

# LY FOCUS

GOVERNMENT AND THE FALLS CHURCH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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APRIL 26-MAY 2, 2007

For more news about the Falls Church City Public Schools visit: [www.fccps.org](http://www.fccps.org)

## FCCPS Demonstrates "Hokie" Hope

Students throughout the Falls Church City Schools showed signs of sympathy and support in the wake of last week's shootings on the Virginia Tech campus. In all schools, students and staff wore the university's colors, orange and maroon, on Friday, which was declared a national day of mourning. Over the past five years, more than 50 George Mason High School graduates have enrolled in Virginia Tech, and nearly 40 are still in attendance. In addition, several FCCPS employees children attend the university, and some faculty members are related to Virginia Tech faculty and staff members.



*In a show of sympathy and support for those affected by the recent shootings at Virginia Tech, maroon and orange clad George Mason High School students form the familiar university logo in the high school gym. The brief rally took place on a national day of mourning.*



*Flags at all Falls Church City public schools were flown at half staff in memory of the university students and faculty who lost their lives.*



*A display case inside the school lobby provided signs of support for those who are struggling to cope with the sad events on the Virginia Tech campus.*

## FCC-TV Spotlight: Meet The Author

Tune in to Falls Church Community Television (FCC-TV) to watch *Meet the Author*. In this program, authors describe their approach to the writing process, talk about character development, and sometimes provide a sneak peek at books not yet published. You can watch *Meet The Author* on FCC-TV at the following times:



- Mondays at 7:30am & 5:30pm
- Thursdays at 11:30am
- Saturdays & Sundays at 5:30pm

FCC-TV airs on Cox Channel 12, RCN Channel 2 and Verizon Channel 35. For a complete schedule of the variety of community programs on FCC-TV, visit [www.fccv.net](http://www.fccv.net).



## BIE Partner of the Week Kathryn Courbe, consultant and Mona Johnston, Fairfax Radiology

**School Involvement:** Kathryn and Mona are leading the Falls Church Education Foundation Gala auction. For the first time, the auction began on-line. It ends tomorrow as a silent and live auction at the Gala. Mona also co-chaired the Elementary PTA Home and Garden Tour, and Kathryn led the sponsorships/advertising effort. Kathryn serves on the BIE Advisory Committee.

**Why Kathryn & Mona are BIE Partners:** "With careers in marketing, we've spent a lot of time honing our donations and sponsorship expertise. What better place to share that experience than as event planners and fundraisers to benefit our schools."

For more information about sharing your expertise through the BIE Partnership, visit [www.fccps.org](http://www.fccps.org) or contact Marybeth Connelly at [connellym@fccps.org](mailto:connellym@fccps.org).



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## Mount Daniel Celebrates Arbor Day

National Arbor Day celebrations will take place this Saturday, but Mount Daniel students celebrated on the third Friday in April – a longstanding tradition in the City of Falls Church. The tradition began in 1892 after a powerful storm destroyed many trees in Falls Church. That's when Dr. Birdsey Northrop suggested that the city inaugurate Arbor Day in April to include the school children and to replant the public schoolyard, which was destroyed by the storm. Children at this year's celebration were entertained by a Birdsey Northrop impersonator who taught them the connection between the sun, the earth and trees. The school yard of the first Falls Church Arbor Day is today known as Frady Park.

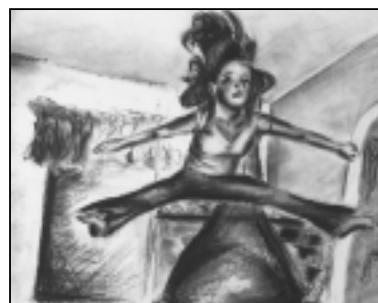


*"Dr. Birdsey Northrup" commemorates Arbor Day at Mount Daniel Elementary School by teaching children about the sun's connection to trees and the earth.*

## IB Art Show Gets Rave Reviews

To George Mason High School's International Baccalaureate (IB) art students, it's part of their final exam. To visitors, it's an impressive display of student talent that demonstrates creative skill far beyond the young artists' years.

The annual IB art show at George Mason received high praise from community members who attended the recent reception. The biggest test comes when students must defend their work and ideas to art experts from outside the school.



*A charcoal drawing entitled "The Jumper" by GMHS Senior Hannah Nystrom was one of dozens of works on display at the annual IB art show.*

## TJ Students 'Pay' for Privileges

Here's a way to raise money for a good cause and have some fun, too! Thomas Jefferson Elementary School students recently raised more than \$450 by participating in a unique fundraising activity to benefit schools in Kokolopori, Falls Church's sister city in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Over the past several weeks, students were given the opportunity to pay for a privilege. One Friday, they "paid" to wear a hat; another Friday they "paid" to bring a stuffed animal to school; and on the last Friday, they paid double to be able to sit wherever they wanted to for lunch in the cafeteria instead of their usual routine - sitting with their class. The fees ranged from 25 cents to 50 cents. The money raised will be used to purchase educational supplies for children in Kokolopori.



*Principal Trudy Taylor joins students for lunch in the Thomas Jefferson Elementary School Cafeteria. Students recently "paid" for the privilege of sitting anywhere they wanted to in the cafeteria in an effort to raise money for schools in Kokolopori.*

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

### April

- 26** 5:00 PM Manassas Park @ Mason (Softball)  
5:00 PM Broad Run @ Mason (Baseball)  
7:00 PM Spring JV Show  
7:00 PM Mason @ Liberty (B Lacrosse)  
7:30 PM Liberty @ Mason (B Lacrosse)  
7:30 PM FLEAC Meeting (GMHS)
- 27** 5:00 PM TC Williams @ Mason (G Tennis)  
6:30 PM MEH Movie Night (MEH)  
Danny the Hippo's Birthday (MD)
- 28** 8:30 AM Mason @ Dogwood Track Classic (B/G Track)
- 30-5/14** IB Exams (GM)
- 30** 5:00 PM Washington Lee @ Mason (Softball)  
5:00 PM Manassas Park @ Mason (Baseball)  
6:00 PM Mason @ Manassas Park (B Soccer)  
7:00 PM Manassas Park @ Mason (G Soccer)

### May

- 1** 4:15 PM Mason @ Stone Ridge (G Tennis)  
5:00 PM Rappahannock @ Mason (Baseball/Softball)  
5:30 PM Mason @ Rappahannock (G Soccer)  
7:00 PM Rappahannock @ Mason (B Soccer)  
7:00 PM School Board Work session (MEH)
- 2** 1:30 PM New Kindergarten Orientation (MD)  
5:00 PM Manassas Park @ Mason (B/G Track)  
6:30 PM New Classroom Wing Dedication (MD)  
7:30 PM PTSA (GM)
- 3** 2:45 PM Health & Wellness/ Benefits Fair (MEH)
- 4** 1:00 PM Rising 5th Grade Orientation (MEH)
- (MD) Mt. Daniel Elementary  
(TJ) Thomas Jefferson Elementary  
(MEH) Mary Ellen Henderson Middle  
(GM) George Mason High

Check the FCCPS Web site for more calendar information.  
[www.fccps.org](http://www.fccps.org)