



FALLS CHURCH CITY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SPECIAL REPORT:
Peruvian Quake Touches FCCPS
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FALLS CHURCH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SEPTEMBER 2007



"Nobody works harder at learning than a curious kid."
Doc Searls "Linux Journal"



We're Off and *Running!*

Lois Berlin, Superintendent

What an incredible start we've had to our new school year! At a time when most school systems received disappointing news about student achievement, our school system received an excellent report. Our division was one of only 23 in the state that made adequate yearly progress at all of its schools, and our high school SAT scores showed an astounding 28 point increase over last year's scores. Our students' success is a testament to the hard work and dedication of all of our employees, and it is a privilege to serve as your superintendent.

In the coming year, some exciting new opportunities will evolve in our classrooms to enhance an already excellent program. Currently, a pilot group of teachers is utilizing our new learning management tool, Angel Learning. This new, password-protected, interactive tool provides our school division with innovative, Web-based opportunities for communication, instruction, training and data management. Angel will also be used as the school division's intranet, or central repository for internal communications. Everything from curriculum to business forms will be accessible through Angel. By January, the pilot group will begin training other staff members to use this exciting new tool.



Another relatively new technological advancement has given our staff and students
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FCCPS Service Awards

FCCPS employees were recognized at the annual convocation. Full list is on page 3.



Thomas Jefferson principal Trudy Taylor is congratulated on her silver anniversary with the school division. She was first hired as a special education teacher in 1972.

Commuter Alert!

Broad Street between Virginia Ave. & Pennsylvania Ave. will be reduced to one lane in each direction from 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. daily.

The work includes placing the overhead web of powerlines underground. This is part of the city's planned "Streetscape" improvements to downtown Falls Church. The construction is expected to last through December.



Welcome New Employees!

Who are all of those new people you pass in the halls? FCCPS welcomed more than 3 dozen new employees this year, with some veteran staff members in new positions. Here's a look at who's who!

System-wide:

Marty Gadell, Superintendent's Secretary

Mary Gonzales, Parent Liaison

Sheeba Kamran, Paraprofessional

Richard Kane, Food Service Supervisor

Eduardo Molina, Custodial Services Supervisor

Bob Nissen, Building Services Supervisor

Seve Padilla, Security and Facilities Coordinator

Lisa Richardson, HR Director



Mount Daniel Elementary School

Wendi Adkins, Speech Therapist

Alexander Aman, Paraprofessional

Peggy Ball, Principal's Secretary

Laura Dixon, First Grade Teacher

Jill Dodson, Secretary

Naana Enniful, Asst. Day Care Center Supervisor

Janet Garrett, Art Teacher

Tammy Gorman, Paraprofessional

Lauren Hauschildt, Music Teacher

Phyllis Kravinsky, First Grade Teacher

Susan Larcamp, Paraprofessional

Janet McEvoy Price, Paraprofessional

Oops!

An English mathematician spent 20 years calculating pi to 707 digits in 1873. 71 years later it was discovered he made a mistake at the 528th digit...and all the digits following it were wrong.
 - coolsciencefacts.com



Jill Knapic (GM), Jamie Lahy (GM), Kristina Pekowitz (TJ) and Laura Dixon (MD) toast their new appointment to FCCPS during the new teachers' luncheon last month.

Kelly Miceli, Paraprofessional

Janice Potrykus, Paraprofessional

Ingrid Schoenburg, Speech Therapist

David Sikora, Paraprofessional

Roswitha Sweterlitsch, Paraprofessional



Thomas Jefferson Elementary School

Ann Divecha, Playground Aide

Erin Jenkins, Special

Ed. Paraprofessional

Kristina Pekowitz, 3rd Grade Teacher



Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School

John Andrews, English/Social Studies

Lauren Glass, Music

Teacher

Brian Jackson, Special Ed.

Teacher

Elise Kenney, 7th Grade Career Specialist

Kathleen Sloper, Special Ed. Paraprofessional

Megan Smith, Special Ed. Paraprofessional

Elizabeth Stigall, Spanish Teacher



George Mason High School

Ebby Adukkalil, English Teacher

Jill Aubry, Long-term Spec. Ed. Substitute

Judy Bracken, Guidance/Career Specialist

Carolyn Cannon, Alternative Education Paraprofessional

Chris Capannola, Health/P.E. Teacher

Chris Carrico, Paraprofessional

Valerie Chesley, Guidance Counselor

Rick Fernandez, IB Coordinator

Erik Healey, Math Teacher

Susan Jinks, Technology Coordinator

Tina Shuhui Kao, Chinese Teacher

Jill Knapic, Health/P.E. Teacher

Jamie Lahy, Special Ed. Teacher

Lance Logan, Paraprofessional

Jessica Naftzinger, Science Teacher

Elizabeth Schreiner, English Teacher

Jeremy Shumpert, Social Studies Teacher

Breanne Smith, Math Teacher

Mark Sokolowski, Physics Teacher

Joy Sulewski, English Teacher

FCCPS Presents Longevity Awards

More than 45 employees were given length-of-service awards at the annual back to school convocation ceremony in August.

