

FALLS CHURCH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2007-2008 Budget to Support Strategic Plan



Welcome back! I hope you enjoyed a restful holiday break and celebrated many happy moments with your loved ones.

decisions will have to be very strategic and forward-thinking.

At its fall retreat, the school board identified priority areas in the division's strategic plan. The goals for the coming year pertain to student achievement, data-driven decision-making and staff retention, and my proposed budget will address those priorities. If we can reprogram existing funds to support them, we will. Our success and our students' success may depend on it.

The New Year gives us an opportunity to rededicate ourselves to our mission: preparing our students to become responsible and contributing members of our global community. The work is both challenging and rewarding, and to reach our goals we must continually assess our progress and make appropriate adjustments to ensure efficient and effective use of our resources.

For the past several weeks, our school-based and division administrators have been looking carefully at what we are currently doing in preparation for the upcoming budget process. The 2007-2008 budget will be lean, and in order to accomplish our goals, our spending

View the Budget Presentation

- *Tuesday, January 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the Chambers at City Hall.*
- *Live on Falls Church Community Television (FCC-TV), Cox Channel 12, Starpower Channel 2 and Verizon Channel 35.*
- *For a schedule of encore showings on FCC-TV, visit www.fcctv.net.*

FCEF Grant News

Falls Church City Public Schools' teachers and administrators are eligible for grant funding through the Falls Church Education Foundation (FCEF). Applicants may apply for funding to support individual classroom projects or projects that benefit a specific grade level, department or school. Applications may be submitted by individuals or teams. **Building principals must sign off on all grant applications before submission to the FCEF.**

The FCEF grant guidelines and application are available via the foundation Web site: www.fccef.org/grants.htm or by contacting Sallie Twentyman at the FCEF office, (703) 538-3381.

Applications for the Falls Church Education Foundation's second semester grants are due by **January 15, 2006.**

Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each new year find you a better man.

~Benjamin Franklin

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Employee News and Notes

Welcome New Employees

Two people recently joined the FCCPS! **Jorge Enrique Montoya** is now a member of the custodial staff at Mount Daniel Elementary School. Jorge has been part of the FCCPS custodial staff in the past, and is a welcome addition to Mount Daniel. Welcome back, Jorge!

Nana Enniful is the new assistant center supervisor for the Mount Daniel Elementary School Extended Day Care Program. Nana has worked as a nanny for many years and also has experience in management positions. Welcome to the FCCPS, Nana!



Farewell FCCPS Friends

Few of us could manage food service for our four schools, much less 34 schools. But that's exactly what FCCPS



Food Service Coordinator **Amy Maclosky** will be doing. Amy was recently selected to be the Food Service Director for the Arlington County Public Schools.

Amy leaves the FCCPS with an outstanding record of service. She turned the FCCPS lunch program into a profitable and healthful one and has been instrumental in crafting a number of health and nutrition policies.

Thank you, Amy, for a job well done!



Students and staff will miss seeing **Rob Hall** on the TJ playground. Rob has decided to accept another opportunity

that offers more hours, which is too good for the new father to refuse. Best wishes, Rob and thanks for your service to our students!

On the Mend



Keep a good thought for Mount Daniel Clinic Aide **Timothy O'Connell**.

Timothy recently underwent major surgery and is now recovering at home. Get well soon, Timothy!

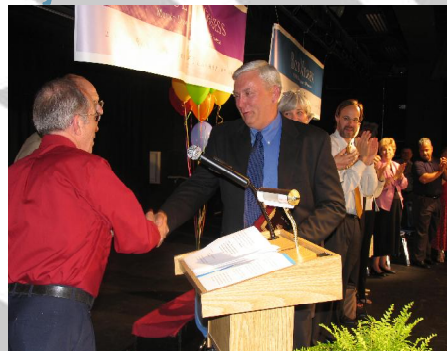
Support Staff Employee of the Year

Nomination deadline March 1

Nominations are now being accepted for the *2006-2007 FCCPS Support Employee of the Year Award*. Maintenance Supervisor **Bob Nissen** won the award last year -- who will win it this year?

The *FCCPS Support Staff Employee of the Year Award* recognizes an employee who has shown exceptional service to our schools. To qualify, full or part-time employees must have **at least five years of service** with the Falls Church City Public Schools.

Support staff employees work in the areas of transportation, food service, day care, maintenance/custodial, secretarial/clerical or paraprofessional jobs.



Bob Nissen accepts the 2006 Support Employee of the Year Award.

Candidates may be nominated by FCCPS staff, students and community members.

Nomination forms are available at **www.fccps.org** and must be turned in to the Central Office by March 1.

The recipient will be announced on April 13, and will be awarded a plaque and \$1000.

Did you Know?



According to industry experts, out of 10 email messages delivered on any given day are Spam.

The numbers certainly hold true for the FCCPS. Check out the numbers for the last month alone:

Number of FCCPS mailboxes **459**

Number of **non-Spam** messages **37,611**

Number of **Spam** messages trapped by Ninja Spam Filter: **273,169**

The filter doesn't always recognize spam because spammers alter their images. To keep up, software vendors must provide frequent detection software updates.

