

FALLS CHURCH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Summer is Coming, and so is Angel Learning!

Lois Berlin, Superintendent

Just a few more weeks and we say so-long to another school year. Is it just me, or did the time just fly by?

The past year brought many positive changes to our school division: a new classroom wing at Mount Daniel; newly renovated ball fields at TJ; new administrative leaders at the middle and high school; new technology in our calendar software, infosnap and BoardDocs; and a new, six-year strategic plan for the school division. In all initiatives, we kept one thing in mind: doing what's best for our students and our families.

Next year, the school division will begin piloting an exciting new online learning management system called Angel Learning. This innovative tool provides much more flexibility than other learning management systems, and it is more cost effective than other systems such as Blackboard. In fact, many K-12 Blackboard users across the country have already switched to Angel Learning, and other school systems in our area are considering a similar move.

I want to thank our division's technology committee for the long hours they spent researching the many options out there and for making an informed recommendation. This new tool will provide our school division with new, Web-based opportunities for communication, instruction, training and data management. It will provide our teachers with new opportunities for differentiating instruction through this interactive learning tool, and it will provide our students with a new opportunity to master technology while learning fundamental lessons.

The technology resource teachers in each school have developed school-specific implementation plans, which include training a pilot group of school-based instructors prior to the end of this school year. The initial group would then serve as the "trainers" for other staff members in the coming school year.

While most of you are off for the summer, our IT staff will work with Angel Learning staff to set up the infrastructure to support the new technology. The division will also have access to 24/7 support from the company itself. Some of our summer school teachers hope to try out the new technology in their classes, and I'm sure some of our CIRTs and their colleagues will keep the resource in mind as they write new curriculum this summer.

I look forward to exploring great new Angel Learning possibilities with you in the next school year. Until then, have a safe, restful and enjoyable summer!

"A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken."

-James Dent

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Welcome New Employees



Lisa Richardson

When the new school year begins, a 15-year veteran educator will take the helm as the division's new Human Resources Director. Lisa Richardson has served in instructional and administrative positions in three Virginia school systems, and she is looking forward to applying her experience in recruiting, hiring, training and retaining staff to her new role in the FCCPS with one goal in mind: supporting students.

"Regardless of what position you have in a school system, it's ultimately about the kids," Richardson said. "Everything we do as employees of a school division has an impact on students."

Richardson is currently serving as an elementary school principal in the Spotsylvania County Public Schools. Her first day in the FCCPS is July 1.



Marty Gadell

The newest addition to the school board staff will be Marty Gadell, who is currently the Principal's Secretary at Mount Daniel Elementary School. On July 1, Gadell will assume her new duties as Deputy Clerk of the School Board and as Superintendent's Secretary in the Central Office. For the past 23 years, the position was held by Barbara Mitchell, who will retire in June.

"I have some big shoes to fill," Gadell said, "but I'm looking forward to the challenge."



Teachers on the Run

Few people would be able to keep pace with this group of teachers! The "Teachers on the Run" club has covered a lot of ground over the past few weeks.

In Frederick, MD, Holly Herrington and Renata Carvalho ran a full marathon. Holly finished 11th, and Renata finished first in their respective age groups. Both finished the 26.2-mile race in about 4 hours.

"The temperature was ideal for running (50 -60 degrees) but the wind was definitely a forceful enemy," Carvalho said. "We had to fight a head wind in the last few miles of the marathon."

Four other club members completed the marathon course as a relay team: Karin Tooze (6.4 miles), Alissa Mears (6.7 miles), Jen Jayson (3.9 miles) and Melissa Raeder (9.2 miles). The team finished 8th in a field of 24 relay teams.

Pam Spicer competed in the recent Broad Street Run in Philadelphia. She finished the 10-mile race in one hour and 36 minutes. Congratulations to all on an outstanding effort!



GMHS Teachers on the Run display some of the group's impressive medals. Pictured (l-r) Renata Carvalho, Alissa Mears, Karin Tooze, Jennifer Jayson and Holly Herrington.

It's the lioness that hunts.

