

ON THE LEVEL

October, 2019

Volume 18; Issue 8



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 call the office at 703-451-6840 or e-mail the FCFT office at www.fcft.org.

THE FIRST OBSERVATION

The end of the first quarter is nearly here and also probably your observation report. If you receive suggestions for improvement, be sure to implement them. If you think it is necessary to write a rebuttal to be attached to the observation, FCFT wants you to call us for assistance. The member specialists are experienced and will help you to formulate your response to the observation. Keep your wits about you, and call **703-451-6840** for some advice.

Also remember to collect documentation of your competence to support Standard 6 Professionalism. You will need to submit it to your administrator later in the school year. We suggest keeping a notebook and putting the documentation behind each standard. This will show how organized you are.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

This year Daylight Saving time ends on Sunday, November 3. The official time change occurs at 2 a.m. when we set our clocks back to 1 a.m. The result is an extra hour of sleep and some big changes in sunrise and sunset times.

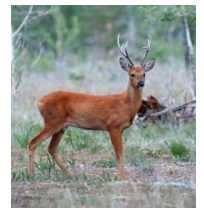
Benjamin Franklin is credited with the idea of Daylight Saving Time. He published a satirical essay in 1784 titled "An Economical Project," in which he raised the idea of saving money by making good use of daylight.

In the United States Daylight Saving time was first established in 1918. However, Hawaii and Arizona remain on the same time year-round. We'll go back to Daylight Saving Time on Sunday, March 8, 2020.

WATCH OUT FOR DEER!



From now until December is deer mating season. In Fairfax County we have a great many deer. They are out at all times of the day, but particularly at dawn and dusk. You may be driving during those times so be very careful when going to or from school. If you see one deer, others are usually nearby since they travel in packs. The police suggest slowing down and driving straight. Don't swerve your car. A rollover could occur.



TRAFFIC LAWS



We are seeing more bicycle lanes on our roadways now, so you should know that bicycles, mopeds, and other non-motorized vehicles are now included in the list of vehicles for which a motorist can be cited for following too closely. Motorists may cross double yellow lines to pass a bicyclist, pedestrian, or skateboarder, if such movement can be made safely. Drivers who pass a trash or recycling truck on a neighborhood or two-lane road must decrease their speed to 10 mph below the speed

limit and pass at least two feet to the left of the truck. Drivers passing a stationary mail vehicle displaying a flashing, blinking or alternating amber light must proceed with due caution and maintain a safe speed for road conditions. Also a person under 18 may carry only one passenger under 21 unless accompanied by an adult acting in place of a parent in the front passenger seat. Many restrictions are in place for drivers under 21.

For more info go to <http://www.dmv.state.va>.



SICK LEAVE



Teachers with 194 day contract receive 12 days of sick leave annually. As soon as the employee has been out for five working days either continuously or within the month, the employee must contact the Lincoln Financial Care Manager at 1-800-524-0740. The first 20 days are covered by employees accrued sick leave. Sick leave not used in one year accrues to the next school year. For this reason FCFT suggests that you work to keep 20 days of leave for yourself in case of a medical problem. If you find that you have problems, please call FCFT at 703-451-6840. A member specialist will try to help you.

THE CELL PHONE



This is a reminder that you should not use your cell phones when you are supervising children and teaching them. This includes monitoring them on the playground too.

We have seen evaluations where the administrator cautioned against the use of cell phones during the school day when your complete attention should be on the children and not the cell phone.

