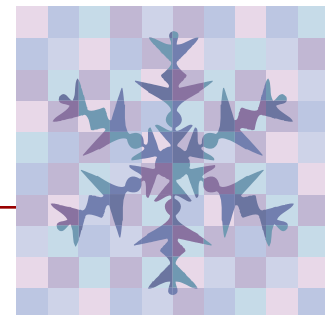


The Banner

FCPS



Principals' Corner

*The Holiday season is upon us and the time to celebrate with family and friends is here. It is also the time of year when our hearts inspire the spirit of giving and generosity. During the holiday season there are many people in need of help and kindness. Let's practice and teach our children the importance of giving of ourselves. I'm personally very appreciative for the generosity our staff, parents, local businesses and community members show us throughout the year. Without your support, many things would not be possible. Thank you all.

*On November 11 Washington Mill held its annual Veterans Day

Breakfast in honor of those that give so much for our well being and freedoms. The event was a huge success. With many veterans and active duty parents in attendance, our own Washington Mill students sang patriotic songs as a tribute to their service.

*This November 21st we celebrated our annual Thanksgiving luncheon for students, staff, and families. A big thank you to all of you who were able to attend and also to those that helped beyond attending by serving or setting up. Everything was decorated perfectly and ran so smoothly. Families and students couldn't have smiled or enjoyed

themselves any more than they did. I also saw many of our staff and parents staying with students that didn't have parents who were able to come. Thank you for that. Like always, you made sure every student had something or someone to be thankful for.

Finally, I'd personally like to take this opportunity to wish all of our families a Happy Holiday. Regardless of your faith, cultural or beliefs, this is a time of well wishing and caring throughout our community. The thoughtfulness and the sense of caring we experience at this time knows no discrimination. Our Washington Mill community continues to reach out to many

Issue 3

December 5, 2013

this holiday, from those in need among us to those in need we will never meet. Blessings to you all.

**See bottom of page 3 for Mr. Bennink's volunteer form.*

Washington Mill ES Contact Information

9100 Cherry Tree Drive
Alexandria VA 22309

Office Phone #: 703-619-2500

See us on the web at:
[www.fcps.edu/
WashingtonMILLES/](http://www.fcps.edu/WashingtonMILLES/)

**Please call the main office
to report an absence**
703-619-2525

Administration

- Brad Bennink *Principal*
blbennink@fcps.edu
- Kristin Bower *Assistant Principal*
knbower@fcps.edu
- Carolyn Haydon *Assistant Principal*
crhaydon@fcps.edu



Rincon del Director

*La época de festividades esta sobre nosotros y aquí, es tiempo para celebrar con la familia y los amigos.

También, es tiempo del año, cuando nuestros corazones son inspirados por un espíritu dadivoso y generoso. Durante esta época de festividades hay mucha gente en necesidad de ayuda y de bondad. Pongamos en práctica ese espíritu dadivoso, bondadoso y, enseñemos a nuestros niños la importancia de dar. Personalmente, aprecio enormemente por la generosidad de todo el personal de la escuela, de los padres, los negocios que están alrededor nuestro y, miembros de la comunidad, mostrándonos generosidad y bondad a través de todo el año. Sin su apoyo muchas cosas no serian posibles de lograrlas. Gracias a todos ustedes.

*El 11 de noviembre Washington Mill tuvo su acostumbrado desayuno en honor a los Veteranos. Aquellos que dieron mucho por nuestra seguridad y libertad. Este evento fue un tremendo éxito. Muchos veteranos y miembros activos, padres de nuestros niños, se hicieron presente en esta oportunidad. Nuestro propio coro de estudiantes de Washington Mill, entonó el himno nacional como un tributo al servicio que ellos prestaron y que todavía lo hacen.

*El 21 de noviembre celebramos el acostumbrado almuerzo de; Acción de Gracias.(Thanksgiving) un tiempo para compartir con estudiantes, padres, personal y toda la familia. Un enorme Gracias! a todos los que pudieron participar y también a toda la gente que nos ayudó, atendiendo y sirviendo a los participantes. Todo estaba perfectamente decorado y muy organizado, en un ambiente de mucha tranquilidad. Los estudiantes y familias no podían verse mas contentos de como se veían ese día. También vi a muchos miembros del personal de la escuela y, padres de familia, quedándose con estudiantes que no pudieron gozar de la presencia de sus propios padres. Gracias por esta atención. Como siempre, ustedes se aseguraron de que cada estudiante tenga algo o alguien por quien dar gracias.

*El próximo miércoles 11 de diciembre a las 6:30 es nuestra fiesta anual. El coro, la banda ese importante día. Los niños han estado trabajando bastante para esta presentación, y les garantizamos que los llenará con el espíritu de Navidad.