Clara Loza, food service manager at George Mason High School, is the reigning queen of the Mustang Cafe. In her 30 years with the school division, Loza holds the distinction of having served more lunches to FCCPS students and staff than anyone in history.

Congratulations to all of this year's FCCPS longevity award recipients:

30 Years of Service:

Clara Loza

25 Years of Service:

Trudy Taylor



Clara Loza honored for her 30 years of service during convocation ceremonies.

20 Years of Service:

Dorothy Clinton, Linda Johnsen, Heidi Lang, Alice Nelson, Bob

Employee Discounts Offered by Area Merchants!

One of the great things about being an FCCPS employee is the support we enjoy from the local business community. Take advantage of the following...and thank them when you do!

Fitness

Planet Fitness
6763-R Wilson Blvd, Falls Church, VA 22042 (in Seven Corners area)
703-241-2255
www.planetfitness.com

- \$20 Start-up Fee
- \$10 / month
- No contract

Vantage Fitness
402 W. Broad St., Falls Church, VA 22046 (in the Read Building) 703-241-0565
www.vantage-fitness.com

- \$0 Initiation Fee
- \$35 / month for one year agreement
- \$39 / month for month-to-month agreement
- Add one additional family member for \$30/month

Bookstores

Aladdin's Lamp
Children's Books and Other Treasures
Lee-Harrison Shopping Center,
Lower Level, 2499 N. Harrison St.,
Suite 10, Arlington, VA 22207
703-241-8281

- 10% discount on personal purchases
- 20% discount on classroom materials
- 25% discount during special educator days throughout the year
- Free delivery on all orders

Borders and Waldenbooks
•Educator Savings Days, Sept 26 - October 2
•25% off list price of books, CDs, DVDs and more
•Special reception Friday, September 28 4:00-8:00 p.m. at all Borders stores

Nissen, Kathy Poff, Dorothy Salvatierra, Donna Viscardi

15 Years of Service:

Charmaine Barr, Mary Anne Graves, Diana Harrington, Eleanor Hawkesworth, Mary Klink, Gloria Londono, Maria Shields

10 Years of Service:

Helen Albader, Mary Helen Barry, Judy Becker, Renata Carvalho, Barbara Cooper, Raymond Epps, Diana Fredenburg, Kathleen Johnson, Marcia Schumann, Anne Sommers, Mary Jo Webster, Nick Werkman

5 years of Service:

Chris Baldo, Margaret Ball, Amanda Blanchard, Joel Block, William Broderick, Margaret Doubleday, Joshua Flores, Jed Frei, Sara Henderson, Robert Jones, Amanda Kopp, John Leveck, Reva Litton, Pam Mahony, Karen Post, Hafsa Rahman, Janae Rittenhouse, Susan Sinclair, Arland Martin Smith, Stefanie Williams

Run For The Schools
September 16th
8:00 am
www.fccps.org/run

Pizza

Papa John's
500 W. Broad St., Falls Church, VA 22046 703-237-7272

- Large one-topping pizza for \$6.00
- Will deliver with a minimum of 2 pizzas ordered

Vocelli Pizza
7393 Lee Highway, Falls Church, VA 22042 (in the Safeway shopping center) 703-206-0105
•Grande 1-topping pizza \$5.99
•Will deliver with a minimum of 2 pizzas

Dealing with Co-Worker Stress

Beginning a new school year is very exciting, filled with both “good” stress and “bad” stress. Often the stress is connected to new working relationships and new teams. William James, a prominent psychologist, once said: “Whenever two people meet, there are really six people present. There is each man as he sees himself, each man as the other person sees him, and each man as he really is.” No wonder new working relationships can be stressful!



One important tool you can use to minimize this type of stress is to “assume good will.” Don’t make negative assumptions about your team members’ behavior. Demonstrate mutual respect in your relationships. Don’t hold onto grudges. Make time to talk openly about your working relationships and what each of you needs to ensure a positive atmosphere for the students, as well as for each other. Be flexible in accepting how each of you pursues your work goals to reduce relationship stress; and proactively solicit input from your team members in shaping work goals.

Have a wonderful school year! If New Millennium Employee Assistance Services can assist you in achieving that end, please call us at 703-528-8033 or 703-863-6680. Our mission is “Happy, Healthy, Productive Employees!”

Calendar of Events

Taste of Falls Church - 9/15/07

Sample savory and sweet treats from area restaurants while admiring the artwork of local artists and musicians. Interested artists and sponsors may contact - tasteoffallschurch@yahoo.com

Run For The Schools - 8:00 a.m. 9/16/07

Competitive runners, joggers, and walkers will participate in the second annual Run for the Schools on Sunday, September 16, beginning at 8:00 A.M. to benefit the Falls Church Education Foundation. The 5K certified race and 1 mile family fun run/walk will begin at the corner

of N. Maple Avenue and Park Avenue. Registration is \$20 per person, \$50 per family. To register, visit: www.fccps.org/run.

