



Island Breeze

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Newsletter of Island Creek PTA

October 2006

Keep Hayfield Secondary a Community School!

By Liz Dunn, PTA President, e-mail: lizgdunn@cox.net

Hayfield Secondary School has undergone quite a transformation in the past two years since the opening of South County Secondary in Lorton. Overcrowded classrooms, sprawling trailers, and congested traffic are gone. While the middle and high schools share a physical structure, both operate in separate environments keeping age-appropriate learning and socialization in check. By almost all accounts, Hayfield has greatly benefited from the opening of South County.

However, this could all change. In only its second year, South County is overcrowded; Hayfield and Lake Braddock have been designated to help reduce the student population at the school. The Fairfax County Public School Board is holding a series of community meetings to decide how to solve this problem. Options could include the following:

- ◆ Change South County to a high school and distribute middle school students to Hayfield and Lake Braddock
- ◆ Adjust attendance areas to redistribute student populations among the three schools.

A third possible option would be to delay any change until more current data is available. Unfortunately, this option does not seem to appear on the school board's short list.

On October 10, I attended a town meeting at South County (along with hundreds of other interested taxpaying citizens from the three affected communities) hosted by the School Board's Office of Facilities Planning Services. Surprisingly, most of the South County parents there that night—whose children are spending their weekdays in overcrowded classrooms and in trailers lined up on school property—supported the third option of waiting for more data.

Many of the folks at the meeting (myself included) went through a similar drill before South County was constructed and populated; it was like déjà vu all over again. Attendees requested better demographic data to make better decisions, asked for a long-overdue school boundary study of the Fairfax County Public School district (in its entirety), and wondered why communities were being divided again and again.

Obviously, there are many issues on the table that require careful and thoughtful discussion. Several boundary scenarios, as well as notes from the October 10 meeting, are posted on www.fcps.edu (click on the boundary link). Even if you don't yet have children attending Hayfield or on the verge of graduating from Island Creek, we all have a vested interest in the viability of our community schools—and making sure that Hayfield Secondary remains a community school.

So, mark your calendar for the next town meeting on **Wednesday, November 1, 7:30 p.m., at South County Secondary School, 8501 Silverbrook Rd., Lorton, VA 22079.** It's interesting to be part of the process and very enlightening to see how everything unfolds!

Basket Bingo

Friday, October 20

Island Creek Cafeteria

Doors Open at 6:00 p.m.

First Game Starts at 7:00 p.m.

20 Regular Games * 3 Specials *

3 Raffles * Door Prizes

Featuring Longaberger® Baskets stuffed with items and many local gift certificates.

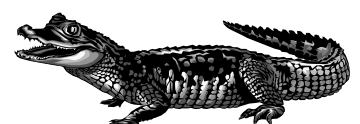
Tickets

\$20 at the Door



Questions?

Call (703) 339-6419



Notes from the Education Committees

By Steve Wallen, Vice President of Education, e-mail: sj7650@worldnet.att.net

The Education Committees include FLEX, CAPS, Reflections, and Mad Science.

FLEX is a foreign language program promoted by Fairfax County. This year Island Creek is offering Spanish, French, German, and Chinese. These classes started the week of October 16 and are 20 weeks long.

The **Cultural Arts Programs** (CAPS) is synonymous with entertaining, educational assemblies for the students. Mad Science will start the series by performing two shows on October 26.

The **Reflections** program is a PTA-sponsored art competition promoted by the local, state, and national PTAs. This year the program theme is "My Favorite Place." Students are encouraged to create original pieces of artwork in any (or all) of the following six categories: visual arts, musical composition, literature, photography, dance choreography, and film/video production. The deadline for submissions is October 27. Please see the Island Creek PTA web site for more information.

Mad Science is an after-school science program in its second year at Island Creek. Over 70 students have registered for the fall session.

And a special thanks to Yin Mei Hueskes, Susan Brock, Denise Bolton, and Dr. Joe Tischler for their efforts in supporting and running these programs.

The PTA **Special Needs** representatives (Steve and Joyce Wallen) would like to invite the parents of special needs students to get together to meet each other. This informal gathering is tentatively scheduled for the half hour before the next PTA meeting. Look for a flyer in the Thursday folders for more details.

Basket Bingo Volunteers Needed

By Cindy Wade, Volunteer Coordinator, e-mail: cindymw@cox.net

We need volunteers for our Basket Bingo fundraiser, which will be held on **Friday, October 20** from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. This event is one of our biggest fundraisers and is great fun. We use the proceeds to pay for such things as our children's field trips, but we need your help to make it happen!

