

LY FOCUS

GOVERNMENT AND THE FALLS CHURCH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



MAY 3-9, 2007

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Mount Daniel Dedicates New Wing

Danny the Purple Hippo stopped by Mount Daniel Elementary School on Wednesday, May 2 to help celebrate the opening of the school's new classroom wing. Danny was joined by mascots from two of the division's other schools – Tito, the Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School Husky and the TJ Tiger. The three school mascots joined students, staff, parents and local dignitaries in song and stayed for a reception of cookies and juice. The \$3.5 million dollar expansion project was completed late last fall.



Current and future Mount Daniel Elementary School students celebrate the dedication of the school's new classroom wing by singing songs with principal Kathy Halayko and their beloved mascot Danny, the purple hippo. The classroom wing was dedicated on Wednesday, May 2.

Schools Receive Beautification Grant

Falls Church City Public Schools Superintendent Lois Berlin recently accepted a grant from the Village Preservation Improvement Society (VPIS) for landscaping at Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School and George Mason High School. The \$7,500 grant was presented during the city's annual Arbor Day celebration.



FCC-TV Spotlight: Army Newswatch

Tune in to Falls Church Community Television (FCC-TV) to watch *Army Newswatch*. From the offices in the Pentagon to the Soldiers in the field, *Army Newswatch* showcases the Army. Meet the future and learn from the past as the Army executes its missions in support of the nation. You can watch *Army Newswatch* on FCC-TV at the following times:

- Every morning at 6:30am
- Thursdays at 9am & 6:30pm
- Sundays at 1pm & 7pm

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.



BIE Partner of the Week Carol Ann Siciliano Office of General Counsel, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

School Involvement: Worked with George Mason High School science teachers to create and present a lesson on stormwater management and pollution issues for Earth Day; hosted students for Career Shadowing Day; serves on the Gifted and Talented Advisory Committee.

Why Carol Ann is a BIE Partner: "It's wonderful to have an opportunity to share years of legal experience on environmental issues with students and teachers at our high school. Being in a high school classroom reminds me that we have an obligation to provide clean air and clean water for the future generations."

For more information about sharing your expertise through the BIE Partnership, visit www.fccps.org or contact Marybeth Connelly at 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.

Mustang Ambassadors Show Support for Troops

U.S. soldiers serving in Baghdad, Iraq will soon receive care packages from the George Mason High School Mustang Ambassadors Club. The students packed the boxes after school, recently, and shipped them off to U.S. Army soldiers serving in Iraq. The high school juniors and seniors "adopted" the nine soldiers last fall and have been shipping care packages to them each month.

It's not too late to support the cause. The Mustang Ambassadors Club will prepare two more shipments before the school year is over. Donations of personal care supplies, non-perishable foods or cash donations (to defray the cost of shipping) may be dropped off at George Mason High School, 7124 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA.



GMHS Mustang Ambassadors Sam Shaw, Meredith Hamme and Maddie Kaplow prepare care packages for U.S. soldiers serving in Iraq.

Jamestown Lives at TJ

Imagine learning about Jamestown from Sir Walter Raleigh, himself! Thomas Jefferson Elementary School fourth graders were recently treated to *The Jamestown Adventure Express*, an original play, commissioned and produced by Encore Stage and Studio.

The production featured three actors who donned many hats to tell the story of the establishment of the Jamestown settlement by The Virginia Company in the early 1600's.

Queen Elizabeth I, Sir Walter Raleigh, Christopher Newport, John Rolfe, Pocahontas, John Smith and the Great Chief Wahunsonacock, leader of the Algonquian tribe, were among characters who visited the stage. Students also had the opportunity to share their knowledge of the settlers' challenges and success.

The students will be tested on their knowledge of Virginia history on this month's Standards of Learning (SOL) test. The play was a unique opportunity for the students to review what they've learned in the classroom and on a class trip to Jamestown.



Actors Jason Stiles (l) and Mikael Manoukian portray characters associated with the Jamestown settlement during a recent play performance at Thomas Jefferson Elementary School.



TJ student Patrick Pereddo (l) learns more about the Jamestown settlement from actor Jason Stiles.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

May	
3-25	IB Exams (cont.) (GM)
10	5:00 PM Pyramid Concert (GM) 5:00 PM Georgetown Day @ Mason (B Tennis) 5:30 PM Agnes Meyer Ceremony (MEH) TBA – Dulles District Quarterfinal @ Mason
11	5:00 PM Clarke Co. @ Mason (Baseball/Softball) 5:00 PM Mason @ Clarke Co. (G Tennis) 7:00 PM Mason @ Clarke Co. (B Soccer) 7:00 PM Clarke Co. @ Mason (G Soccer)
12	2:00 PM Edmond Burke @ Mason (Softball)
14	5:00 PM Clarke Co. @ Mason (B Tennis) 5:30 PM Mason @ Madison Co. (B Soccer) 7:30 PM GTAC Meeting (GM) 7:30 PM PTA Meeting (MEH)
16-17	6:30 PM TJ Elementary Art Show (TJ)
15	5:00 PM Manassas Park @ Mason (Baseball) 6:00 PM Mason @ Manassas Park (G Soccer) 7:00 PM Mason @ Manassas Park (Softball) 7:00 PM Manassas Park @ Mason (B Soccer)
16	Interim Report Cards Issued 3:00 PM Mason @ Manassas Park (B/G Track) 5:00 PM Strasburg @ Mason (Baseball)
19	George Mason Prom
24	7:00 PM Rising 2nd Grade Parents Meeting (TJ)

(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