



# BEECH TREE PTA NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2009

## Message from the President...

Wow, we are already through the first quarter of school and kicked off the 2<sup>nd</sup>! We've had lots of fun things going on.

Unfortunately, I want to start off with a not so pleasant topic. With the down turn in the economy, and the falling housing values in Fairfax County, the public schools are facing a deficit of over \$200 M for the 2010/2011 school year! The proposed budget cuts would have a significant impact on Beech Tree and our children, including elimination of the band and strings program, elimination of our foreign language program, as well as elimination of our school's technology specialist. This is in addition to increased classroom sizes, reduced teacher benefits and salary freezes. The Fairfax County Government and Fairfax County Public Schools are holding **Community Dialogues** this fall to hear your feedback on the impact of recent budget reductions as well as seeking for solutions to close the FY 2011 budget gap. County decision-makers will use your input as a key factor to help guide the development of criteria for making budget decisions. I encourage all of you to take part in the one of the remaining sessions where you can make your opinions known for what you think should remain protected from budget cuts. They will be held on **Saturday, November 14, 10 am to noon** at Kings Park Library, Sherwood Regional Library or George Mason Regional Library (on Columbia Pike). If you are unable to attend one of these community dialogues, you can still submit suggestions or comments. Please call the Budget Hotline at **703-324-9400** or complete the Budget Feedback Form online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget). The good news is that the bond funding that is in place for our renovations at Beech Tree will not be affected by these deep budget cuts.

Thanks to Diane Meiser for arranging our fabulous **Restaurant night at Moe's**. We saw lots of familiar faces enjoying some good food and good times. And we raised over \$160 for Beech Tree PTA. On your next visit to Moe's please thank them for their generous support of our school!

Once again the **Scholastic Book Fair** was a HUGE success! It was so fun seeing the excitement on the kid's faces as they chose both their books,

## November

- 11 Principal's Coffee in the library, 6:30 pm; "What is ESOL?"
- 17-19 Beech Tree fundraiser with Barnes & Noble
- 19 Thanksgiving Lunch
- 19 Partner's in Print in the cafeteria, 6:30 pm
- 20 Colonial Day for Fourth Grade
- 25 Two hour early dismissal for all students
- 26-27 Thanksgiving Holidays, no school

## December

- 1 Pictures retakes
- 2 PTA meeting in library, 7 pm; Topic: Bully Prevention with Katie Barbour
- 5 Girls on the Run/Reindeer Romp 5K race
- 9 Principal's Coffee in the library, 7 pm; "The ABC's of Individualized Education Plans"
- 17 Winter choral concert in the gym, 7 pm
- 23 Concert and sing-along in gym at 2 pm
- 24-31 Winter Break—no school for students/staff

and the ones they wanted to donate to their classroom libraries. It takes a lot of volunteers and a lot of hard work to pull these kind of things off. Many, many thanks to all who helped throughout the week and a special thanks to Maria Ferrante for her terrific leadership! Please consider volunteering to be her "apprentice" for next year's book fair so it will have a smooth transition when they move on to Middle School! And a special thank you also goes out to Ms. Abu-Rish and all the Beech Tree staff who help scoop and garnish ice cream in the cafeteria. There were plenty of smiles to go around that night!

Please remember that our children's education relies on a strong PARENT and Teacher Association (PTA)! So, I encourage you to be a part of that association, by simply joining the PTA. Or, better yet, volunteer in your child's classroom, sign up to be a mentor or come to our next meeting and share your ideas with us. We will meet again **December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7 pm.** Our Assistant Principal Intern Katie Barbour will be talking about Bullying Prevention. Childcare and translation services will be provided.

*Karen Wirth, PTA President*

## PTA Spotlight

Thanks to everyone who came out and made Moe's Night a big success, we saw lots of Beech Tree families enjoying lots of good food. Our next restaurant is tentatively scheduled for December; keep your eyes out for more details.

