

# LY FOCUS

GOVERNMENT AND THE FALLS CHURCH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



MAY 24-31, 2007

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\* Indicates TTY 711 Accessibility

## Class of 2015 Visits MEHMS

With a mixture of smiles, big eyes and a little trepidation, the entire 4th grade at Thomas Jefferson Elementary School took a field trip to their new school beginning in the fall; Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School. It didn't take long for the future middle school students to latch on to some of the exciting features of their new school.

During the tour of the library, one young member of the class of 2015 sank into one of the "comfy chairs" in the reading areas, sighed and then remarked, "I have arrived!" Another noticed that there are quite a few more stairs at MEHMS than at TJ, but it didn't seem to be too much of a concern. "I've got all summer to get used to it," he said.

The "moving up" orientation trip is just one of several end-of-year events planned to help ensure a smooth transition to a new school. Tonight, parents of rising 2nd graders will gather at Thomas Jefferson Elementary School for an informational meeting. Next week, rising 8th graders will spend two days shadowing upper classmen at George Mason High School.



Thomas Jefferson Elementary 4th graders attend a "Question and Answer" session with 5th graders about life in the upper class during an orientation field trip last week.

## Fallen Officers Remembered



Local law enforcement officers salute the flag while students, staff and school superintendent Lois Berlin stand during the special May 15th ceremony. A remembrance wreath was placed near the portraits of two Fairfax County police officers killed in the line of duty last May. Representing the Falls Church City Police Department were Chief Harry Reitze, Sergeant Richard Campbell, Captain Matt Sergeant and Officer Steve Rau. Chief Deputy Marilyn Keaton-Dolan and Lieutenant Tom Crider of the Fairfax County Sheriffs office also attended.

The Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School Flag Team prepares to place the U.S. flag at half staff during the school division's first observance of National Peace Officer Memorial Day. The flag team formed earlier this year under the direction of MEHMS clinic aide Dana Upton, who is a U.S. Navy veteran.



## FCC-TV Spotlight: Chamber of Commerce Luncheon: Falls Church City Development

Tune in to Falls Church Community Television (FCC-TV) to watch the May 15 Chamber of Commerce Luncheon. See how developers envision future city growth including mixed-use projects. You can see the program on FCC-TV at the following times:



- Sunday, May 27 at 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
- Monday, May 28 at 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 29 at 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 30 at 8:30 a.m.

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 Nikki Graves Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation

**School Involvement:** Shared the history of Tinner Hill with teachers on the Falls Church History Bus Tour; helped organize the Black History Month Basketball Game starring the Harlem Magic Masters and the Falls Church All-Stars; served on the Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School naming and dedication committees; helped students develop a skit about their school namesake; developed additional activities to bring the late teacher's story to life.

**Why Nikki is a BIE Partner:** "We have an obligation to teach our children about the significant role our community played in the nation's struggle for equality. Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation aims to educate students and teachers about the brave civil rights pioneers who lived right here in Falls Church. We want them to feel a connection to that history. On Saturday, June 2, the 14th Annual Tinner Hill Festival & Global Market will take place on the grounds of the Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School - a perfect opportunity for family fun and learning about our community's unique story."

To find out how you can share your expertise with the schools, contact BIE coordinator Marybeth Connelly [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.

## Ro Pa Sci and Smoothies

The problem: How to get students re-energized about mathematics after the long winter break. The answer: A contest with free food and a limo ride as the prize.

For the third year in a row, George Mason High teacher Joel Block, with the generous support of Don Beyer Volvo and the use of the company's limo, has created the fictional coed fraternity Ro Pa Sci (named for the contest's final challenge - Rock, Paper, Scissors) as an incentive for his students to focus on their studies all year long.

"We do it because the material gets harder as we build on the year's learning," said Block, "and it's especially difficult in the time of year when students are transitioning from the winter blues into spring fever."

This year, student Rossalyn Kaddache was "inducted" after completing all of her homework, maintained or improved her grades through the first three quarters of the year, and exhibited good classroom behavior. She and three of her friends piled into the limo at the end of the school day and headed off for their favorite food and a fun trip home.



Rossalyn Kaddache (second from left), invites her friends Caroline Perdue, Jessie Knowles and Alexis Morse along for the chauffeured ride to a restaurant of their choice.

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

### May

- 24** 7:00 PM Rising 2nd Grade Parents Meeting (TJ)  
7:00 PM Bull Run District Final @ Mason (B Soccer)  
7:00 PM Mason @ Bull Run District Final (G Soccer)
- 25** 11:45 AM Mason Odyssey of the Mind Team @ World Competition - Michigan State  
IB Exams Conclude (GM)  
TBA - Mason @ Regionals - Charlottesville (B/G Track)
- 26** 10:30 AM Mason Odyssey of the Mind Team @ World Competition - Michigan State  
Mason Academic Team @ NAQT Tourney - Chicago  
TBA Mason @ Regionals (G Tennis)
- 28** **Memorial Day** - Schools Closed / Day Care Closed  
TBA Regionals @ Mason (B/G Soccer)
- 29** 5:00 PM FCCPS Retirement Program (MEH)  
1:30 PM Mason at Regionals (G Tennis)
- 30** 7:00 PM Evening with Encore (MEH)  
7:00 PM Beginning Band Concert (TJ)  
TBA Mason @ Regionals (B Soccer)
- 31** 7:00 PM Evening with Encore (MEH)  
7:30 PM FLEAC Meeting (GM)  
TBA Regional Final @ Mason (B Soccer)

(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)

## George Mason Holds Wrestling Clinic

George Mason High School is "going to the mat" for students interested in high school/collegiate-style wrestling. The free clinic will be held in the George Mason gym May 29th through June 1st from 3:15 - 4:40 pm. Learn about wrestling history, techniques, and strategies from the high school coaches. Clinic counselors will include present and former GMHS wrestlers. Clinic attendees will participate "on the mat". For more information contact GMHS head wrestling coach John Pitas at [pitasj@fccps.org](mailto:pitasj@fccps.org) or assistant wrestling coach Bryan Harris at [harrisb@fccps.org](mailto:harrisb@fccps.org).

## Arabic, Chinese Summer Enrichment Offered

Arabic and Chinese are the new language offerings for the fall at George Mason High School. But GMHS students can get an early start this summer by participating in exploratory and enrichment courses in both languages. The courses are appropriate for students who have prior heritage experience with the language. The focus will be on developing basic conversational skills and cultural awareness. Classes are scheduled for July 9 through July 27 from 9:30 a.m. to noon, and students may be eligible to receive college credit. The GMHS Guidance Office has more information.