



The Jargon



Educating Students For A Changing World

Mark Your Calendar

September 23Picture Day
 September 26 Early Release, 12:35 p.m.
 September 26 .. PTA Meeting, new families, 6:30 p.m.
 Returning families, 7:00 p.m.

September 29 .. Summer Reading, Lunch on the Lawn
 October 10 Columbus Day, Holiday
 October 11-13After School Programs Begins
 October 17 PTA Meeting, 7:00 p.m.



**Picture Day is tomorrow,
 Friday, September 23.**

**EARLY RELEASE
 September 26, 12:35 p.m.**

Reflections Program



Welcome to the new school year! The PTA is once again participating in the Reflections Program and this year's theme is "**Diversity Means....**" The deadline for all entries is Friday, October 21, so we want everyone to start thinking about the theme and ideas for projects! Reflections encourages creativity among our children in the areas of Literature, Music, Dance, Film, Visual Arts, and Photography. The opportunity to share their talents and the recognition they receive for participation are very meaningful to all student participants. A Reflections packet is included in today's Thursday folder. The packet consists of a parent letter, entry form, and consent form. Visit http://www.vapta.org/library-forms-a-documents/cat_view/82-arts-in-education/238-reflections-forms-and-rules.html to read the rules for each category of submission. If you have any questions, please contact Carey Sullivan at careycbuck@aol.com or 703-836-7523 or contact Leslie Williams at lsbw2000@gmail.com or 256-701-1694.



Coffee with the Principal

The dates for the Coffee with the Principal meetings are **October 4, December 13, February 28, and May 1.** The meetings begin at 8:15-8:45 a.m. and are held in the library. Hope you will be able to join us.

Be a George Mason Angel!

Be a GM PTA "Angel" by making a tax-deductible donation to the George Mason Elementary School's PTA Angel Program. Your financial support will fund many wonderful, enriching, and memorable events, including: Educational Grants; Field Trips; and the Visiting Author Program. Your support keeps these programs alive at George Mason and enhances our children's school experience. **All donations of any amount are welcome and greatly appreciated.** When you make a donation of **\$125 or more** you will receive a 1/6 page Yearbook Ad.

Look for the Angel Donation form in your child's Thursday folder next week. You may also find the form and further information on the George Mason PTA website at www.georgemasonpta.org, or by contacting Leah Wilson at leah.wilson4@verizon.net or 703-820-5752.

Prizes for Lavender sales!

There is one week left to return your Lavender orders. Every student who sells 35 items or more will receive a \$25 Toys-R-Us gift card! The top selling class will have the honor of sponsoring an Asian Elephant from the National Zoo and receive a photo and fact sheet of their animal. Get your orders in by September 30 so that you don't miss out on the prizes.



P.E. NEWS

Got Shoes? Ms. Westcott and Ms. McMurdy keep tennis shoes in the P.E. office in the event that a student comes to P.E. without appropriate footwear. While we have several pairs of shoes, we can always use more. If your child has recently grown out of a pair of shoes that are still in good condition, please consider donating them to the P.E. program. Shoes are needed for our younger classes as well as our older classes. We will accept shoe donations throughout the school year.

P.E. Extra Credit:

Students can receive extra credit in P.E. by turning in proof of participation in any sports league, fitness program, or area fun run/walk. All that is needed is a copy of the schedule or program description. Extra credit can be turned in to your child(ren)'s P.E. teacher's box or via email. Ms. Westcott's email is julie.westcott@acps.k12.va.us and Ms. McMurdy's email is kaitlin.mcmurdy@acps.k12.va.us. An added bonus is that your child's P.E. teacher might show up at a game or event.

We Need Your School

Directory Information Forms!

If there is a yellow Directory Information Request Form in your child(ren)'s Thursday Folder today, we're still waiting to hear from you!

The PTA Directory Committee makes every effort to get every child's form, but the longer it takes, the later the directory will be printed and sent to you. Please return the "2nd Notice" in your Thursday Folder to your child's teacher right away.

Why is it important? Parents use the directory to contact classmates for playdates, birthdays, arrange carpools for sports, as well as to contact parents about special events and early school closings. If your information isn't in the directory, you and your child cannot be contacted by fellow parents. And since this is a PTA-sponsored directory, we need your permission to include your information.

If you have any questions, please contact Merrill Biesada at [703-931-0599](tel:703-931-0599) or mbiesada@aol.com.

Thank you.

A Word From Our Nurse

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a safe and fun-filled summer. In order to get us back into the swing of the new school year, here are a few health care reminders.



If your child requires prescription medication during school hours please make sure you and your child's doctor have completed the medication authorization form. Forms are available in the clinic or you can download them from the ACPS website. Remember that all medications must be in the original labeled container.

Plan now to have a "back up plan" for when your child is ill and you need to be at work. ACPS guidelines state that children should remain home when:

- * He/she has a temperature of 100 degrees or above (must be fever free for 24 hrs. without the use of fever reducing medication before returning to school).
- * He/she is vomiting, has diarrhea, or has thick green or yellow nasal discharge.
- * He/she complains of a severe sore throat or earache, especially when accompanied by a fever.

Please make sure the school has current phone numbers so you can be reached in the event you child becomes ill during the school day.

My goal is to assist you in keeping your children healthy so they can be successful learners. If you should have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me. The direct line to the clinic is 703-706-4475 or you can email me at rthompson@acps.k12.va.us. I look forward to working with you and your children during the school year.

LET'S MAKE IT A HEALTHY ONE!

Robin Thompson, RN
School Nurse
rthompson@acps.k12.va.us



Alexandria City Public Schools

Presents:

Gifted Education Workshop

with

Ms. Lisa Van Gemert

Gifted Youth Specialist for the Mensa Foundation

Tuesday, September 27, 2011

T.C. Williams High School's Rotunda- 3300 King Street

Courageous Conversations

Courageous Conversations



Session 1 at 3 p.m. is open to all ACPS teachers and staff.

Session 2 at 6 p.m. is open to all parents & community members.

Sponsored by:

ACPS Department of Curriculum and Instruction



"And All are Welcome Here: Identifying Under-Represented Populations in Gifted Education."



The Jargon will go home the first and third Thursdays of the month with the youngest child in your family.

VISION STATEMENT

Alexandria City Public Schools will set the international standard for educational excellence, where all students achieve their potential and actively contribute to our local and global communities.

MISSION STATEMENT

Alexandria City Public Schools will provide the environment, resources, and commitment to ensure that each and every student succeeds – academically, emotionally, physically and socially.

The Alexandria City School Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, status as a parent, or pregnancy in its programs and activities. Please direct all inquiries regarding ACPS non-discrimination policies to the Executive Director of Human Resources, 2000 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria, Va. 22311, 703-824-6946.