Spirit wear orders were delivered last week. We hope everyone enjoys their orders! Go Beech Tree Beavers! If you have any comments about the spirit wear, we would like to hear them; we are tentatively planning a spring sale and want to know what you think. Comments can be sent to my email at [Joyce@gendell.com](mailto:Joyce@gendell.com). Thanks.



Beech Tree School will be holding a Barnes and Noble Fund Raiser, November 17-19, proceeds to support the library – check out your child's Wednesday folder for more details. Come out and support Beech Tree and maybe buy a few holiday gifts while you are at it.

We need volunteers for only a few other positions and activities so consider helping out! Getting involved in your child's school is one of the best ways to ensure they are successful. If you have any questions, I would be happy to discuss the PTA with you. Contact me anytime.

See you next month,

*Joyce Gendell, PTA Vice President*

## PTA Math Night

Our Beech Tree math specialists, Mr. Reinecker and Mr. Walnock gave a great overview of how to integrate math concepts into every day life at the PTA meeting held on November 4. Many thanks! They also had some great

handouts! If you missed the meeting, extra handouts are available from Mr. Walnock and Mr. Reinecker.

## Music Program Budget Cuts?

As noted in the President's Letter, among the many budget cuts being considered by the Fairfax County School Board, a significant one is the possibility of cutting strings and band programs from elementary schools. Thousands of children participate in these programs and middle school and high school music programs will also be adversely affected if this is allowed to happen. If you support the Music in Fairfax County Public schools, please help prevent budget cuts from eliminating Elementary school band and strings programs by:

- (1) Contacting the Fairfax County School Board (FCPS SB) <http://www.fcps.edu/schlbd/index.htm>,
- (2) Contacting the Board of Supervisors (BOS); <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/board/>;
- (3) Joining the Facebook group called "Save Fairfax Band and Strings;"
- (4) Signing and encouraging your students to sign the petition to save the band and strings programs at <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/2/save-our-fairfax-county-public-schools-band-and-strings-programs>;
- (5) Calling 703-324-9400 and leaving a one-minute message or filling out the suggestion form at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget); or
- (6) Checking out the Fairfax Arts Coalition for Education website at [www.faceadvocacy.org](http://www.faceadvocacy.org).

**Please do what you can to save our strings and bands!**





## Beech Tree Recognized at White House

On October 21st, Beech Tree Elementary School was

invited to participate in the White House's Healthy Kids Fair, sponsored by the First Lady Michelle Obama. The purpose of the Fair was to promote healthy eating and increased activity for our young school-aged children. Beech Tree was the only Fairfax County School in attendance. We were selected because of our Silver Award for healthy choices in our cafeteria, as well as our outdoor classroom/gardening efforts. The Fair consisted of several stations of easy to prepare, yet healthy snack choices. Children were able to prepare and sample snacks. They also were able to hula hoop, jump in a moon bounce and run an obstacle course. It was a terrific afternoon and enjoyed by those in attendance.



## Book Fair A Big Success!

Thanks to all who supported our annual Beech Tree Book Fair. As a result of the contributions of time and effort from volunteers and Beech Tree staff, families and students who purchased books and other items, the PTA

made over \$2,000 in profit. Part of the profit will go towards the purchase of books for the Partners In Print program and the remainder will go towards the purchase of much needed resources for our school, teacher training and other activities such as field trips.

Through the Book Fair, Beech Tree families purchased over 100 books for teachers and staff through the Classroom Wishlist Program. It is great to see such support for this program!

The Beech Tree community also donated close to \$100 for the One for Books Program. The money was spent on books for the Beech Tree classrooms and libraries to supplement the Classroom Wish Lists. Scholastic will match that amount in donations to nationwide literacy programs.

But most important, the Book Fair this year got kids excited about reading through our Book Fair Reading Challenge. **The kids collectively read over 63,000 minutes!** They have earned a special Read-In Day where they can wear pajamas, bring in stuffed animals and pillows and read all day long. Ms. Phillips is so proud of the Beech Tree students, she will greet them dressed as a favorite book character and will do a crazy stunt like kiss a pig – and since the kids exceeded their goal of 40,000 minutes, some of the other teachers and staff may just join in on the fun. Way to go Beech Tree!!!

