

Upcoming Events

Thurs., Dec. 17

7:00 p.m.

Strings Winter Concert

Fri., Dec. 18

8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

4th Grade Colonial Day

Wed., Dec. 23

2-hour

Early Dismissal

Thurs. Dec. 24-Fri., Jan 1

Winter Break

Tues., Jan 5

7:00 p.m.

PTA Meeting

Mon., Jan. 18

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Holiday (no school)

Tues., Jan 26

7:00 p.m.

6th Grade Choral Concert

Wed., Jan 27

9:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.

6th Grade Choral Concert

Fri., Jan. 29 – Mon., Feb. 1

Student Holiday (no school)

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

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Lees Corner PTA

www.fcps.edu/LeesCornerES

www.LeesCornerPTA.org

The PTA will be publishing the newsletter in hardcopy every two months. Please look for editions to come home in your child's Wednesday folders in February, April and June!

PTA President's Message

As we are all getting ready for the busy holiday season I'll keep my note to just two important points.

1. Many of you are probably following the budget crisis facing FCPS. For those of you who are not familiar with the problems, please check out the details at www.fcps.edu. There is a \$176 million shortfall for the next budget year. This will greatly impact all of our schools. On the website click on the "Potential Programs and Service Reductions" link to see the list of items that will be discussed at the Budget Community Dialogue meetings. I strongly urge our community to attend these meetings and stay in touch with the budget process.

2. In these times of broad economic difficulty it is even more important that the PTA fundraising efforts be supported so we can achieve our goal of supporting the best and highest quality of education for our children at Lees Corner. Unfortunately at the time when it is most needed our donation drive has all but come to a complete stop. As I've said, we have had an incredibly generous show of support from a small percentage of our families. We are very thankful for that. Again, if you happen to be one of the 335 families that have not made their donation yet – it's not too late, it's never too late. We are still suggesting \$75 if you have one child at Lees Corner and \$100 if you have two or more. Please remember that this is only a suggested amount. We understand that some families are able to do more and some less; we just ask that you do what you can. You should have received a second request letter and envelope in your oldest child's Wednesday folder. We truly appreciate your returning them with whatever you are able to donate.

Finally, I must say that I am encouraged by all the new faces that are getting involved in the PTA. It is refreshing for those of us that have been around for a while to see new faces with new ideas!

Thank you!

Jodi Fraize
PTA President

Principal's Comments

Student Happenings!

Our traditional **turkey pine cone decorations** engaged and delighted not only our **third grade students** who made them, but the over 600 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.

More Fun with Learning Happenings!

Third graders enjoyed a trip to Mount Vernon, and **Fourth Grader's** are ready to enjoy Colonial Day, December 18. Strings students are preparing for their **concert** on December 17th, always a huge success with over 130 **orchestra members!** **The fifth grade** is preparing a **special concert** for the Martin Luther King Holiday event January 17th. 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 are apart of the future Standards-based Progress Report Field Test! Revisions are being made based on parent and faculty comments.

Stay Tuned for a recently taped segment on the Channel 21, School Scene Show featuring Lees Corner students doing "Pod Casting". Sharing, Learning and Doing is what we're all about! We will let you know when it is aired and also on 24/7. I enjoyed reading to Mrs. Dowell's kindergarten class today. See us all on 24/7!

A 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 and responsibility help us meet our goals and recognize our students. 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 donated during our PTA clothing drive, upcoming SCA Warm Tree, are 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! Thank you!

Parent support for our **Book Fair** in progress now is overwhelming and much appreciated. On another note, I'm looking forward to attending our first "**Reindeer Romp**" this Saturday with our **Girls on the Run**, a fabulous new program. Special thanks to **Mrs. Cassara** our coach, to our **great girls** who took on the challenge and to **Mrs. O'Donnell** our PTA Girls on the Run Chairperson and also Treasurer. We are extremely fortunate to have such super involvement!

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



SOL Test Dates – Tentative - As of 11/6/09

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
17 3 rd grade reading Part 1	18 3 rd grade reading Part 2 4 th grade reading	19 5 th grade reading	20 6 th grade reading	21 5 th grade science 6 th grade history
24 3 rd grade social studies	25 3 rd grade science 4 th grade history	26 5 th grade math	27 6 th grade math	28 Make-ups 2 hour early release
31 No school Memorial Day	1 4 th grade math	2 3 rd grade math	3 Make-ups	4 Make-ups

5th graders will complete the writing SOL on two days in March. The multiple choice is scheduled for Tuesday, March 2 and the short paper is scheduled for Wednesday, March 3.

Counselor's Corner

*We want to wish all Lees Corner's families a very safe
and happy holiday season!*

*Sue Buckley & Nadjmeh Salimi
Lees Corner Student Counselors*

Inclement Weather

With the cold weather here, it's time to review the county's plans for schools in the event of inclement weather (or other emergency situations). It may be necessary to close schools for **the entire day**, to **open schools two hours late**, or to **close schools two hours early** due to snow, ice, or other conditions making it dangerous for our children to get to school. 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 or what to do if a parent will not be or is not home.

