



# HEADLINES

September 3, 2009

## HUNTER MCGUIRE LOWER SCHOOL STUART HALL SCHOOL

Dear HMLS Families,

Things finally feel like they are settling in and beginning to hum along. The Pre-K began meeting in the cottage on Monday, right on the heels of the final occupancy inspection. Mrs. D. and Ms. A. are happily ensconced with their six little dragons. Be sure to stop by and take a peek when you have a chance. The classroom is adorable.

Fifth grade leaders are already very capable flag raisers and safety patrol assistants, and carpool is going smoothly so far. Kindergarten will begin full days next week and join carpool. Please remember that Pre-K and K are released 5 minutes earlier than grades 1 – 5, and we hope that their parents can be near the front of the line at pick up to get them loaded and on their way. If you are picking up only Pre-K and K children, please try to come and be at the beginning of the carpool line.

Most of the students have begun to have homework, so I'd like to put in a word. One of the biggest values of homework is to establish and maintain the school-family partnership. Children respond strongly to a consistent message of connection between home and school. We try very hard to establish good communication with our families and be available to both parents and students. Homework becomes a part of that as you review your child's assignments and the notes sent home by teachers. Please take the time, even if your child is doing homework independently or in Dragons' Den, to go over assignments and work every night. It is an investment of your time that will benefit your child immeasurably. A side note for parents of Dragons' Den students: the teachers check for completeness of work but not correctness. We want both parents and classroom teachers to be aware of where students are succeeding and where they are struggling. For all parents – feel free to send notes or emails to your child's teacher regarding your thoughts about assignments and your child's progress. This kind of teamwork is part of the privilege and responsibility of belonging to a small independent school community. It is a big part of why we are all here.

As we move into fall we will be confronted with all of the viruses that are of concern in our community. According to recent advice, the H1N1 virus may be a big issue this year. Our guidelines for keeping children home from school are quite clear. If your child is coughing and feeling poorly, regardless of fever, please keep them home until after symptoms have abated. We know that children are sometimes contagious before they get a fever. If your child does contract a fever it is important to all of us that he/she stay home until 24 hours after the fever (without fever reducers) is gone. If your child has a fever at school, you will be asked to pick her/him up as soon as possible. We continue to follow all recommended protocols to keep germs at bay in the school environment. These include a lot of hand washing and sanitizing as well as daily disinfecting of as many surfaces as possible. Thank you for helping keep our school family healthy.

We are looking forward to our first All-School Assembly on Friday, September 11. We will let you know next week which classes will be sharing, and we hope many of you will be able to join us. We hope your children are enjoying their time with us as much as we are enjoying them.

*Anne*

# No School Reminder!

No school Monday, September 7.  
Enjoy the long weekend!

## Sally Foster Fundraiser Underway!

You've probably noticed the beautiful Sally Foster packet in your student's backpack on Wednesday. This is one of our most productive fundraisers each year, and we hope this year is no exception.

Please take some time to browse through the catalog and to share it with family and friends. The online ordering option is a great way to include out of town folks who want to support our school. More details about this can be found in the packet.

Thanks in advance for your support and participation- we can't do this without each of you! We want to make this our most successful fundraiser ever. Orders are due September 28.

Please contact either Maggie Evans ([evansmb@jmu.edu](mailto:evansmb@jmu.edu)) or Tammy Gilligan ([gilligantd@gmail.com](mailto:gilligantd@gmail.com)) with questions or if you'd like to help with this event. We'll need some help in November when the truck pulls up with our boxes!

Thanks!

Tammy & Maggie

# LUNCH

**Monday, September 7**  
No School

**Tuesday, September 8**  
Bowtie Pasta  
Marinara Sauce  
Corn  
Fruit

**Wednesday, September 9**  
Tortilla Chips  
Seasoned Turkey Meat  
Salsa, Cheese, Lettuce  
Fruit

**Thursday, September 10**  
Baked Chicken Drumsticks  
Scalloped Potatoes  
Peas  
Fruit

**Friday, September 11**  
Toasted Cheese Sandwich  
Sun Chips  
Mixed Vegetables  
Fruit  
Ice Cream Surprise

*\*Fresh salad, soup, and sandwich bar served every day.*

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

September 7	No School, Labor Day
September 8	Kindergarten begins full days 8:30 A.M. - 3:05 P.M.
September 17	Lower School Parents' Night 7:00 P.M.
September 24	Middle/Upper School Parents' Night 7:00 P.M.
October 9	Pre-K - 5 Regular Schedule MS/US Parent Conferences (12:45 P.M. dismissal grades 6-12)

Dear Parents,

We will be revising the Birthday Book Program this school year as a great way to honor our children's birthdays and their time at Hunter McGuire while acquiring books for our school library. The Birthday Book Program is a win-win situation and makes particular sense in an economy such as this.

Families who wish to participate can make a twenty dollar donation to the program. The child being honored gets to choose, from our selection of birthday books, one that will be donated to the library in their honor. They will have a signing ceremony with our Head of Lower School, Anne Simon, at which time they will receive a certificate and may dedicate the chosen book. The book will be commemorated with a bookplate and put into circulation. The donor child has the privilege of being first to check it out.

Does your child have a birthday coming up in September? Or perhaps they had one over the summer and would love to have it recognized at school? Just fill out the Birthday Book form, attach a check for \$20.00 (made out to Stuart Hall), and send it back to school. Then, I'll arrange a time for your child to choose a book and meet with Ms. Simon.

*Let me give you a peek inside our Birthday Box of books....*

In ***Rome Antics***, David Macaulay takes us through the stunning architecture of Rome through the eyes of a homing pigeon. This picture book features the Caldecott winning illustrator's well loved pen and ink illustrations while teaching us about various Roman marvels with a little humor. The young child can easily follow the pigeon's journey through pictures. The older child who loves building can look up information on the Colosseum or the Palazzo Spada in the back of the book even referring to a map of Rome "As the pigeon flies". ***Rome Antics*** is just one of several David Macaulay that we would love to make a part of our library.

Is adventure and Greek Mythology right up your child's alley? Would you like to help start our collection of the ***Percy Jackson and the Olympians*** series? Chances are that by virtue of having children, you already know about this hottest new juvenile literature series. Rick Riordan has been receiving rave reviews and great commercial success with these action adventure books touted as the next Harry Potter. Perhaps your child would like to start our collection with a donation of the first book in the series, ***The Lightning Thief?***

Maybe your child is full of imagination, always making up stories of their own. Or maybe your child is one of our new preschoolers? Wordless Story Books are shown to aid language skills and storytelling concepts such as sequencing for both readers and pre-readers. Tao Nyeu, a recent MFA from the School of Visual Arts in New York turned her thesis project into a visually striking wordless picture book. In ***Wonder Bear*** Nyeu's silkscreens are like a magical combination of Asian sensibility, Pennsylvania Dutch color scheme and Dr. Seuss perspective. I am in love with this book! Help us add ***Wonder Bear*** to our library.

I am passionate about children's literature and quite excited about the books we have in our Birthday Box. Please stop by and see!

*Courtney Cranor*

Birthday Book Program Coordinator





**STUART HALL SCHOOL**  
HUNTER MCGUIRE LOWER SCHOOL

## Birthday Book Program

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_



**Please return to Lisa Gordon with \$20 check made out to  
Stuart Hall memo: Birthday Book Program.**