Lastly, Book Fair week is a very busy and exciting week – and could not be possible without the help of our librarian, Ellen Valentine – as well as the hard work of many volunteers. Thank you to all who helped to make our Book Fair a success!



## Join the PTA!

The Parent Teacher Association at Beech Tree plays a vital role in your child's education. If you haven't already joined, sign up today! Annual dues are \$10.00 per person and you can get membership forms and turn in dues in the "PTA Membership" box in the school office. If you have any questions, please contact Maureen Kiser at [Maureen.Kiser@hotmail.com](mailto:Maureen.Kiser@hotmail.com). Below is the list of your fellow parents and teachers who have already joined this year. If you haven't had time to join, now is the time! And see you at the next PTA meeting!

### Parent Membership

- |                       |                     |                       |                          |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Albergottie, Diana | 5. Balena, Florence | 10. Bowers, Timothy   | 15. Byrd, Tyrone         |
| 2. Andreyev, Andrei   | 6. Banks, Melisa    | 11. Buddendeck, David | 16. Callamullo, Angelica |
| 3. Bacon, Ben         | 7. Beltran, Nora    | 12. Buddendeck, Kathy | 17. Campbell, Deb        |
| 4. Bacon, Laurie      | 8. Blanco, Isabel   | 13. Burdette, Frank   | 18. Campbell, Scott      |
|                       | 9. Bowers, Carla    | 14. Burgess, Rachel   | 19. Chesnick, D'Anne     |

