

ON THE LEVEL

February, 2013

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COME TO A SPECIAL EVENT!

On Monday, February 25, 2013, from 7 to 9 PM, FCFT is holding a Town Hall Meeting to discuss the work-load issues. The meeting will be held at the Fairview Park Marriott, 3111 Fairview Park, Falls Church, VA 22042. Fairfax County School Board members will be present to listen to you and hear what is actually happening in the schools. They want to help you. This is your opportunity to tell them about your working conditions. You can tell them how much time you spend daily documenting information about students on the computer. You can tell them about how long your day at school has

become within the last couple of years. You can tell them about how many hours you spend at home preparing for your classes and answering parent e-mails.

You need to be there in order to be heard. FCFT is hosting the event, and it is open to all FCPS educators.

Let your fellow employees know if they have complained about working conditions. They need to be at the meeting! The more people who come, the better the meeting will be. The School Board needs to hear from you about how your life is impacted by technology, testing, e-mails, and curriculum initiatives.



SAVE THE DATE FOR GOLF!

Make plans to come out and play golf on **Monday, June 24, 2013.** Fairfax County Federation of Teachers is sponsoring the 5th Annual Golf Tournament at Old Hickory Golf Club in Woodbridge, VA. All proceeds from the FCFT golf

tournament will provide funds to support selected instructional programs and grants/scholarships for members to further their education. Keep June 24th in mind. More information will be coming in future newsletters.

Inside this issue:

Be at the Town Hall Meeting.	1
June 24, 2013, is the date for golf.	1
Will you be a mentor?	2
Be careful with technology.	2
Thanks for your hat donations.	2
FCFT is here to help you.	
FCFT Office 703-451-6840	

Gas sites for you.

Here are two sites to check for the lowest gas prices in our area of Virginia.

www.gasbuddy.com

www.Viriniagasprices.com

STUDENT MENTORS WANTED

MentorWorks is an FCPS program looking for FCPS employees to become student mentors. The mentors provide support, caring, and attention to students, so that a student can reach his or her full potential with the help of a kind, responsible adult. The majority of FCPS schools have student-based mentoring programs. All of the mentoring programs take place during the school day at the school site. Training and support is provided to mentors through MentorWorks and each school's mentoring coordinator. Mentoring a student can be a worthwhile experience for the mentor as well

as the student. You can provide that extra boost to help a student who may be lonesome for an adult's attention. The MentorWorks website is <http://fcps.edu/dss/ips/ssaw/mentorworks>. If you prefer, contact the MentorWorks specialist Shelley.Prince@fcps.edu.



BE A SAVVY COMPUTER USER!

Please remember to attend to your personal business before or after school hours. Using your cell phone or texting people while you are supposed to be working only jeopardizes your FCPS career. Make sure you are not answering personal e-mail on school time. This applies to the Internet as well. The school system's administration can access and monitor the websites you have visited and can track the amount of time you spend on

the computer when you log-in on a particular computer. For the very same reason, always log off when you are finished with your computer session. You do not want someone to look at inappropriate websites using your log-in name.

Don't forget to log off when your are finished with your computer session.

FCFT IS INVOLVED!

Some of you might be unaware of the many community activities with which Fairfax County Federation of Teachers is involved. Last fall FCFT teamed up with the firefighters to provide school supplies for needy students. In December we were with them again to deliver winter coats and toys for the holiday season. FCFT also sponsored a very successful hat drive. Union Mill School contributed many hats, scarves and gloves to the

drive, so we thank them very much for their gifts. Other members sent new winter items to the FCFT office and we are grateful. All of the hats, scarves and gloves were delivered to ECHO, a group sponsored by 7 Springfield churches. The ECHO volunteers were thrilled and said that they had been in desperate need of the winter hats, and the donation arrived at the right time to help the poor in the community.