Falls Church Night at the Nats 9/22/07

Get your tickets now for Falls Church



“Night at the Nats” to coincide with our own George Mason student **Samuel Waters singing the national anthem** at the game. Group tickets are \$12 each. **Deadline to register and pay is Friday, September 14.** Contact BIE Coordinator, Marybeth Connelly at x 5691.

We’re Off and Running!

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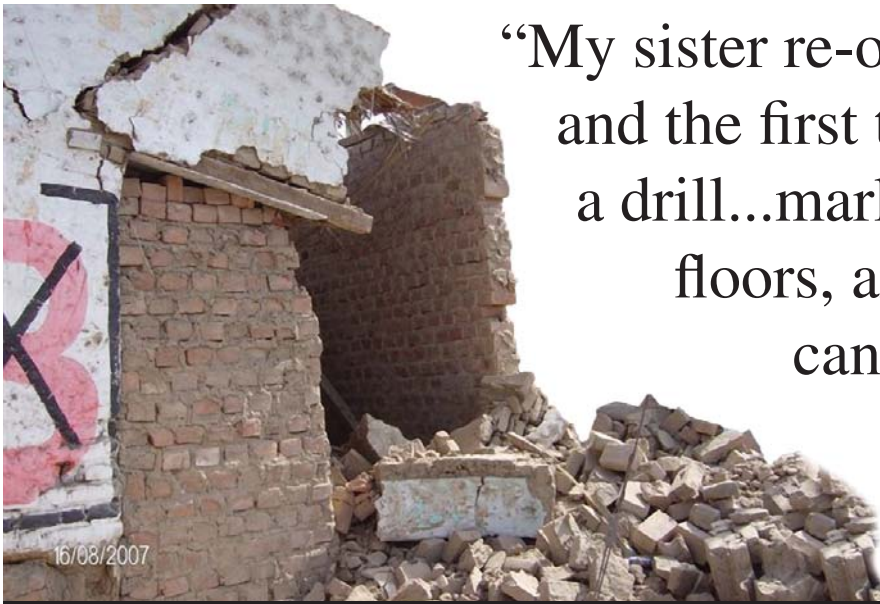
a tremendous head start for this school year. Our online registration tool, Infosnap, enables parents to update their children’s student information electronically.



As a result, we are getting the information far earlier than we ever have before, and our secretaries and registrars no longer have to spend the entire month of September entering hand-written data into a computer. Because we received the student information so early this year, we were able to assess enrollment figures much earlier than before and identify a need for an additional teacher. The additional lead time helped us better prepare for the first day of school.

Our summer staff deserves a lot of credit for setting up the infrastructure for Angel and Infosnap. I also want to thank those who spent the summer writing curriculum, preparing buildings, enhancing security and safety, and managing facilities projects. The future looks brighter than ever for the Falls Church City Public Schools. If history repeats itself, we’re in for another great year!

Lois



“My sister re-opened her school and the first thing she did was a drill...marked the walls and floors, areas that students can use in case of an earthquake.”

- Cecilia Guerra
FCCPS special ed. secretary

8.0 Quake in Peru Touches FCCPS

an Inside Track Special Report

When FCCPS Special Education Secretary Cecilia Guerra heard the news about an earthquake in Peru on August 15th, she desperately tried to reach her family in Lima. Two days later, she received the news that her cousin had died in the 8.0 magnitude earthquake. The home of Guerra’s sister, Marina, was damaged and so was the school she runs in the small community of San Vicente de Canete 65 miles south of Lima.

“The school is one of the few buildings left standing and in condition to run,” Guerra said. “My sister is doing her best to keep the school operating, and she’s offered the public school the use of three rooms to continue education for high school seniors so they can graduate on time.”

Guerra says the school year in Peru runs from April to December. Her sister tells her that many people are living in tents or have fashioned shelters from boards and any standing walls left in their homes, even though most structures have been deemed unsafe for habitation. It is

winter there, and people are taking their chances in an effort to escape the cold.

Guerra says some relief supplies have started to arrive in her sister’s community, although the recovery will take some time. The government cannot afford to provide victims with disaster funds to rebuild, but she says officials are sending in engineers and other construction experts to offer guidance to families who wish to rebuild themselves.

“It’s very bad,” Guerra said. “Some people will not be able to stay.” She says she and her family in the U.S. have been sending money to her sister,

who shares it with others in need. Marina also uses the money to purchase supplies for her students so they can continue their lessons for the rest of the school year. She is afraid that parents are going to stop sending their children to school since their priority will be food and a place to live.

“On August 27 my sister re-opened her school and the first thing she did was a drill,” Guerra said. “She has already marked the walls and floors, areas that the students can use in case of earthquake. Her impression is that her students are still in shock from the continuing aftershocks.”

