

# LY FOCUS

GOVERNMENT AND THE FALLS CHURCH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



MAY 3-9, 2007

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

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\* Indicates TTY 711 Accessibility

## Odyssey of the Mind Team Wins State Title

They've been in the Odyssey of the Mind winner's circle before as 7th graders. Now the 8th grade George Mason Odyssey of the Mind team is once again headed to the Odyssey of the Mind World Competition after emerging as the Virginia State Champions.

The team's winning solution was for the problem titled "I'm Only Thinking of You". It features a self-centered character named Jen who is trying to escape from the mysterious Bob. To avoid capture, she travels through time and causes disasters of historic proportions: the separation of the super continent of Pangea, the eruption of the volcano Vesuvius and the stock market crash. The skit is done entirely in poetic forms and devices, including limerick, haiku, alliteration, rhyming couplets, free verse and onomatopoeia.

The Odyssey of the Mind World Competition will take place in Lansing, Michigan later this month.



## Birthday Wishes for Danny!

Mount Daniel students recently feted their beloved mascot, Danny the purple hippo, on the occasion of his birthday last Friday. Children sang songs and celebrated with traditional birthday fare. The annual celebration is one the children always look forward to. This year, Danny turned 47.



## FCC-TV Spotlight: NASA: Destination Tomorrow

Tune in to Falls Church Community Television (FCC-TV) to watch *NASA: Destination Tomorrow*. This 30-minute program focuses on NASA research, including new technologies, advanced aerodynamics, past achievements and medical breakthroughs. Each program gives an inside look at NASA, and demonstrates how its research and technology relates to our everyday lives. You can watch *NASA: Destination Tomorrow* FCC-TV at the following times:

- Tuesdays at 9:00am & 4:00pm
- Thursdays at 5:30pm
- Sundays 1:30pm

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).

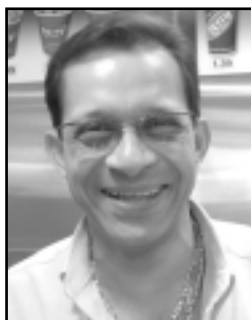


## BIE Partner of the Week Marlon Aranha Jerry's Subs and Pizza

**School Involvement:** Donated pizza dough so that Thomas Jefferson Elementary fourth grade students could make a pizza shaped like Virginia; provided pizza for the Elementary PTA Spring Fling.

**Why Jerry's is a BIE Partner:** "As the local branch of a large chain, we have been part of the neighborhood for more than 18 years. We love to have families and students in the restaurant. Pizza is our specialty, and we are glad to make it available to support the community."

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).



School content published in *The Weekly Focus* is written and edited by the Falls Church City Public Schools. For more information, contact the Falls Church City Public Schools Communications Office. Phone: (703) 248-5699 Fax: (703) 248-5613.

## School Board Addresses Teen Substance Use

In response to the alarming rate of substance abuse by the city's teenagers, the Falls Church City School Board passed a resolution at its last regular meeting in support of substance abuse reduction efforts of the newly-formed SAFE/CADRE Task Force. The resolution also calls on the Falls Church City Council to publicly endorse the task force efforts, including active enforcement of existing underage drinking and substance abuse laws.

"This is a serious community problem," said Vice Chairman Kathy Chandler, who is the school board liaison to the task force. "It will take a sustained community effort to educate parents and students about the long-term health problems associated with teen substance abuse."

According to the survey, students are least likely to use substances at school. The places students are most likely to use are at a friend's house, followed by "other," in a car or at home.

School Board Chairman Craig Cheney will personally deliver a copy of the resolution to the Falls Church City Council at an upcoming council meeting.

SAFE stands for Substance Abuse Free Environment. CADRE is the Commonwealth Alliance for Drug Rehabilitation and Education.

## Students Knead Virginia Geography

Here's a real-world learning experience you can really sink your teeth into. In conjunction with their studies on Virginia, Thomas Jefferson fourth graders made our state and ate it, too! A large part of the fourth grade curriculum is learning about Virginia history and geography; a favorite food of most fourth grade students is pizza. By combining the two, students participated in a memorable lesson.

Students kneaded dough into the shape of Virginia. Using tomato sauce they covered the map in rich red Virginia clay. Then, using different toppings, they indicated different regions of the state. The Coastal Plain was covered in mozzarella. The Piedmont was smothered in pepperoni, while Blue Ridge Mountains were represented by sausage, Valley and Ridge were shown with sliced olives, and the Allegheny Plateau was decorated with pineapple.

Virginia pizza-making has been the highlight of the curriculum for many years, making this activity a unique way to help students remember the ups and down of Virginia geography.



TJ Elementary School students Henry Bagato (L) and Conner Robinson prepare to enjoy a slice of a Virginia-shaped pizza.

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

May	
<b>3-25</b>	IB Exams (cont.) (GM)
<b>3</b>	2:45 PM Health & Wellness/ Benefits Fair (MEH) 5:00 PM Mason @ Wakefield (Softball) 5:00 PM Mason @ Clarke Co. (G Tennis) 7:30 PM Broad Run @ Mason (G Lacrosse) 7:30 PM Mason @ Broad Run (B Lacrosse)
<b>4</b>	1:00 PM Rising 5th Grade Orientation (MEH) 5:00 PM Strasburg @ Mason (Baseball/Softball) 5:30 PM Mason @ Georgetown Day (G Lacrosse) 7:00 PM Mason @ Strasburg (B Soccer) 7:00 PM Notre Dame @ Mason (G Soccer)
<b>5</b>	TBA Mason @ EMU Invitational (B/G Track)
<b>7-24</b>	SOL Testing (GM)
<b>7</b>	7:00 PM Heritage @ Mason (G Lacrosse) 7:30 PM Athletic Booster Meeting (GM) 7:30 PM Band Booster Meeting (GM)
<b>8</b>	9:00 AM Kindergarten Musical (MD) 4:00 PM Mason @ Holton Arms (G Tennis) 5:00 PM Madison Co. @ Mason (Baseball) 5:30 PM Mason @ Madison Co. (G Soccer) 7:00 PM Mason @ Madison Co. (Softball) 7:00 PM Madison Co. @ Mason (B Soccer) 7:30 PM School Board Meeting (City Hall)
<b>9</b>	4:00 PM Mason @ Flint Hill (B Tennis) 5:00 PM Strasburg @ Mason (B/G Track)
<b>10</b>	5:00 PM Pyramid Concert (GM) 5:30 PM Agnes Meyer Ceremony (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)

## Falls Church City Public Schools

### Summer Day Care & Middle School Summer Activities Program 2007

For children entering grades 1-8  
All families eligible  
June 18th- Aug. 24th  
7 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. daily  
(Open to Falls Church City Residents and Non-city residents)



### Register Now!!

Registration packets available online ([www.fccps.org](http://www.fccps.org) click on day care link) or from the day care office trailer at 601 South Oak Street (Thomas Jefferson Elementary) or at Day Care Centers.