Falcon Club News for Parents
August/September 2010

Falcon Club welcomes all new and returning students to our Before and After School Child Care Program. Our staff has grown and I am happy to announce the addition of two new assistant teachers. Katrina Shilling and Jessica Masulli are both seniors at Mary Washington University. They both bring a love for children and great dedication to providing the best for them. Our returning staff includes Debbie Grabfelder, Diane Harmon, Ann Potter, Camille Atkins, Megan Higgs, Lauren Garay, Alex Jaffee, Britnae Purdy, and David Kuckuck, Our FC staff is trained, excited and full of new ideas. We are anticipating a wonderful year.

As stated in my summer mailings, escorting students to and from the Falcon Club areas is essential for safety and protection. Please come to the back entrance doors located beside the lower school little playground, in the morning. Students may be picked up in the afternoon at the big playground, lower school little playground or MS MPR. We are outside from 4:00-5:00 p.m. After 5:00 p.m., students will need to be picked up from the LS MPR. Parents must escort their children into the school for their backpacks and then to respective cars. We greatly appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

Our morning hours are from 6:30 a.m.to 7:45 a.m. The afternoon hours are from 3:10 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Enrollment and fee payment must be done before first day of attendance. We have our forms available on the FA website. They also may be obtained at the Receptionist Desk or Falcon Club Office.

At the beginning of each month Falcon Club will be sending home an Activity Calendar with Snack Menu. You will see several snack options that include at least two food groups. Following strictly with guidelines from Virginia Childcare Standards, we must always take into consideration nutrition and variety. We pay close attention to any food allergies and ask your assistance with letting us know of any challenges your children may have. Please make a note of any allergies on your child's school emergency card.

Children are welcome to bring a snack from home should they not like the assigned snack for the day. New this year, we have provided clear plastic boxes for snack storage for any student that may want a different snack than is being served for the day. The storage box is the size of a shoe box so it will hold several snacks. The snacks must be non perishable and easy to open. Your child simply brings in several snacks at the beginning of any given week. We label them in a box and serve only when the scheduled snack is not wanted. We will gladly notify you when your child's snacks are getting low.

Character education is a big part of Falcon Club. Again this year, the students will practice each month a different character trait during their play time which will involve the promotion of good will and a harmonious, orderly and productive atmosphere. We will focus on basic qualities such as responsibility, respect, caring, honesty, perseverance, courage, self-discipline, fairness, friendship and citizenship. Responsibility is our first month character theme.

While the majority of the time at Falcon Club is for play we also do our part to promote the enjoyment of reading. Each day we provide the children a twenty minute Drop Everything and Read (D.E.A.R.) time. Students select books and choose whether to read books silently by themselves or ask a staff member or older student to read to them. We provide books for all levels of readers. Older students, from grades 4-8, have the option of bringing books from home to read. These students also have the option to do homework.

Fridays are called Fun Friday in Falcon Club. This day we offer an opportunity for the children to bring a toy from home. Some of them like to bring their electronic games, Game Boy or Nintendo DS. We are careful to help the children be mindful of the care of their games and in keeping track of their games. To avoid having lost toys, please put your child's initials or name on each item. Ultimately, the students have responsibility of their own items. MS students may bring IPODS on Friday.

We have a monthly Chef's Cooking Class scheduled. It has become quite a hit with the children so we have decided to include it again this year. The Lower School children are divided into four groups. Each group prepares the designated snack and serves it to the rest of the students. MS students prepare their own snack each time.

Cell phone usage is not allowed during Falcon Club time. MS students may make their phone calls prior to entering for the day. FC staff will gladly call parents for students if needed.

Falcon Club loves celebrations. As noted on each month's Activity and Snack Schedule, there will always be a theme day for celebrating a special occasion. September's Apple Day theme is on Tuesday, September 21st. We have many activities planned that will involve apples. Snack time, art activities and games will be centered on this theme. Our goal is to promote the enjoyment of apples and the coming season of fall.

Thursday, September 16th, is Lower School's Back to School Night. Falcon Club will provide childcare for all Fredericksburg Academy students. Parents must pre-register their children by Thursday, September 9th. Please notify my office, bpatton@fredericksburgacademy.org or our school's receptionist, Lisa Diskin at 540-898-0020.

Here's to another fabulous year!

Sincerely,

Betsy Patton
Director of Falcon Club
Before and After Care Program