- |                               |                                 |                            |                                   |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 20. Chesnick, David           | 63. Hernandez, Maria<br>Rosario | 105. Nguyen, Bang          | 148. Van der Sanden,<br>Richard   |
| 21. Chin, Stanley             | 64. Ho, Joe                     | 106. Nguyen, Chinh         | 149. Vargas, Sonia                |
| 22. Chmura, Brian             | 65. Hoang, Hai                  | 107. Nguyen, Ngoc Han      | 150. Vo, Nga                      |
| 23. Chmura, Heather           | 66. Huong, Thai                 | 108. Nguyen, Sonny         | 151. Walker, David                |
| 24. Choque, Guido Roger       | 67. Huynh, Giap                 | 109. Nguyen, Tracy Thao    | 152. Warren, Susan Monroe         |
| 25. Coates, Laura             | 68. Huynh, Phat tan             | 110. Nguyen, Tuyen         | 153. Welsh, Danine                |
| 26. Coates, Thomas            | 69. Ingmanson, Katherine        | 111. Norberto, Lopez       | 154. Welsh, Robert                |
| 27. Cordova, Rosalia          | 70. Karagiannis, Alexander      | 112. Orosco, Maura         | 155. Wiley, Peter                 |
| 28. Crespo, Julia Matos       | 71. Karim, Shamsul              | 113. Orosco, Orlando       | 156. Williams, Cecili<br>Thompson |
| 29. Dasgupta, Basab           | 72. Kasey, Dedra                | 114. Palmer, Suzanne       | 157. Williams, Ken                |
| 30. David Knapp               | 73. Kasey, William              | 115. Parra, Marc Anthony   | 158. Wirth, Karen                 |
| 31. Dittaboot, Taypar         | 74. Kiser, Maureen "Senior"     | 116. Parra, Maria Sharon   | 159. Wirth, Tom                   |
| 32. Doyle, Michelle           | 75. Kiser-Andreyev,<br>Maureen  | 117. Perez-Tobar, Milagro  | 160. Wulff, Lara                  |
| 33. Edgerton, Susan           | 76. Klose, Megan                | 118. Pham, Minh            | 161. Wulff, Robert                |
| 34. Faisal, Mohammad          | 77. Knapp, Jason                | 119. Phi Le, Khanh         | 162. Ziaul Karim                  |
| 35. Fernandez, Norma          | 78. Knapp, Lisa                 | 120. Portillo, Betrix      |                                   |
| 36. Ferrell, Tracy            | 79. Knight, Alicia              | 121. Quach, Hiep Buu       |                                   |
| 37. Findorff, Maureen         | 80. Knight, Craig               | 122. Rahim, Mari           |                                   |
| 38. Fleming, Julie            | 81. Knudson, Emily              | 123. Ralda, Luisa          |                                   |
| 39. Fronda, Charima           | 82. Knuth, Tammie               | 124. Riester, Holly        |                                   |
| 40. Funk, Michelle            | 83. Kratch, Claire              | 125. Rosales, Ermilinda    |                                   |
| 41. Funk, Todd                | 84. Kratch, Kurt                | 126. Rubio, Edgar          |                                   |
| 42. Galleyo, Maria Elena      | 85. Lahrim, Wadi Adam           | 127. Rutt, Machado         |                                   |
| 43. Gaskin, Carlos            | 86. Le, Dung T. Minh            | 128. Sambe, Amy            |                                   |
| 44. Gaskin, Diem              | 87. Le, Mrs. Derek              | 129. Sanchez, Juan         |                                   |
| 45. Gendell, Joyce            | 88. Le, Trinh Thuy Thi          | 130. Schubring, Rosemarie  |                                   |
| 46. Gendell, Martin           | 89. Lemus, Kelly                | 131. Sengupta, Ishita      |                                   |
| 47. Giron, Antonio            | 90. Lesko, Dave                 | 132. Shevak, Alanna        |                                   |
| 48. Gobeille, Joseph          | 91. Lesko, Jane                 | 133. Shevak, Richard       |                                   |
| 49. Gobeille, Samira Taher    | 92. Leung, Blanche              | 134. Solomon, Gail         |                                   |
| 50. Gordillo, Ricardo         | 93. Leung, Wai                  | 135. Stephanie Rosario     |                                   |
| 51. Grant, Glenn              | 94. Loza, Karla Claros          | 136. Stewart, Marcia       |                                   |
| 52. Grant, Karen              | 95. Manning, Linda              | 137. Stewart, Tim          |                                   |
| 53. Greer, Elizabeth          | 96. Marquez, Annette            | 138. Stuart, James         |                                   |
| 54. Gregory, Carlyle          | 97. Martinage, Ashley           | 139. Stuart, Suzanne       |                                   |
| 55. Gregory, Margaret         | 98. Meiser, Craig               | 140. Sweeney, Melissa      |                                   |
| 56. Hai, Dao                  | 99. Meiser, Diane               | 141. Tapia, Federico       |                                   |
| 57. Hart, Amadie              | 100. Minero, Azucena            | 142. Tong, Tina            |                                   |
| 58. Hart, Philip              | 101. Morrissey, John            | 143. Tran, Anh             |                                   |
| 59. Hernandez, Debra<br>Gersh | 102. Mr. Do, Thang              | 144. Tran, Lynn Philoan    |                                   |
| 60. Hernandez, Greg           | 103. Mrs. Do, Thang             | 145. Tran, Tam             |                                   |
| 61. Hernandez, Jasmin         | 104. Mullen, Patricia           | 146. Valdez, Ana           |                                   |
| 62. Hernandez, Margarita      |                                 | 147. Van der Sanden, Heidi |                                   |

### Teacher Membership

1. Abu-Rish, Nadia
2. Barbour, Kathleen
3. Barbour, Mark
4. Daugherty, Karim
5. Fields, Kelly
6. Forbush, Lynn
7. Fouse, Judi
8. Holcombe, Sandra
9. Kinkaid, Jodi
10. Ly, Sherrell
11. Mancusco, Char
12. Martins, Heather
13. Mayer, Jill
14. McIntyre, Jennifer
15. Olinger, Joan
16. Perret, Kay
17. Phillips, Ray
18. Phillips, Terry
19. Price, Blanche
20. Prior, Devon
21. Reinecker, Donald
22. Robinson, Kristen
23. Smith, Krista
24. Valentine, Ellen
25. Walnock, Rob
26. Willet, Kristen

## PTA MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 4, 2009

By Jane Lesko

**Principal's Report:** [Principal Phillips provided the calendar dates listed on the first page of this newsletter.] Ms. Phillips noted that the students read 61,124 minutes during the Book Fair Week. Saturday School will start on November 7<sup>th</sup> for those students that qualify. 70 children have registered so far.