FCCPS Baby News



Stuart Baxter

Congratulations to first-time father **Vincent Baxter!** The Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School Assistant Principal and his wife, Gina, welcomed their son, Stuart, into the world at 2:00 a.m. on December 15, 2006. The baby weighed in at 8 lbs. 5 oz. The baby's debut made the 2006 holiday season especially meaningful for his mom and dad.

Congressman Congratulates FCCPS Teacher

When Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School teacher **Sarah Shaw** developed her LibraryQuest through the Adventures of the American Mind Northern Virginia (AAMNV) grant, she had her 5th grade students in mind. Imagine her surprise when Congressman Jim Moran stopped in to see her recent Library of Congress presentation to school administrators from Falls Church, Fairfax County, Arlington and Alexandria!



MEHMS teacher Sarah Shaw visits with Congressman Jim Moran at the Library of Congress.

Sarah's LibraryQuest project, *Perception is Reality: Examining Multiple Perspectives of American Colonial History*, can be seen online at: www.primarysourcelearning.org/teach/lq/005/index.htm.

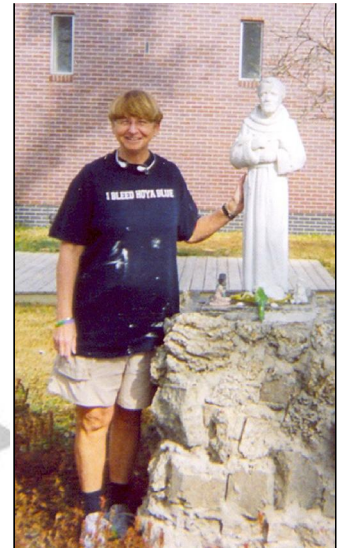
Congressman Moran obtained the Northern Virginia grant that gives teachers unique professional development opportunities through the Library of Congress and its resources. Another workshop is planned for March and April at the George Mason High School computer lab. For more information, email Jeanne Seabridge at seabridgej@fccps.org.

FCCPS Travelogue



Volunteers from all over the country have pitched in to help with the recovery effort in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Pictured left are some of the local and visiting volunteers Gloria Guba worked with during her recent trip to Mississippi.

Pictured right: Gloria Guba, Chief Spackler.



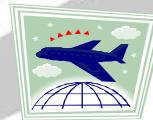
Employee: Gloria Guba, Assistant Superintendent, CIA

Destination: Bay St. Louis, MS and New Orleans, LA

Experiences: This was a Gulf Coast and Crescent City trip taken in order to volunteer, to participate in on-going relief and rebuilding efforts following Hurricane Katrina (August 29, 2005). Spent most of the ten day trip "mudding" and preparing rooms for painting in a Mississippi Gulf Coast community and pounding nails in the Musicians Village in the Upper Ninth Ward of New Orleans. Eating beignets at Café du Monde, caroling in Jackson Square, and watching the Redskins defeat the Saints in the Louisiana Superdome provided much needed "R&R."

Favorite Sights: Volunteer workers coming together from all over the country, joining hands and providing hope to their fellow Americans was a sight not soon forgotten. The arrival of homemade Louisiana fried chicken at lunch time "in the ward" was OK by me, too.

Future Travel Plans: There is so much work left to do so I would not mind going back with others. What do y'all say? Want to join me next time?



New Year's

Resolution: Be Kind to Yourself!

We all talk to ourselves. Some of us speak aloud and some of us speak silently. It's called "self-talk," and it is a tool we all use to manage stress.

Self-talk can be positive, but often it is anything but positive, and that can have an effect on personal happiness.

When you make a mistake, do you punish yourself with harmful words? Do you shame yourself, or call yourself stupid? Or, do you learn from the experience by focusing on how to prevent repeating the mistake?

Negative self-talk is harmful. But positive self-talk enhances your self-esteem or the quality of regard you have for yourself.

Guarding your self-esteem is imperative to successful living, so it's important to understand your self-talk pattern and keep it healthy. Avoid critical responses to either positive or negative events that occur in your life. In other words, take control of your self-talk pattern. Follow a new rule: Never complete a negative thought, and be kind to yourself!

If you need assistance, your Employee Assistance Services stand ready to help. Contact Courtney Atkins-Miller LPC, CEAP, New Millennium Employee Assistance Services at 703-863-6680.



Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year.

-Ralph Waldo Emerson



The FCCPS Weight Loss Challenge begins on Monday, January 8, 2007. This year, your success could lead you to a cash prize at the end of the 8-week challenge. Here's how it works:

Every Tuesday will be weigh-in day, and Wellness Coordinators will provide scales at each FCCPS location. Your weight will not be posted for all to see, however, your progress will!

To start building the pot, there is a minimal start-up fee of \$5.00. Each Tuesday you contribute \$1.00 if you lose weight, \$1.50 if you stay the same and \$2.00 if you gain weight.

At the end of eight weeks, the person with the biggest weight loss, by percentage, will win half of the money in the pot! The other half will go to the Wellness Committee to support future programs, challenges and events.

For more information and to sign up, see your wellness coordinator. Good luck, and may the biggest loser win big!

FCCPS Wellness Coordinators

**Mount Daniel
Thomas Jefferson
MEHMS
GMHS**

**Central Office
Transportation
and Maintenance**

Andrea Stoeckl
Julie Talbert
Megan Atkinson
Kate (Hopkins) Dirga and
Lauren Moran
Rhonda Wilhelm
Nancy Hendrickson