3:30 p.m. Volunteers to set up for the event in the school cafeteria

6:00 p.m. Volunteers for the event (ticket takers, concession stand, raffles, specials, extra games, daubers, bingo board, clean up)

Bakers for Basket Bingo

We also need volunteers to bake goodies (cookies, cupcakes, brownies, Rice Krispie treats, etc.) to be sold at Basket Bingo. This is another wonderful way for us to raise money for our school, so we would love all of our bakers to participate! If you are able to bake for the event, please contact me and let me know how many cookies/brownies (or whatever) you will donate (e.g., one or two dozen cookies). Thanks again for your support.

Box Tops



By Toni Shipe, Box Top Coordinator, e-mail: tonishipe@msn.com

Don't forget to clip those box tops. Each box top is worth 10 cents to our school. You can find them on General Mills, Betty Crocker, Old El Paso, Pillsbury, and now on Ziploc products. Remember, the top class this quarter gets a party. Start clipping!

Calendar of Events

Oct. 20	Basket Bingo, Cafeteria
Oct. 26	CAPs: Mad Science
Oct. 27	Reflections Entries Due
Nov. 1	Boundary Meeting, 7 p.m., South County Secondary
Nov. 8	PTA Meeting, 7 p.m., Library

Web page: www.islandcreekpta.org

Reflections 2006–07

By Denise Bolton, Reflections Chair, e-mail: boltondt@navsea.navy.mil

Our PTA is providing, again this year, the opportunity for Island Creek Elementary students to participate in the Local, State, and National PTA Reflections Program. The Reflections Program offers students the opportunity to create works of art for fun and recognition. The theme for the 2006–07 program is **"My Favorite Place."** Watch for more information in school and on the Island Creek PTA web site. Start creating your works of art related to this year's theme! **The deadline for submitting entries is October 27.**

Entry forms are available in the school lobby and online on the PTA web site. Entries will be collected on October 26 and 27 in the lobby before school.

IHOP Restaurant Night

By Coleen Murray, Restaurant Nights Chair, e-mail: cmurray341@aol.com

A huge thank you to all of the Island Creek families who had breakfast for dinner at IHOP last month for our first Restaurant Night! It was so wonderful to see such a great turn out—and what a fun way to support our school.

We have more Restaurant Nights planned throughout the year, so look for all the delicious details in upcoming newsletters. Way to go, Crocs!



Don't let Hayfield Secondary School return to the *overcrowded classrooms, sprawling trailers, and congested traffic* we had only two years ago!!!

What's the situation?

Due to overcrowding at South County Secondary (only in its second year!), school boundaries for **Hayfield Secondary, Lake Braddock Secondary, and South County Secondary Schools** are in question. Unless we make our voices heard, we may end up (once again) sending our children to a secondary school that's way over capacity! All affected communities are invited to the next town meeting . . . **Wednesday, November 1, at 7:30 p.m., at South County Secondary School . . . For more info, read on!**

What's happening to change it?

The Fairfax County School Board is reviewing at least two possible boundary scenarios: making a **traditional boundary adjustment** based on geography or **eliminating the middle school** from South County Secondary and dividing the middle school population (projected at more than 1,000 students) between Hayfield and Lake Braddock based on available seats at each school.

What outcome do we want?

- Hayfield Secondary School (HSS) should remain **under capacity** if boundaries are redrawn to allow for future growth.
- HSS should remain a **balanced, diverse and desirable community school**, with only elementary schools in the immediately surrounding neighborhoods feeding the school.
- Students should stay at HSS for **all six years of middle and high school**. Hayfield and Lake Braddock are secondary schools with carefully planned and separate spaces for middle school and high school populations. A large middle school population and a smaller high school population would be detrimental to the educational quality on both sides of the building.
- **Transportation routes and bus ride time** must be considered during the boundary-setting process.
- The school board must consider consequences from DoD's Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process—with a **possible addition of 20,000 workers at Fort Belvoir** over the next four years.

Tell me more about this meeting...

Mark your calendar for **Wednesday, November 1, 7:30 p.m., South County Secondary School, 8501 Silverbrook Rd., Lorton, VA 22079**. The meeting will feature group discussions and breakout sessions so the school board can gather data and info from the affected communities. As parents, residents and voters, we must participate in large numbers and show the board that we have a vested interest in the educational needs of our children and the welfare of our community. That's why it's important to be there!

Questions?

Contact Marie Sudik at msudik@cox.net or visit <http://fairboundaries.blogspot.com>.