Lutie Lewis Coates Elementary School STARS

Parent Newsletter **March 1, 2018**

Principal's Message

Families,

Great things are happening at Coates! We're well on our way into the third quarter, and here's what you need to know:

Interims reports are coming home today for students who may need to improve in an academic or citizenship area. Watch Thursday Folders and contact your child's teacher if you have any questions. Interims are not quarterly progress reports. They're a way to let parents know how kids are performing at the half-day point of the quarter. Our hope is that students with interims can make the improvements noted so that their eventual progress report ("report card") is better. Thanks for your help with this!

Next week, all classroom teachers begin having one-on-one **conferences** with each of their students to talk about their current progress and set goals for the rest of the year. The Coates Mission hopes to instill responsibility in each student, and these meetings will help us promote that! Ask your child about it next week.

We need your help spreading the word about **Kindergarten Orientation** on April 16 at 1:00. This is for the parents and students who will be coming to kindergarten at Coates next year. It's a great day for them to get registered, learn about school, and for the kids to visit the classrooms. Many times, these parents aren't yet plugged into FCPS, so we need your help in telling your neighbors who have children in this age group to come to orientation and/or get registered! Note: when parents wait to register their kids until late August, the school appears to have low enrollment for the upcoming year. The result is that teachers get "de-staffed" (sent to other schools with higher enrollments) in August. Timely registration is important!

Please pay attention to the FCPS calendar for 2018-19. The first day of school next year is August 28, 2018. There are changes to our traditional thinking on calendars that you should look at as well: https://www.fcps.edu/calendars/2018-2019-fcps-standard-school-year-calendar

Finally, I appreciate the parent questions about school safety, your understanding about the importance of our buzzer system, our check-in system, our need for lockdown and evacuation drills, and our limits on unscheduled visits to classrooms. Thanks for your vigilance in taking care of our school neighborhoods and for calling our office or the police when you see something questionable. I'm glad that we're partners in these efforts to keep schools safe and secure.

As always, thanks for all you do for your kids and for working so positively with our teachers!

Jesse Kraft, Proud Principal

Contact Coates:

Front Office: (703) 713-3000	Jesse Kraft, Principal	Jessica Shroyer, Ass't Principal	Brittany Vigil, Ass't Principal
Attendance: (703) 713-3030	jkraft@fcps.edu	jashroyer@fcps.edu	bavigil@fcps.edu

The PTA Magazine will be coming home in a future Thursday Folder. Check it out to read about the many great things happening because of parent and teacher volunteerism through the PTA!

Please see the flyer in today's folder about the parent input survey and the call for new board members and chairpersons for next school year. We'd love to have anyone who want to support our great events and continue to build community at Coates!

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Elementary School
STARS

Parents,

If you buy any food products with a Box Tops for Education logo, please cut out the logo and send it into school with your child. If we collect enough box tops, we can cash them in for money for school! There's a place to deposit Box Tops in the lobby!

MAKE OUR SCHOOL A CUT ABOVE!

INCLEMENT WEATHER GUIDANCE

During the winter, weather conditions may cause FCPS to close schools or delay opening. Please watch local news and check www.fcps.edu for announcements about school closings.

If school opening is delayed, our first bell will be at 11:00. Please do not bring your child to school before then. When school is delayed, we do not serve breakfast.

Check https://coateses.fcps.edu/parent-resources for more info on schedules .

Mark Your Calendar

March 2 —Read Across America Day
March 14—PTA Meeting 6:30pm
March 22—PTA Fit Run 4 Education
March 26-30—Spring Break
April 2—Teacher Work Day/Student Holiday
April 16-Teacher Work Day/Student Holiday
And
Kindergarten Orientation/Registration

The Coates Mission

We can't say it enough – we're proud of our mission statement that calls for all of us to work together to empower students to become:

Strong Individuals (high achievers with responsibility & grit)
Collaborative Teammates (effective communicators with empathy)
Bold Thinkers (risk-takers)