*Finalmente y personalmente aprovecho de esta oportunidad para desea a nuestras familias Felices Fiestas, sin reparar en fe o, creencias culturales. Este es un tiempo deseando lo mejor y apoyándonos en nuestra comunidad.

El agradecimiento y el sentido de el cuidado de otros, lo experimentamos en este tiempo donde no hay discriminación. Nuestra comunidad de Washington Mill, continua alcanzando a muchos, durante estas festividades. Los que necesitan y están alrededor nuestro y a aquellos que quizá nunca los conozcamos. Bendiciones a todos ustedes!



December 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Book Fair	3 Book Fair	4 Book Fair FLE Parent Night @ 5:30	5 Book Fair	6 Book Fair	7
8	9	10 PTA Meeting @ 7	11 Winter Holiday Concert @ 6:30	12	13	14
15	16	17 2nd Grade Literacy Night	18	19 2nd Quarter Interims Go Home	20	21
22	23 Winter Break	24 Winter Break	25 Winter Break	26 Winter Break	27 Winter Break	28 Winter Break
29 Winter Break	30 Winter Break	31 Winter Break				

January 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Winter Break	2 Winter Break	3 Winter Break	4 Winter Break
5 Winter Break	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 PTA Event Night @ 6:00	17	18
19	20 Student Holiday	21 PTA Meeting @ 7	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 Quarter 2 Ends	30 Student Holiday	31 Student Holiday	

-----**Mr. Bennink's Volunteer Form**-----

Family Name _____ Phone _____

I can donate time. I would like to help:

In the classroom In the cafeteria On the playground At an afterschool program

At a community even At a concert In the Parent Center

On a weekend outing with children/families

Reading Rocks... *Dawn Page, WMES Reading Specialist*

As the Winter Break approaches, I want to remind all of the students to have good holidays and to read over the holidays. A reminder – BOOKS MAKE GREAT GIFTS!! So do journals and word games. All of these can be purchased for your electronic devices as well. Some may even be free.

Also, a reminder to second grade parents: The second

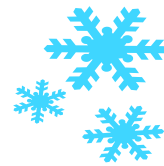
grade is having a Literacy Night on 12/17 at 6:30. At the Literacy Night the teachers will be giving you some strategies on things to concentrate on when you are reading with your child. It will be highly beneficial for all parents and the second grade teachers welcome all the parents of second graders to attend.

Please notify your child's second grade teacher if you will need childcare.

Whatever you do over Winter Break, I hope that your holidays bring you peace and joy!

Dawn Page

“We read to know we are not alone.”
- C.S. Lewis



Counselor's Corner

It is hard to believe that it is already December and holidays are fast approaching! We wanted to take a moment and explain the Giving Tree that you may have seen in the front hall of the school. Each year as a community we help out some of our own families that are in need. There are ornaments on the tree that each have a gift written on them. If you are able to help out in any way, please take one of these ornaments and fill out the information on the back and bring wrapped gifts in by December 10th. It is a very exciting time of year and it is always nice to give back to our community.



During winter vacation we all are lucky to have some time to spend with our families. Over the next few weeks it is extra important to take the time to tell your children “I love you” and have a conversation about their excitement for the New Year. Students become excited and anxious about the long vacation, take this time to really enjoy this extra time with your child.

Please remember to engage your child academically over the long winter break. Students should continue to read on a daily basis and also challenge their minds through puzzles, writing, and math. It is imperative that students practice the skills they have learned during the opening months of the school year during the vacation.

As always, please remember not to leave your students home alone and arrange for proper supervision whenever necessary. We hope that everyone has a wonderful vacation and gets a chance to relax together as a family.

As always, please contact us with any way that we can be a help to your children.

Happy Holidays!

Emily Rubin and Julie Reynolds

SCA News...

The SCA is **thrilled** to announce that our **Pennies for the Philippines**

campaign raised **\$403.22**. Thank you to everyone who contributed! We collected 8,437 pennies, 511 nickels, 788 dimes, 334 quarters and \$127.00 in bills. A check in that amount has been sent to **Save the Children**.

Congratulations to Mr. Hoskie's class for collecting **the most pairs of eyeglasses** and winning the donut party.

Thank you to all who participated in **Sock It to Bullying** spirit day by wearing **silly or mismatched socks** to show their support for **ending bullying**.

Our community service project for December – **the SCA is adopting a WMES family for the holidays**.

And on that note...we wish everyone a wonderful holiday and a

happy and healthy New Year!

“Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving

your community and world better than you found it.”

