Greetings, Hugh Mercer Families and Friends,

I keep saying this but I’ll just say it again: this has been our best school beginning since I’ve been here, and that’s a fairly long time. Thank you for preparing your children to come to school so eager to learn. Our enthusiastic staff deserves a lot of credit as well. They are a wonderful group to work with, and I come to work with a smile on my face every day because of them … and the children.

A school year is busy. September, just by the nature of being the starting point, was very active. October promises to be equally so.

We are already immersed in our fund raiser, Socktober. This is NOT a fund raiser for our school, but rather a fund raiser to help those less fortunate than we are. You have all gotten the flyer explaining that by purchasing a pack of three pairs of very cute socks, you will be helping to purchase prosthetic legs for amputees around the world. As an aside, Hugh Mercer and Lafayette are beginning work to become International Baccalaureate schools. The Socktober representatives were at our first training back in June, and I knew right away Hugh Mercer would want to be involved in such a worthy philanthropic effort. AND the socks are REALLY CUTE! They would make great stocking stuffers, hint, hint!

We hope all of you will join us at our revived Back-to-School Night to be held on Thursday, October 6. The kindergarten session will go from 4:30 to 5:30 P.M., and the first and second grades session is from 6:00 to 7:00 P.M. In response to requests from parents, we have added a Homework Help Workshop (being held in the library) from 4:30 to 5:30 P.M. All parents are welcome. If you’ve ever had questions or concerns about homework, this is your opportunity to learn how you can help.

On Friday, October 7, you will receive your child’s Interim Report – his/her first academic report of the year. Please pay special attention to this report. If you see indications for concern, please contact your child’s teacher right away. It is early in the year, and this is the time to help your child.
Working together, you and the teacher can make this a successful year for your child.

Just a reminder that Friday, October 21 is an early dismissal day. Student dismissal begins at 12:45 P.M., and that is also the last day of our **Socktober** fund raiser.

We are big on fitness at Hugh Mercer, and our P.E. Department does a great job encouraging fitness in all through their various fun runs. Our first fun run of the year will be the *Pumpkin Run* for second graders on Monday, October 24. It will take place immediately after school, and families are welcome.

The **Fall Book Fair** will be held during the week of October 24 through 28. This is the first of two book fairs we have each year. This is another great place to find holiday gifts for family members and friends.

On Thursday evening, October 27, we will have a changed-up version of Get Movin’ Night. We have re-Christened the night of health and fitness to *Get Healthy Night*. It’s being held from 5:30 P.M. – 7:00 P.M., and it will include a lot of the same fitness activities but with a broader focus of health in general. It promises to be a fun and worthwhile event. Please come!

To end the week, our annual *Fall Festival Parade* will be held on Friday, October 28. It will be held outdoors, weather permitting, on the soccer field, followed by classroom parties. *Fall Festival* begins at 1:45 P.M., and parents are welcome to join us for the costume-filled fun event.

Finally, second graders are taking a trip to Sunshine Ballpark on Monday, October 31 to enjoy activities planned by our P.E. department. It should be lots of fun for everyone! Kindergartners get their turn on November 1, followed by first graders on November 2.

Whew! That’s a lot! But we like to think it’s a good balance of what children need: fun and activity; quiet and focused learning. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Marjorie R. Tankersley
Principal

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**PATRIOT PLEDGE**

I pledge to:

- Do my best at all times
- Respect school property and the property of others
- Show respect to everyone at all times
- Keep my hands and feet to myself
- Treat other people the way I want to be treated
F.C.P.S. Mission Statement: Fredericksburg City Public Schools will provide a quality education that assures opportunity and equity for each student. Our motto “Excellence in Education” embodies a commitment to empower students to develop personal responsibility for meeting high academic standards and to become productive citizens in a global society.

Hugh Mercer Mission Statement: Our mission is to instill in our students the academic and social skills necessary to become productive citizens who are motivated to learn and who care about themselves and others.

Title 1: Reading and math support is provided by the following staff members: Mrs. Melanie Nuckols and Mrs. Stephanie Teri (reading); Mrs. Victoria Ellis (math, Title 1). Administrative support for Title 1 services is provided by assistant principals Mrs. Barbara Donaldson (math, Title 1) and Mrs. Sandra Gillenwater (reading).

ADOPT-A-CLASSROOM

Thank you to the following for partnering with us by adopting a classroom: Julie Steinman, Melissa Blasio, and Jarrin and Courtney Cotton.

