macrina
Principal
Dear Parents and Guardians,

School safety and security are high priorities at Island Creek. As we move into 2016, we will continue to tighten our safety procedures to ensure the continued safety of our students and staff.

As part of our safety plan, all outside doors are locked throughout the school day. Due to the absence of FCPS supervision in the mornings, the front doors will only be unlocked from 8:10-8:30am for student arrival. In addition, we staff our Kiss and Ride entrance from 8:10 until 8:30. We ask that students do not arrive to school before 8:10 as there will be no access to the building before that time. If your student attends SACC they may enter through the SACC entrance located at Door 1.

After 8:30 the front doors will again be locked, and visitors will need to press the buzzer to be allowed entry. You will be greeted by an FCPS staff member using the intercom. You may be asked to show a picture ID via the camera located by the buzzer. Once in the building, please come to the office to sign in, present your ID, and receive a visitor’s badge. Visitors must sign out when leaving the building and exit through the main doors. This will allow us to know who is in the building at all times.

At dismissal, we ask that parents wait outside until 3:15. Our students are still moving about the building and any congestion in the front lobby or other common areas pose a safety and security concern. In addition, we ask that students and siblings stay with parents and are not allowed to run around in front of the school during dismissal times. This is a safety issue as we are trying to get buses, daycare vans and students safely off the school property.

We appreciate your understanding and support as we continue to improve the safety of our students and staff.

Sincerely,

Michael G. Macrina
Principal
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<td>7:50-8:20 Orff Club</td>
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<td>7-8:30pm PTA Meeting, Library</td>
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**SCA TOYS FOR TOTS COLLECTION - Nov 30th through Dec 11th**

Winter Break 12/21 - 1/3

Winter Break 12/21 - 1/3
Did you know?

From October 1-31st, Island Creek students checked out 6,373 print books from the library. The most popular author was Dav Pilkey. He is author of the Ricky Ricotta series, the Ook and Gluk series and the Captain Underpants series. We have 21 books by Pilkey in our collection. The most popular genre of books checked out are mystery and detective stories. Students also read 1,232 myOn (electronic) books during October.

Pebble Go includes four online databases for the beginning researcher. The databases include written text, audio and video clips. Access to Pebble Go is available from school and home to all FCPS students and staff. Username and password information is available on @ The Library with Mrs. Woodall, 2015-2016 Blackboard site.
**DECEMBER**

**60th Day of School**

We will celebrate on

**December 8, 2015**

On Tuesday, December 8th we will celebrate the 60th day of school. Come dressed in 60’s style to celebrate this special day.

We will begin our day doing many activities counting to 60 and participating in other fun activities. Children should try to dress in 60s attire.

**IT'S GROOVY BABY!!**

Dress in psychedelic prints, highlighter colors, and mismatched patterns, bell-bottom jeans, tie-dye, and batik fabrics as well as paisley prints.

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**IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR PARENTS OF CURRENT 5TH GRADERS**

It’s not too early to check!

Effective July 1, 2014, all students in Virginia must receive a booster dose of Tdap vaccine prior to entering sixth grade.

If your child is 11 years old, he or she must get the Tdap immunization and provide documentation to the school.
If your child is still 10 years old, he or she may receive the Tdap vaccine, Boostrix, which is approved for 10 years old, or you may wait until the 11th birthday to receive the vaccine approved for 11-year-olds.
If your child’s 11th birthday is after the first day of school, your child must have a medical exemption from the doctor stating when he or she will receive the Tdap immunization in order to attend school.

Please check your child’s immunization records carefully. If your child is required to have a Tdap booster, we ask that your child receive it and that you provide documentation to the school as soon as possible. This documentation can be a copy of your child’s immunization record, or a note from your physician listing the date of his or her 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 listed on the back of this letter and are available online at [http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/hdclinicsite.htm](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 clinic with them.

It is most important that you attend to this matter soon. Sixth graders cannot begin school in the fall without documentation of having had the Tdap booster.

Please plan ahead to attend to this matter at your earliest convenience. When the 2016 school year begins, sixth graders for whom the office has no documentation of the Tdap shot will not be assigned to a teacher.

Please contact Laura Lux, the school public health nurse if you have any questions. She can be reached at 703-704-5203 or by email at Laura.Lux@fairfaxcounty.gov.
NUTRIFAX
Healthy Eating for the Holidays

Plan for balance, variety, and moderation during the holiday season. Eat your favorite baked goods and other holiday specialties, but be reasonable about your portion sizes and number of servings. Always choose a variety of foods following the MyPlate guidelines.

Healthy Tips

- Fill up on vegetables and fruits first.
- Fix vegetables by marinating or sautéing in broth instead of adding butter.
- Use reduced-fat or non-fat dressings or spreads instead of butter and cream-based sauces.
- Add spices, not fat, to add flavor to your meals. Try cinnamon, cardamom, all spice, and cloves.
- Avoid oversized portions. Use a smaller plate, bowl, or cup for meals and snack.
- Focus on family and friends instead of food. Include a family activity such as a brisk walk around the neighborhood.

NUTRIFAX
Comidas Saludables para los Días Feriados

Planee balance, variedad y moderación durante la temporada navideña. Coma sus horneados favoritos y sus otras especialidades de la temporada, pero sea razonable en cuanto a los tamaños y números de porciones a servir. Escoja siempre una variedad de comidas siguiendo los consejos de MyPlate.

Consejos Saludables

- Complete su plato primero con frutas y vegetales.
- Prepare vegetales marinándolos o sofriálos en caldos en vez de usar mantequilla.
- Use aderezos reducidos en grasas o sin grasas o cúbralos con salsas cremosas en vez de mantequilla.
- Use sazonadores, sin grasa, para aumentar el sabor a sus comidas. Pruebe canela, cardamomo, añada especias y clavos de olor.
- Evite servir porciones muy grandes. Use un plato más pequeño, tazón o taza para las comidas y meriendas.
- Enfóquese en la familia y amigos en vez de la comida. Incluya a sus amigos en actividades como ser un paseo ligero alrededor de su barrio.
WHAT’S HAPPENING ON THE ISLAND?

Our Kinder Crocs have had a busy month! In November, we spent time learning about the Pilgrims and Native Americans and the first Thanksgiving. We talked about how it was long ago compared to what we do today. We also held our annual Thanksgiving Feast. The students dressed up like Pilgrims and Native Americans and shared Thanksgiving songs with our families.

Students participated in a taste test of holiday treats!

Students enjoyed working on Thanksgiving crafts.

Students celebrated the 50th day of school by dressing in 50’s fashion!

The Preschoolers love to learn new songs and hear new stories using our Smartboard.