

# ON THE LEVEL

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## SPECIAL POINT

Please update your name and school changes with FCFT. Also list a current private phone number and e-mail address. We never give out your contact information to anyone else. You can e-mail the office at [www.fcft.org](http://www.fcft.org) or call the office at 703-451-6840.

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## DECEMBER SCHOOL NEWS

FCPS is in the final stages of preparing next year's FY 2021 Proposed Budget. The Superintendent will release the Proposed Budget FY 2021 to the School Board on January 9, 2020. On November 26th a joint meeting was held with the Fairfax County Government and Fairfax Public School representatives to present the budget forecast. Many meetings will be held with the community, the School Board and the Board of Supervisors before the final budget will be approved in May, 2020.

Meanwhile in Richmond Governor Northam proposed a \$1.2 billion investment in K-12 Education, one of the largest single increases for at-risk schools in Virginia history. His proposal raises teacher salaries 3 percent, funds more school counselors, and new staff support for English language learners. The Governor's Budget allocates \$59.5 million for the Virginia Preschool Initiative to increase early childhood education for at-risk four-year old's also. Governor Northam places great emphasis on early childhood education. He said, "Where we end up in life has a lot to do with where we start."



## WINTER ON THE WAY!

According to the local weather reports and the Farmers' Almanac, our area may be in for a few snowfalls this winter. Often a snowstorm comes up quickly too. If you have lived here for any length of time, you probably know that only 2 inches of snow or ice will play havoc with the roads and the heavy traffic. Most of us have stories of being stuck on roads trying to get home from school. It is perhaps a good idea to have a hat, gloves, coat, and a blanket in the car in case you are caught in a traffic jam that can last for hours. You won't regret it if you need to stay warm in stalled traffic!



## HOLIDAY EVENTS

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If you like to go into the District of Columbia, you might want to attend the Downtown Holiday Market in the 8th and F Street NW neighborhood. The dates for that will be November 22-December 23, 2019 from Noon to 8:00 p.m. More than 150 exhibitors and artisans are offering gifts for sale including crafts, jewelry, clothing, accessories, and pottery. Live musical entertainment will be played too for your enjoyment. Food is available also.



Another event going on until January 5, 2020 is Season's Greetings at the United States Botanic Gardens in Washington, D.C. The exhibit features model train and replicas of some famous buildings, monuments and landmarks in the Capital Region. A new theme each year focuses on a different part of American life.

The theme for 2019 is "America's Gardens." The exhibition explores famous conservatories, fountains, and arboretums from across the United States.



If you have young children, you will all certainly enjoy the Bull Run Festival of Lights held in nearby Manassas, VA. You pay a \$25 entrance fee, stay inside your car, and drive through 2.5 miles of festive light displays. At the end of the drive, you can visit the holiday village to enjoy rides and refreshments. The Festival is running now until January 7, 2018. Hours are from 5:30 pm until 9:30 pm. Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays are the busiest nights, so consider visiting from Monday—Thursday when there will be fewer cars and people at the festival. Enjoy a happy evening!



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## WATCH OUR FOR NUMBER 1!

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You've been working in the school system now for the past 4 months. If you have questions about contracts, assignments, memos for your school file, or breaches of confidentiality, your questions should be directed to an FCFT Member Specialist. Don't sign a letter of resignation without contacting FCFT immediately. Another incident for which you have to be very careful is if a mishap or unfortunate situation occurs in your classroom. If you are uncertain of any ramification that may come to you, contact FCFT as soon as possible.

You need to protect yourself, and FCFT wants to protect you!