British women's running club slogan

Farewell FCCPS Friends



*This year's FCCPS retirees collectively represent 292 years of service to the Falls Church City Public Schools and tens of thousands of students. All were recognized at a retirement reception May 29th at Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School. Pictured in the front row (l-r) **Norma Pfaff**, Mt. Daniel Elementary (12 years of service), **Carol Monsess**, Mt. Daniel Elementary (34 years), **Mary Werner**, TJ Elementary (33 years), **Carolyn Prevatt**, TJ Elementary (17 years) Back row: (l-r) **David Applegate**, GMHS (11 years) **Cay Wiant**, GMHS (23 years), **Barbara Mitchell**, Central Office (23 years), **Grace Risetto**, GMHS (22 years), **Eileen Backofen**, GMHS (23 years), **Linda Johnsen**, GMHS (20 years), **Michael Hoover**, GMHS (37 years). Retirees **Rochelle Friedman**, MEHMS (15 years) and **Martha Preston**, Mt. Daniel Elementary, (22 years) were unable to attend the reception.*



FCCPS Supports Race for the Cure

This impressive group of TJ staff, friends and family members hit the streets of Washington, DC to take part in the annual Race for the Cure to benefit the Susan G Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. TJ staff member **Mary Klink** (in the pink shirt) is a 4-year breast cancer survivor, and everyone in white participated in the race to show their support for her. In anyone's book, they're all winners!

TURNING ON OPTIMISM

Every person who succeeds against the odds is probably optimistic. Optimism isn't about naïve beliefs or magical thinking about a positive outcome. Instead, optimism recognizes reality, but makes adjustments along the way.

The energy you see in optimistic people comes from the belief that a positive outcome will eventually be achieved. Positive beliefs create excitement and energy, causing optimistic people to work harder. Optimistic people often imagine outcomes that may be beyond what is actually achieved, but this tendency makes optimistic people hurdle roadblocks and avoid feeling discouraged when the going gets tough. With optimism, you can tolerate the drudgery often necessary to make a positive outcome likely.

The good news is that human beings are naturally optimistic because it is an aid in survival as a species. This means the ability to be optimistic can be rediscovered, uncovered, or learned if it is lacking.

For more information contact Courtney Atkins-Miller, LPC, CEAP of New Millennium Employee Assistance Services, LLC at 703-863-6680.

FCCPS Baby News

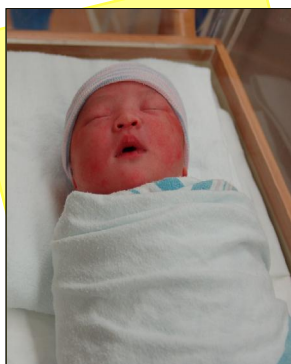


Several FCCPS employees welcomed new babies into their family recently. Congratulations to the following proud parents and grandparents:

Claudia Delgadillo on the birth of her daughter, Angelie Claudia Rocabado on Saturday, April 7, 2007. The baby weighed in at 5 lbs. 8 oz. and measured 19" long.



Dang Nguyen on the birth of his daughter, Fiona Nguyen, at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 15, 2007. The baby weighed in at 8 pounds and measured 19 inches long.



Liz Michael on the birth of her grandson, Michael Arthur Kozikowski, at 9:46 AM on Thursday, April 19, 2007. Michael weighed 9 lbs. 1 oz. and measured 21-1/2" long.



Robin Borum on the birth of her daughter, Emily Elizabeth Borum, at 5:09 pm on Thursday, May 3, 2007. The baby weighed 8 pounds, 1 ounce and measured 21 inches long.



News to Use

Earn a License to Teach - Would you like to be a teacher or do you know someone who would? Check out the FCCPS and City Job Fair on Saturday, June 9th from 9:00 a.m. - noon at Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School. In addition to offering information about school and city job opportunities, the fair will include a seminar at 10:30 a.m. for college graduates who want to know how to prepare for a career in teaching.

UVA Technology Program - The Summer Institute for Educational Technology Leaders (July 23 - 27) gives participants an opportunity to examine best practices for leading technology efforts and to critically analyze the impact of a school's culture, structures and policies on technology utilization. This 3-credit course is the first in a new 12-credit sequence leading to an Educational Technology Leaders Certificate from the Curry School of Education at the University of Virginia.

For more information visit:
[http:// etl.edschool.virginia.edu](http://etl.edschool.virginia.edu)

Newseum to Open in Fall - Here's an educational opportunity for people of all ages. After more than five years of development and construction, the most unique, interactive and dynamic museum in the world will open this fall on America's "Main Street." Located at 555 Pennsylvania Avenue, the Newseum will feature seven levels of galleries, theaters, retail spaces and visitor services. It will offer a unique environment that takes visitors behind the scenes to experience how and why news is made. For more information go to www.newseum.org.