

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 or call the office at 703-451-6840.

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FCFT-703-451-6840

Enjoy your time off at Thanksgiving!

A CHEER'FUL LITTLE EARFUL

The holidays will soon be upon us with happy feelings. This is a time for celebrating our bounty and our blessings with good food, wonderful friends and family, and a little holiday cheer. A little cheer can go a long way. As models in the community, we are held to a higher standard. What we do after work can reflect upon us in our work. So if the holiday spirit moves you a little too far or the Friday "Happy Hours" last a little too long, do the sensible thing. **Your job may depend on it.**

Take a cab home, get a ride with a friend, or call a family member to pick you up if you are intoxicated. Don't put your job on the line. You can be terminated for inappropriate or criminal behavior outside of work.



BE JUDICIOUS

Teachers and Instructional Assistants receive five days of Personal Leave per school year. Sometimes an administrator may deny the use of Personal Leave if it could be disruptive to the school. We ask you to be judicious in your use of it.

FCFT OFFICE HOURS

The FCFT office hours are from 8:30 to 4:30 Monday through Friday. You can call after hours, but be sure to repeat your name and phone number so we can return your phone call. Often an issue can be resolved with a phone call. Your questions can be answered. Sometimes we might ask you to come into the office after school. Our telephone number is 703-451-6840. Put the phone number on your desk so it is handy. It is much better to talk with us than other teachers for correct information and confidentiality.



ELECTIONS OVER FOR 2019

The elections are over and in Fairfax County a new school board will take over in January. Most of the members will be newcomers to the board as many members from the previous four years did not to run for reelection this year. Of interest to teachers is that the voters approved the \$360 million public school bonds referendum to finance school-related capital improvement projects. The bonds referendum will allow acquiring, building, expanding and renovating properties including new sites, new buildings or additions, renovations and improvements to existing buildings and furnishings for the Fairfax County Public School system.

The November elections brought a big change to Virginia. The Democratic Party has taken control of both houses of government. This is most likely due to labor program activists who knocked on doors, gave out leaflets, and did phone banking. According to the Virginia AFL-CIO, including FCFT members, 310,148 union members made member to member contacts. FCFT members canvassed thousands of union members and encouraged them to vote for FCFT endorsed candidates. Thanks to Doris Ohmes and Golzar Allen, two FCFT retired members, for their tireless work on the election. They both made thousands of phone calls. We are happy to report that nearly every endorsed candidate won their election for School Board, Board of Supervisors, and the state legislature.

MEETING YOUR ADMINISTRATOR

If you have a conversation with your administrator, be sure that you clearly understand what the administrator is asking you to do. We are finding that it is not always the case. You need to ask the administrator if you can repeat what is expected of you. Don't just nod your head and act as though you understand. Ask for clarification if you are unsure of what the administrator wants from you. Keep a pen and notepad with you at all times so that you can write what is stated.