We invite you to adopt a classroom. You will help to enrich the classroom experience and increase both the teachers’ and students’ chances for success. As a sponsor, you or your business would donate a tax-deductible gift of any amount from $25 to $500 to your child’s classroom. Your total donation (100%) will be given to your child’s teacher. In turn, your child’s teacher will be able to purchase classroom supplies and resources. If you are interested or need more information, please contact Mrs. Donaldson, assistant principal, or go to www.adoptaclass.com.

INSURANCE NOTICE

Fredericksburg City Public Schools, through the Virginia School Boards Association, purchases each year a School Time Accident Coverage policy ($500,000 maximum benefit) against accidental injury or death occurring while the policy is in force for all students. The insurance provides coverage during the hours and days when school is in session and while attending school or participating in school sponsored and supervised activities on or off school premises.

24-Hour Accident Coverage may be added to the School Time Accident Coverage for an additional premium. If elected, coverage will be provided for accidents occurring during the time not covered by the School Time Accident Coverage, subject to exclusions. 24-Hour Accident Coverage is not automatic; you must complete and submit the enrollment form and premium.

For an additional premium, an extended dental benefit coverage plan is also available to provide payment for the usual and customary charges incurred within two years from the date of covered accident to a maximum benefit of $50,000. This coverage includes replacement of
caps, crowns, dentures, or orthodontic appliances (including braces) when damaged in a covered accident; this extended dental coverage is in effect 24 hours a day.

A brochure is available detailing the benefits schedule for the Maksin Group School Time Student Accident Coverage Plan paid for by the Fredericksburg City School Board on behalf of all students, as well as the voluntary 24-hour extended coverage plan, and the voluntary extended dental coverage plan. This brochure explains the exclusions and includes an enrollment form for the extended coverage plans.

**EpiPen Available At All Virginia Public Schools**

All Virginia public schools are required to have emergency Epinephrine available and at least two people in the building, other than the school nurse, must know how to recognize an allergic reaction and be able to administer epinephrine. Our school does have EpiPens available for the treatment of anaphylaxis. However, we would like to stress this does not take the place of providing your child with their own EpiPen if one has been prescribed for a known allergy.

Allergies are unpredictable, and reactions can be fatal. Individuals with a known allergy should always be prepared. If your child has been prescribed an EpiPen, it should be provided to the school along with an allergy plan for their doctor. This must be done on a yearly basis. If your child is out of the building on a field trip, the school emergency epinephrine would not be available. However, an individually prescribed EpiPen can accompany your child on field trips.

Without an EpiPen on hand, the current plan of action, if your child has an anaphylactic event while attending a field trip or after school hours, is to call 911 and administer CPR (if needed) until EMS arrives.

Please help us keep your child safe at school. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the principal or school nurse.

**THANK YOU!**

**Fredericksburg Lions Club and Victorious Believers** for donating backpacks and school supplies.

**PTA Volunteers** for providing a “welcome back” breakfast for faculty and staff, assisting kindergartners during the first week of school, providing treats for “Tea with Mrs. Tankersley”, and assisting with Picture Day:

Emily Freehling, Kristina Brough, Susanne Saldana, Malgorzata Swearinger, Karen Franklin, Akemi Glover, Erinn Theado, Sara Mellingler, Susan Moss, John Moss, Kristy Bretzinger, Nicole Pennington, Paul McIntosh, Maggie Van Zandt, Jess Mosher.
SCHOOL REPORT CARD INFORMATION

Fredericksburg City Public Schools is committed to informing parents of our schools’ progress and student achievement. Our schools provide information regarding individual student achievement in various ways including interim reports, quarterly report cards, and on-going assessment data. You may contact your child’s teacher if you have questions about his/her progress throughout the year.

The Virginia Department of Education collects overall progress and achievement information through the Virginia Standards of Learning accountability requirements. The following school, division, and state resources are available at www.doe.virginia.gov for access:

- School, division, and state online report cards – provide detailed information on student achievement by grade and subject
- Customized student achievement reports
- Archived assessment results

If you do not have online access and wish to review this information, please contact school administration.

TITLE I

Reading and math support is provided by the following staff members: Mrs. Nuckols and Mrs. Teri (Reading); Mrs. Ellis (Math, Title I). Administrative support for Title I services is provided by assistant principals, Mrs. Donaldson (Math, Title I) and Mrs. Gillenwater (Reading).

GIFTED EDUCATION

Referrals for General Intellectual Aptitude eligibility are accepted throughout the year for students starting in the fall of the second grade year (September through May in accordance with building level timelines). Referrals for this school year are September 16, November 18, February 10, and April 14.

Referrals can be accepted from educators, parent/guardians, community members, peers, or students themselves. The referral is submitted to the counseling department at the school the student attends. Students in kindergarten and first grades will be provided enrichment lessons by the gifted resource teacher. This procedure provides services to all students in addition to identifying students who may need more services and thus would be referred for eligibility in a pull-out program in their second grade year.
PARENT CONNECT
Parents/legal guardians may view password-protected information on their child’s grades, attendance, discipline, etc. Please contact the school office for information about obtaining your user name and password.

SIGN UP FOR ALERTS
Receive text or email notification of weather or emergency related school closings and delays, daily announcements from any or all FCPs schools, Parks and Recreation information, traffic information, etc. Register via the link on our website (www.cityschools.com/hughmerschool/) or at www.fredericksburgalert.com.

DADS WHO C.A.R.E. PROGRAM
The Dads Who C.A.R.E. (Character Building, All-Star Attitudes, Role Models, Encouraging Success) Program invites participants to sign up and volunteer to spend the day assisting in their child’s school day (classroom, cafeteria, etc.). To sign up, please contact Libba White, guidance counselor, at ewhite@cityschools.com.

“TEA WITH MRS. TANKERSLEY” WEEKLY INCENTIVE
“Tea with Mrs. Tankersley” is a weekly incentive event involving second graders. Each week, one student from each class who has performed well or shown improvement, whether academically or behaviorally, will be chosen by his/her teacher to participate. These students will join Mrs. Tankersley for tea and treats (PTA provided), and good behavior and nice manners will be discussed.

Congratulations to the following students who were chosen to have “Tea with Mrs. Tankersley” this week: Giselle Marquina Melendez, Katie Heston, Jasmine Hay, Christopher Mobley, Alexis Diehl, Alexis Mendoza, Aubrey Champion, Devin Breeden, Anna Doud, Marlie Jurlando, Luana Silva, Kaniyah Patterson, Johnathan Hough, Avery Gibbons, and Brandon Snider.

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
All parents with an interest in special education are invited to attend any of the following meetings scheduled throughout the school year: Oct 27, Nov 16, Feb 15, April 4. For more information, please contact Donna Watts at 372-1127.

BACK TO SCHOOL: A GOOD NIGHT’S SLEEP (Mayo Clinic News Network)
Children must get plenty of sleep to perform well in school. Mayo Clinic Children’s Center pediatric neurologist and sleep specialist, Dr. Suresh Kotagal, says most school-age children must sleep from eight to nine hours every night to be at their best. Dr. Kotagal offers these tips to help children get the sleep they need for a productive school year:
- Turn off electronics 30 minutes to an hour before bedtime
- Avoid or shorten naps to help children be sleepy at night
- Make sure the bed is used for sleep only

### OCTOBER 2016

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<td>October 3 – 12</td>
<td>PE Spiritwear Sale</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 3 – 21</td>
<td>SOCKTOBER Sock Sale</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 3</td>
<td>HMAM Begins</td>
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<td>October 6</td>
<td>Back-to-School Night</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kindergarten Session: 4:30 – 5:30 PM</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1st/2nd Grade Session: 6:00 – 7:00 PM</td>
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<td>October 7</td>
<td>Interim Reports Go Home w/Students</td>
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<td>October 11</td>
<td>Patriot Singers Auditions (2nd Graders)</td>
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<td>October 13</td>
<td>Anti-Bullying Assembly</td>
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<td>PTA Meeting @ 6:30 PM</td>
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<td>October 17 – 20</td>
<td>PALS Testing (Kindergarten)</td>
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<td>October 21</td>
<td>Early Dismissal of Students @ 12:45 PM (followed by staff development)</td>
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<td>October 24, 25, 27</td>
<td>Ferry Farm (Kindergartners) – certain classes each day</td>
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<td>October 24</td>
<td>Pumpkin Run (2nd Grade Fun Run – following dismissal)</td>
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<td>October 24 – 28</td>
<td>Fall Book Fair Make-up PALS Testing (Kindergarten)</td>
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<td>October 26</td>
<td>STEM Day (1st Grade)</td>
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<td>October 27</td>
<td>Get Healthy Night (5:30- 7:00 PM)</td>
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<td>Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting @ JM (5:30 – 7:00 PM)</td>
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<td>October 28</td>
<td>Fall Festival (Parade) @ 1:45 PM (followed by class parties @ 2:30 PM)</td>
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<td>October 31</td>
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