As soon as a decision is made to implement one of these changes, the information will be posted on **FCPS cable Channel 21** and a message will be placed on our web site - www.fcps.edu. E-mail notifications will be made through our **Keep in Touch (KIT)** system. Parents, please make sure to have your contact information updated on your child's emergency form at school. Our KIT system pulls information from our Student Information System. The news will also be carried by radio and television

stations, which are notified as quickly as possible after a decision is made. Please do not phone individual schools or one of the stations for this information.

The try to make a decision by 4:30 a.m. when schools will be closed all day or will open two hours late. This give so that the public announcement can be posted and reach all media outlets by 5:00 a.m. On some occasions, it is not possible to make these time frames as weather can change unexpectedly. On some other occasions, the school system has been able to make a scheduling decision the day before so that parents, staff members, and students know what will happen the following day. This usually happens when precipitation is already on the ground and the temperatures are such that the precipitation on the ground is frozen or will refreeze.

For more information regarding the FCPS inclement weather plans, please go to their website: <http://www.fcps.edu/news/weather.htm>

Lees Corner Chess Club

We had 10 students from Lees Corner Chess Club participated in the Saunder's Chess Tournament on November 21st in Manassas, VA. There were 7 students in the K-3 group (K thru 3rd grade) and 3 students in the K-5 group (4th & 5th grade).

Everyone did an amazing job in the tournament. Lees Corner ranked 2nd place (out of 34 schools) in the K-3 group and won a school team trophy and 14th place (out of 36 schools) in the K-5 group. Below is the list of students who participate in the group.

K-3 Group:

Saketh Samala (2nd Gr.)
Saagar Sheth (3rd Gr.)
Haitham Sakallah (2nd Gr.)
Patrick Gajewski (1st Gr.)
Ethan Ding (3rd Gr.)
Michael Donnelly (1st Gr.)
Cullen Kendrick (2nd Gr.)

K-5 Group:

Bright Hsu (5th Gr.)
Jon Teoli (4th Gr.)
Harrison Szeto (4th Gr.)



Lees Corner Directories

Great News! The Lee's Corner directories were finally distributed last week. If you ordered a copy but did not receive it, please contact Tricia Linsley via email: tricialinsley@email.com

PTA Membership

Thank you to all the families who joined the Lee's Corner PTA. We are off to a good start, **but we still need your support as we only have one-half of the participation that we had last year.** This might be due to some confusion between the annual PTA membership dues and the new donation fund raiser that we implemented this year.

The PTA membership fees are due every year and are \$10.00 per individual or \$20.00 per family. Out of those dues we pay \$2.75 to the National, State, and Fairfax County Council of PTA's. So as you can see we are only left with \$7.25 per member to put towards art, PE, and music supplies, field trips, assemblies, teacher trainings, cafeteria wipes and after school programs.

Since each school has their own budget, the annual PTA dues you pay for Lee's Corner are separate for those you pay if you have children in other schools such as Franklin Middle School, e

We know this is a difficult economic time, we are parents too, but our school depends on us to make it the best it can be.

For more information on the Lee's Corner PTA, visit <http://www.leescornerpta.org> or to join the PTA contact Tricialinsley@email.com.

Thank you for your continued support!

THANKS for sending in your Box Tops (BUT, don't stop clipping...)



... there is a **12/31/09 expiration date** on some Box Tops so we will submit a batch by year's end. Please drop off your Box Tops by **Friday, December 18** in the collection bin in the main lobby of the school; and remember:

- *expired* Box Tops can't be submitted for credit
- the expiration date must be *clearly visible* on the stamp (not damaged or cut off)
- place all box Tops in a small baggie before putting them in the bin

For more information about the Box Tops program and the participating products, please visit www.boxtops4education.com.

Thanks for your continued support!

Spring 2010 Baseball Registration Opens January 1st

Chantilly Little League Spring 2010 Registration opens 1 January. Chantilly Little League has divisions for boys and girls ages 6 through 12. For more information or to register, please visit www.chantillybaseball.org.

Girls on the Run: Coaches Needed for this Spring!

Wanted: Parent and/or teacher to coach girls on the run this spring! Girls on the Run is a life changing, experiential learning program for girls in grades 3-6. The program combines training for a 5k running event with self-esteem enhancing, uplifting workouts. Free training and a stipend is provided for coaches. Questions? Contact Holly O'Donnell at 703-464-0232 or hollypod@verizon.net

Register your Grocery Bonus Cards – it is Such an Easy Way to Help the School

Please let us register your grocery bonus for you immediately! The grocery dollars you spend at your local supermarket, earns cash for Lees Corner. Currently we have fewer than 100 families registered! Your child's school is missing out on some much needed, easy to earn dollars! Please fill this out and send it in today!

- Simply complete this form (this must be completed each year) and return it to school with your child.
- Your grocery purchases earn points and eventual cash for the school.
- Encourage your friends and family to sign up too. (add their information on back of form)
- The program runs from October through early April.

(PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY)

Your Name: _____

E-Mail: _____

Address: _____

City & Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Lees Corner Parent
 Lees Corner Staff
 Friend of Lees Corner

Name of oldest Lees Corner student: _____ Teacher: _____

GIANT Bonus Card Number

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If you have a Giant Bonus Card, you can also register it online by to going to <http://www.giantfood.com/aplus>.

SAFEWAY Club Number

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HARRIS TEETER VIC Number

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