Marian Wright Edelman



Upcoming Contests

For Military Connected Families

AND also Support provided by the Military FOR ALL Students

*Bureau of Land Management and Sierra Club offers **What Public Lands Mean to Me?** Contest provides veteran and active military families with an opportunity to share their experiences on those public lands by photos, video, **due by 9 Dec**. Entry Forms are located <http://mypubliclands.challengepost.com/> . For more information, email kcsadegh@blm.gov*

*Operation Homefront offers **Military Child of the Year Award** to outstanding military children ages 8-18 who demonstrate resiliency, leadership and achievement. May be nominated by parents, teachers, guidance counselors, tutors, neighbors, and other community leaders **by 14 Dec**. Nominations may occur online and for more information, refer to <http://www.militarychildoftheyear.org/> .*

*Military Spouse magazine founded the **Military Spouse of the Year® (MSOY) Award** in 2008 to honor military spouses of all ranks and from all branches of active service to include Guard and Reserve. Online nominations **open only 7 January-17 January** and for more information <http://msoy.militaryspouse.com/Page/About>*

*Armed Services YMCA offers youth a platform to creatively express their admiration of their personal military hero through their **Art & Essay Contest**. The Art contest for K-6 is **due by 14 Feb**. The Essay contest for grades 1-12 is **due by 15 March**. Entry packets and further information may be located at <http://www.asymca.org/programs/art-and-essay-contest/>. For more information, email gschneider@asymca.org.*

*United States Military Academy offers annual **West Point Design a Bridge Contest** to provide middle school and high school students with a realistic, engaging introduction to engineering. Eligibility criteria- all students military connected AND civilian, ages 13 through grade 12. Two person teams are encouraged. Although a free download of the software for design may occur now, qualifying round submissions **13 January - 2 May**. Scholarships and software are awards. For entries and more information, refer to <http://bridgecontest.usma.edu/>*

*Army Education Outreach Program offers an **High School Apprenticeship Program** with Army funded university laboratories offering commuter Research Internships part time during school year or full time during the summer. Applications will be open to all military AND civilian juniors and seniors **27 Jan – 23 Mar**. Stipends are also available. Locations are soon to be listed. <http://usaeop.com/programs/HSAP/index.htm>. For more information please contact ReShockie Smith, reshockie.r.smith.ctr@mail.mil , 919 549-4339.*

Supporting the success of all military connected and civilian students to fulfill their future potential.

School Liaison Officers of US Army Garrison Fort Belvoir want to ensure your awareness of the information and do not necessarily endorse all of the programs above.

Programs offer various awards from publishing, awarding apple products, stipends, and scholarships.

Advanced Academic News

Page 6

The Banner

Patty Potter

Advanced Academics Resource Teacher

During the second quarter, thinking strategies highlighted in class lessons are **encapsulation** and **visualization**.

ENCAPSULATION

Encapsulation is the process of stating ideas in a concise, precise form. It is not a summary and does not involve simply stating the main idea or restating information or opinions. Encapsulation requires students to synthesize information and nuances in order to capture the essence of an idea, object, or activity, and then communicate their thoughts clearly. Vanity license plates are an example of encapsulating an idea with letters and symbols – try creating your own with your child!

VISUALIZATION

This strategy opens up student thinking by using sensory information to stimulate imagination with both spoken and written words. The process of visualization can also help students plan out an experience before execution. Students can “see” roadblocks and problems before encountering them. This strategy helps with planning, goal-setting, and organization. Research studies have shown that visualization greatly increases the level and depth of comprehension of both spoken and written words. Visualization can be a powerful strategy for helping your child set goals, picture the steps that need to be taken, consider alternatives, and visualize a plan to achieve their goals.

WMES PTA...*every child. one voice.*



December PTA Meeting

12/10/13 – We are looking forward to seeing you there at 7:00 PM! We will be providing pizza and child care for school age children. Don't forget your membership dues! All of last year's memberships expired in October!

January PTA Meeting

1/21/13 – *The January PTA meeting will be at the SACRAMENTO NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER.* It is located at 8792E Sacramento Drive, Alexandria, VA 22309. The meeting will be at the regular time of 7:00 PM and the PTA will provide pizza and babysit-

ting for school aged children.

Vacant Board Position

There is one position available on the current Board, President-Elect. According to the PTA Bylaws: The President Elect shall; act as aide to the president; b. perform the duties of the president in the absence or inability of that officer to act; c. perform other delegated duties as assigned. Please contact any Board member if you or someone you know is interested in the position.

Box Tops and Label Collections

Don't forget to keep saving your Box Tops, Labels for Education and Sunny D labels. We will have another collection .

Sincerely,

WMES PTA

Thank You to our Business Partners for Supporting



Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks
