

Upcoming Events

Fri., Dec. 12
SCA Slipper Day

Thurs., Dec. 18
2nd Grade Mexican Fiesta

Fri., Dec. 19
4th Grade Colonial Day

Tues., Dec. 23
Snuggle with a Book Day

Wed., Dec. 24-Fri. Jan. 2
Winter Break
No School

Tues. Jan. 6
7:30 p.m.
PTA Monthly Meeting
(Library)

Thurs., Jan. 8
Nada Brahma "World
Music"



**LEES CORNER:
Pride, Teamwork,
EXCELLENCE**

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Lees Corner PTA

www.fcps.edu/LeesCornerES

www.LeesCornerPTA.org

PTA President's Message

Hopefully, you were able to come to Lees Corner's Thanksgiving luncheon this year. My personal thanks to Ingrid Miller, our Volunteer Chair, and all of the volunteers that ensured everything ran smoothly by helping to serve almost 700 lunches.

Thanks to everyone who took time to donate clothing to our Lees Corner Clothing Drive. It was extremely successful again, and Bailey's Elementary was again overwhelmed by our generosity. Lees Corner has been running this Drive every year and our donations help directly in our community. Your kindness in this drive and the SGA food drive is a great example to our children to give back to the community.

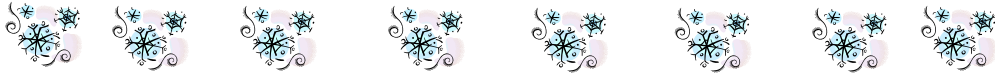
To date, our PTA Cultural Arts team has brought us Cantare's Fiesta (A Celebration of Life in Latin America) and Steven Kroll, a well-known author. On December 10th, Mark Jester, a wildly popular mime will dazzle the students with his show. Next month on January 8th, Nada Brahma's World Music exposes the students to musical styles and instruments from the Caribbean, Andes Mountains, Central and Southern Asia, Australian Outback and Sub-Saharan Africa, Middle East and North America. The final assembly of the school year will be on April 21st with the performers, Goombay, highlighting the multi-lingual aspect of the Caribbean Islands, teaching students a little Spanish, French and Creole through their musical performance. These events are all made possible by your support of our PTA.

The Lees Corner Legos Team called "Team Shockwave" was a huge success thanks to all the hard work of Jasmine Geddis and Cheryl Mendis. The team received the "Most Spirit Award" as their enthusiasm was contagious. The PTA sponsored this robotics and science team to gauge interest in our school. Next year, we will gauge interest in expanding more teams based on volunteers and student interest as it is open to 4th through 6th graders. If you have questions about the team, please contact Jasmine at geddisfamily@verizon.net

My final thought is that I continue to be overwhelmed by the generosity and volunteerism that is displayed by you for our children. Laura Richer and Carol Eshleman have stepped up again to volunteer to Chair our Fun Fair next year! As I have been reporting, this is a very important event for our fundraising efforts and a great time for our children.

If you have been considering getting involved, I urge you to contact me or any Chairperson to discuss your interests. Besides help with the Fun Fair, we have many wonderful volunteers that will step down this year and now is a great time to learn.

I wish you all a safe and joyous holiday season.



Gary Stumpf, your PTA President

Principals Comments

Student Happenings!

Our first grader's writings, poems, and projects were showcased for their parents during Family Day! They completed projects with their families and also recited wonderful poems and jingles. I was impressed with the Veteran's Day presentations, and the veterans who joined us. This day would not have been as meaningful without their presence. Thank you! Our traditional turkey pine cone decorations engaged and delighted not only our third grade students, but the over 700 parents who joined us for a Thanksgiving lunch! Kindergarten parents trained to support "Kid Writing" have not only been impressed, but are themselves impressive! We believe that each student learns best when learning is hands-on, meaningful, and exciting.

Another stretch Hummer limousine at Lees Corner??? Who were those super PTA sellers who got the special ride and pizza treat! What fun we had!

More Fun with Learning Happenings!

Second grader's social studies unit will culminate with a Mexican Fiesta scheduled for December 18th! Third graders enjoyed a trip to Mount Vernon, and Fourth Grader's are ready to enjoy Colonial Day, December 19. Sixth graders are now sporting their team building blue t-shirts with their classmate's names! Strings students are preparing for their concert on December 18th, always a huge success with over 120 orchestra members! The fifth grade is preparing a special concert for the Martin Luther King Holiday event January 11th. Busy you say . . . but there's more!

A Faculty Focused On Our Own Continual Learning--

Everyday in all our classes, our goal is to teach valuable, engaging, and innovative units of study that we hope spark analytical and critical thinking skills for ALL students! We continue to seek ways to support ALL students to not only learn well, but also importantly, to love learning! As a part of this focused effort, our teachers, in cooperation with the Instructional Services Department staff, participated in a structured "Learning Walkthrough" in November focusing on math instruction! Teams observed in classes for short periods of time and have now shared the data collected during these two days with us. We will use this data to enhance student learning.

Sharing, Learning, and “Doing” to Keep Us Safe!

A recent Virginia safety survey conducted to identify effective safety practices found that “schools that scored highest on measures of structure (fair rules) and support (adults are supportive and caring) had lower levels of student victimization and bullying.” Our Positive Behavior Support (PBS) committee meets, shares, and solicits staff and student input to ensure that we provided both the structure and support for our students. All students’ positive behavior and focus on respect helped us meet our first benchmark and enjoy a special activity. Check out our special bulletin board in the café.

What wisdom can you find that is greater than kindness?

Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Huge mounds of kindness in the form of clothing during our PTA clothing drive, and canned goods and foods during our SCA drive, all evidence of the importance of “kindness” and the values it represents on behalf of our children, faculty, and community! Our parents, faculty, and students model “caring” every day!

During the holiday season, we are thankful for family and friends. Your commitment to our children and school makes each of you a much appreciated part of our Lees Corner family! Your support and attendance is evident in all we do, and much appreciated as you helped us serve almost 700 Thanksgiving dinners, and as you support and participate all year in so many of our classroom, school, and PTA activities!

My wish for each of you is for a joyous, safe holiday season!



Clay Sande

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GT Center Referral Deadline

Each fall, all FCPS second grade students as well as students in the third through seventh grade who are missing an ability test score, are administered the Cognitive Ability Test and/or the Naglieri Nonverbal Test. A second grade GT center screening pool is established using these test results. Students in the second grade pool are automatically screened for GT center placement. Parents/guardians of students not in the second grade screening pool may initiate the GT center screening process by completing and submitting a Gifted and Talented GT Center Referral form to the local school (attention Nicole Pierce) no later than February 6, 2008. **No late referrals will be accepted.** Second graders not in the pool and all third through seventh graders are screened only by referral. Forms are available at www.fcps.edu/DIS/gt.

Counselor's Corner

Sue Buckley
Nadjmeh Salimi

In classroom guidance lessons this month, we've been having fun while learning about listening in grades 3, 5, and 6. We have talked about how crucial listening is not only to our academic skills, but also to our friendships and families. Activities for these lessons have included mental math, listening to a paragraph for a sentence that doesn't belong, and remembering descriptions of events and people to recite the most accurate information. All students demonstrated the ability to listen; now the trick is to get them to tune in more often!

In first grade, we also talked about listening, and we read the book called Howard B. Wigglebottom Learns to Listen. Students enjoyed this tale of Howard, a rabbit who is a very poor listener, who gets himself into a lot of avoidable situations - if he could just learn to listen. Eventually, he sees the wisdom in listening to teachers, friends, and family, and wins a #1 Listener Star.

In special education classes, our focus was on frogs, frogs, and more frogs! We read about frogs, sang about them, made them from paper, counted them, and had a great time finding out what they eat, how they jump, and the sounds they make. Everyone could "Ribbitt" really well at the end of our lesson.

In December, we will discuss friendships in first grade, diversity in third, study skills in fifth and sixth, and family in special education. Our students love to learn, to explore concepts, and to always try their very best.

We wish all of our Lees Corner families happiness and peace as we near our Winter Break.

Sue Buckley, Grades 1, 3, 5, 6, Special Education
Nadjmeh Salimi, Grades K, 2, 4
School Counselors

Inclement Weather

Due to inclement weather or other emergency situations, it may be necessary to close schools for the entire day, to open schools late, or to close early.

Parents are urged to make arrangements now for the care of their children when schedule changes are made (and to provide for the rare situation when it is necessary to close an individual school because of a power failure or other circumstances). Children should know where to go if a parent will not be home.

Decisions on schedule changes are made after careful study of the best information available from many sources including weather services, the highway department, the police, and FCPS transportation staff members who are out checking the roads. FCPS will make every effort to decide, before 5 a.m., whether to close or delay schools before and will begin communicating the decision once it is made. The 5 a.m. decision time is a goal. Weather conditions can deteriorate after 5 a.m., which means that it may not be possible for FCPS to meet that goal. While no sources dealing with weather predictions can be infallible, decisions are made with one overriding consideration—the safety of all students—those who ride buses and those who walk to school each day.

FCPS has several schedules set up to deal with inclement weather; these are put into effect when conditions threaten the safety of children who are walking or riding school buses to schools. These schedules are:

(1) Keep schools closed. (2) Open two hours late. (3) Close two hours early.

In every case of a schedule change:

- Tune in to local radio and television stations (including cable Channel 21, a channel programmed by FCPS), which are notified as soon as a decision is made.
- Check www.fcps.edu.
- Call the FCPS hot line at 800-839-FCPS (3277).

Thank you!

Thank you so much to everyone who donated clothes to the Lees Corner Clothing Drive. It was extremely successful, and Bailey's Elementary was overwhelmed by our generosity. The donations filled up four cars! A big thank you also to Anne Cymerman, Ian Brown and Keir Froberg who helped me to load up all the cars, drive over there and unload them. Thanks also to Girl Scout Troop #131 who helped with the project.

Bailey's has a huge need at their school for donations. They have a "boutique" in their basement that is run by volunteer parents. As donations come in, they are sorted and separated into piles for children, men and women. The needy families at the school pay \$5 for the year, which enables them to "shop" at the boutique once a week and fill up a bag of clothes.

Fun Fair 2009 – Save the Date!

We have a fun fair! This year's fun fair will be held **Saturday, March 21st**. Our theme will be "Traveling the Seasons – Winter, Spring, Summer Fall".

We will be looking for volunteers to help on various committees. We will also be looking for a Lees Corner artist to design this year's fair logo. All submissions will be due back to the child's teacher by January 9th. This will be a good way to spend those extra hours during winter break! Look for information to come home in future Wednesday folders.