



Educating Students For A Changing World

Mark Your Calendar

October 21 Reflections Contest Due
 October 24 Picture Make-Up Day
 October 29 Healthy Kids Fun Run

November 11 Teacher Work Day, Student Holiday
 November 16-18 Early Release, 12:35 p.m.
 November 23-25 Thanksgiving Holiday

After School Programs

Jump Rope Club try-outs for 2nd graders: The Jump Rope club has 5 open seats and would like to invite any second grader interested in the Jump Rope Club to try-out. Please talk to Ms. Westcott or email her at julie.westcott@acps.k12.va.us by Friday, October 28 to arrange a try out.

Walking home alone: Children that wish to walk home alone after an after school program must have permission from a parent. Please email Melissa Harrington at mharrington33@hotmail.com or send a note in with your child for their after school program instructor.

Absence: If your child is going to miss an after-school program, and was not absent from school, please email Melissa Harrington at mharrington33@hotmail.com or notify the front office. For safety reasons, students that have TWO or more unexcused absences will be dropped from their program. There are no refunds in this situation.

There will be NO programs on:

November 15, 16, 17 (due to early release days on 11/16, 11/17 and 11/18)
 November 22, 23, 24 (due to Thanksgiving Break)



Summer Reading Program

A record 222 students turned in Summer Reading journals and got to choose from 6 different prizes, while 182 students also turned in projects so they could enjoy Lunch on the Lawn. The students' fabulous creations will be up for all to enjoy through the end of this week, so be sure to stop in if you haven't had a chance! Thanks to Jennifer Arnold for coordinating our Summer Reading Program. This year's amazing artwork display was set up by Susan Burkhead, Mary Nolan, Christy Finn, Leslie Williams, Danya Devine, Amy Colucci, Norma Glerum, Beth Simmons, Rosie Wiedemer, Anne Brewster, and Alex Castro, while Lunch on the Lawn rocked because of Betty Mills, Cindy Elkins, Christy Finn, Linda Harvey, Leah Wilson, Beth Yancey, Emma Grimes, Kate Hull, Debbi Kelly, and Rebecca Oakes. Thanks to all these invaluable volunteers, and also to Kathy Cullinan and Kristin Lansdell, the school's reading specialists, as well as the students who participated, for making the Summer Reading Program a success!



Summer Reading and Lunch on the Lawn 2011



THE HEALTHY KIDS FUN RUN

is almost here! The George Mason group will run at 10 a.m. on Saturday, October 29th. If your child(ren) are participating, please plan to arrive early. We will meet at the starting line in the Pentagon North Parking Lot at 9:45 a.m. If you have any trouble finding the starting line, look for marines or staff

Reminders:

- ❖ There will be a shuttle from the Pentagon metro stop that will take you to the North Parking Lot.
- ❖ Participants should wear their George Mason Athletic shirts to help show school spirit! If any students do not have this shirt, they can wear any George Mason Spirit Wear shirt OR blue and white.
- ❖ Race packets will be delivered to students on the Friday, October 28th. Students should save their t-shirt to wear AFTER the race. We want everyone to know we are George Mason during the Fun Run, so we are all going to wear GM t-shirts or blue and white.
- ❖ IMPORTANT! Parents should detach the Kids Claim Coupon on the race number to use to pick up their child(ren) from the kids corral after the race.
- ❖ Students should be prepared for exercise and fun!
- ❖ If you have any questions, please contact your child's PE teacher (julie.westcott@acps.k12.va.us or kaitlin.mcmurdy@acps.k12.va.us) OR Christy Counts Finn at ccfinn@gmail.com.

Halloween Costume Collection-Ends Friday
 George Mason Junior Girl Scout Troop 1674 is collecting gently-used Halloween costumes. Donations will go to Community Lodgings in Alexandria for distribution. All ages and sizes are welcome. Friday, October 21 is the final collection day. Donations can be placed in the Halloween themed collection box in the front office. To help keep costumes organized, please put the costumes organized, please put the costume into a bag (mark the size/age range if you know it). If you have questions, contact Christy Finn at ccfinn@gmail.com. We've received many costumes already, thank you!



Keep the Box Tops Coming!

Send your Box Tops into school by Monday, October 24th so that we can meet our first submission deadline. We are already bagging and grouping those already brought in and have about \$500 of Box Tops. The PTA thanks you!

Los Tios Restaurant Night-Thanks!

Thank you to the families who supported Los Tios Restaurant Night. We raised \$300 for the PTA's general fund.

Be an Angel for Halloween!

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.

Donation forms are in this week's Thursday Folder. 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

Coke Rewards Program

Please send in your Coca-Cola product caps/codes from inside Coca-Cola product boxes so George Mason can earn free basketballs and other P.E. equipment. The codes are on all Coke products, which include Dasani, Fresca, Powerade, Sprite, Vault, etc. Parents can either sign up at www.mycokerewards.com where they can enter the codes and then donate them to George Mason OR parents can turn the caps and codes in to the school office for entry. Julie Westcott is available to answer any questions via email at julie.westcott@acps.k12.va.us.



Looking for the School Directory

The School Directory will be arriving at George Mason any day now. If it's not in today's Thursday folder, please look for it in your youngest child's backpack this coming week. For those children whose parents live in separate households, please note that a directory is provided for each parent. Many thanks to our advertisers who pay for the cost of the directory -- so if you use their services or products, please be sure to let them know "I saw your ad in the George Mason School Directory!"

Calling all bakers!

It is that time of year again. Our annual bake sale will be held on November 8. We need your help to raise money for our school. Can you provide baked goods for the sale? Can you help us by working in our FUN bake sale booth? If so, please contact Nicole Onorato at onoratosinva@gmail.com or call 703-626-6147!



Target Take Charge of Education Program



GM is once again participating in the Target Take Charge of Education program. Visit Target.com/tcoe or call 1-800-316-6142 to designate George Mason Elementary, then use your REDcard whenever you shop. When you use your REDcard (Target Visa Credit Card, Target Credit Card, or Target Check Card), Target will donate up to 1% of your purchases to the designated eligible k-12 school.

TAKE CHARGE
OF EDUCATION™

Reward your school.™



The REDcard™



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.

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