



October 8, 2008

THE CENTERVILLE CONNECTION

Principal's Constellation Comments

Thank you goes out to the Centerville Community that was able to join us for our Math Night Tuesday evening. It was a time of hands-on activities and new understanding of FCPS math curriculum and one of the tools used to instruct those goals, Math Investigations. I would also like to thank the CES staff members who gave extra time into the evening to help facilitate the program. If you were unable to make the meeting, or have questions, please feel free to call myself, Mrs. Keefer or your child's teacher.

Attendance News

FCPS has new attendance guidelines: A student is counted present for a full day if they are in attendance for 4 hours or more. A student is counted present for a half day if they are in attendance for at least 2 hours, but less than 4 hours.

Field Trip Payments

We need your assistance! When sending payments with your child to cover the cost of an upcoming field trip, please send either a check made payable to CES for the exact amount of the trip, or cash in the exact amount of the trip. We have no mechanism in place to be able to make change and/or return cash to a student. Only exact amounts will be accepted by the teacher.

Elect to Read/Vote for Books Campaign

CES students are getting into the election excitement by participating in their own book election campaigns until the end of October. Classes have voted on a favorite book and are using September and October to campaign for that title in anticipation of the big election day on Friday, October 31 - (RED, WHITE & BLUE day at CES). Help your child be an informed voter by encouraging them to read all the book selections from their grade level. A list of the titles was sent home in September. This list may also be viewed on our website and at the Urbana Public Library, where they are graciously holding copies of these titles for our students. READ – IT'S YOUR RIGHT!!

28th Annual Frederick County Elementary Science and Engineering Fair

The 28th Annual Frederick County Elementary Science and Engineering Fair will be held on Saturday, December 6th at Ballenger Creek Elementary School. Students interested in participating in this event should notify their teacher for an official entry form and complete it by the end of October. All forms will need to be returned and reviewed at school. Entries will then be sent to the Science Curriculum Office the first week of November. If interested, please review the guidelines and suggestions posted on fspsteach.org (under science/elementary/science fair 2008-2009) or contact Mrs. VanDeusen (240-566-0157) if you have any further questions. Please note that this is the county fair and that Centerville students will also have an opportunity to participate in the school-sponsored science fair in the spring.

2008-2009 Elementary Young Authors' Contest

The State of Maryland International Reading Association Council (SoMIRAC) has announced the opening of the 2008-2009 Elementary Young Authors' Contest. Students in grades two through five are eligible to enter a previously unsubmitted short story/essay or poem to Mrs. Verdi (CES Reading Specialist) by **December 19**,

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2008. Each entry may have only one author, and one entry per author may be submitted for each category. A committee of teachers will select one short story/essay and one poem per grade level to represent CES at the county level. In January, the Frederick County Reading Council will select one short story/essay and one poem per grade level to submit to the state contest. Please contact Mrs. Verdi at susan.verdi@fcps.org for more information.

Students Returning after Dismissal to Retrieve Forgotten Items in Classrooms

Recently, many students have been returning to Centerville to retrieve forgotten items and homework. After 3:45 it becomes very difficult to have staff members available to escort visitors in the building. At this time, and through the evening, our custodians work on a tight schedule to make sure classrooms are clean and ready for students the next day, so their time is limited as well. If you become a parent in this situation, simply write the teacher a note. Often, students learn from making mistakes and forgetting an item can be a learning opportunity too. Thank you for your help.

Cafeteria Guidelines

As a safety precaution for our students, we require that no glass containers be sent with students in packed lunches. We request that all containers sent with students be made of plastic to avoid any breakage or possible cuts or injuries to our students.

To the Parents of Middle School Students

Please keep in mind that any middle school students who wish to visit teachers in our school, including the portable classrooms, must contact the teacher and set up an appointment to visit after 4:00 p.m. The afternoon dismissal is a time that staff is focused on making sure current CES students get dismissed quickly and safely. Thanks for your cooperation in helping us maintain order during our dismissal time.

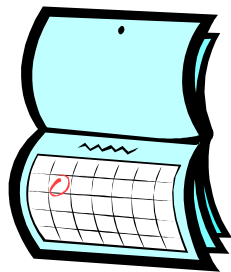
Centerville Website

Our website has moved! Please take note that our website address has changed. The new web address is <http://schools.fcps.org/ces>, and we are in the process of a redesign. If you have an idea that you'd like to see incorporated into our new website, please contact Mr. Hanna at 240-566-0138 or centervillees@gmail.com.

Learning Opportunity

On October 18th, FCPS is sponsoring a special collaborative event for parents/guardians of young children, ages birth through five. It will take place at Hood College and be held from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. This conference, *Beautiful Beginnings and Beyond*, is being put together by many early childhood groups and interested community members, though FCPS is the lead agency. It is geared to help families understand ages and stages of development, cognitive growth, and the importance of play. There are presenters from a myriad of agencies and community organizations, including doctors, child care leaders, librarians, FCPS staff and more. Following a brief introduction and key note speaker, there will be many workshops for families to attend, including one that is a welcome to FCPS. There will be door prizes, interpreters when needed, and light refreshments. All of this will be **free** to the public. See the attached flyer and please plan to attend this wonderful event.

Yours in education,
Steve Raff & Gina Keefer
Administrative Team



Dates to Remember

- 10/9/08 – **School Closed** – Yom Kippur
- 10/10/08 – Book Fair Premier for Families, 4:00-7:00 p.m., Media Center
(Safari attire optional)
- 10/13/08 – **2-Hour Late Arrival for Students** – Doors open at 10:30 a.m.
(Breakfast and Lunch will be served)
- 10/14/08 – **4-Hour Late Arrival for Students** – Doors open at 12:30 p.m.
(No lunch will be served and dismissal is at normal time)
- 10/15/08 – **4-Hour Late Arrival for Students** – Doors open at 12:30 p.m.
(No lunch will be served and dismissal is at normal time)
- 10/16/08 – **3 1/2 –Hour Early Dismissal** – Dismissal time is **12:00 Noon**
(Lunch will be served)
- 10/17/08 – **School Closed**
- 10/24/08 – Box Tops Contest ends