Parents can still register their children if they qualify. The free tutoring will take place at the school, at home or a tutoring center. The musical concert schedules have changed. The band and the chorus will have separate concerts so each group gets a chance to show off. Beech Tree has had a few cases of the flu reported but not a large number.

Beech Tree has partnered with the Clarendon Barnes and Noble Store for a book fair. On November 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> a percentage of

the purchases made using the Beech Tree voucher number will be donated to the school via a gift card. The gift card can be used to purchase books for the school. Purchases can be made at any Barnes and Noble store nationwide and a portion of those sales will go to Beech Tree as long as the voucher number is used. A school wish list will be posted at the Clarendon store. The Beech Tree chorus will perform on Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at the Clarendon store. Look in your child's Wednesday folder for the voucher number.

### Treasurer's Report:

David Chesnick reviewed the budget that was provided.

### Counselor's Report:

Ms. Mayer noted that a partnership between JEB Stuart High School and Beech Tree has been set up. 55 teachers, parents and students are volunteering to be part of the Beech Tree PALS program. Each adult is paired with a student so that the child has one on one time with an adult.

A date is being set sometime in December for parents to come in and check out the school food pantry and clothing closet. Computers will also be available along with assistance to help parents.

A Parent Support Group will be held in December discussing issues that young girls have to face as they grow older.

### Special Topic – Household Math – Mr. Reinecker and Mr. Walnock

Mr. Reinecker and Mr. Walnock discussed many ways for parents to help their children with math.

- ✓ Math is all around us.
- ✓ Parents should develop a positive attitude towards math.
- ✓ Math is a very important skill, which we all need to master.
- ✓ Parents need to be mathematically confident.
- ✓ Be there for your child to help and support them.
- ✓ The best question to ask your child is "Why?"
- ✓ <http://www.nctm.org/resources/families.aspx> - NCTM website with good resources for families.
- ✓ <http://nlvm.usu.edu/en/nav/vlibrary.html> – National Library of Virtual Manipulatives.

### Committee Reports:

**Membership** – The committee is working hard to recruit members. There are currently 179 members.

**Directory** – The directory has been published and delivered to families. If a family did not receive their copy, please contact your child's teacher. Ms. Do also has copies in the office.

**Spirit Wear** – Orders were distributed last week. If anyone has any comments about the vendor or the new logo, please provide any feedback to Joyce Gendell at [Joyce@gendell.com](mailto:Joyce@gendell.com)

**Restaurant Night** – The "Beech Tree Night" fundraiser raised \$166 for the PTA

**Box Tops/Campbells** – Box Tops were recently submitted a check for \$360 should be received for the submission.

**Grocery Registrations** – Families are encouraged to register their Giant, Harris Teeter and Safeway cards.

**Book Fair and Ice Cream Social** – All volunteers who participated in the book fair were thanked for their hard work. The book fair had record sales and it raised \$2,000 for the PTA. Part of the funds raised will go to purchase books for Partners in Print. The \$1 for Books campaign raised \$100. Each teacher was able to receive at least one book for their classroom from the campaign.

Maria Ferrante is looking for a co-chair to help run the book fair next year. Ms. Abu-Rish was thanked for all her help in organizing the successful Ice Cream Social.

**SCRIPS** – Giant Food sells gift cards for 5% off face value. The school sells them for full value and the PTA receives the 5%. Contact Laura Coates with questions concerning Giant gift cards at [laura.coates@yahoo.com](mailto:laura.coates@yahoo.com).

## Special Education News

**11 November-** The FCPS Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities (ACSD) will hold its monthly meeting at the Gatehouse Administrative Center (Rooms 4050/4051), 8115 Gatehouse Road, Falls Church, VA. A map and directions are at [http://commweb.fcps.edu/directory/map\\_base.cfm?locid=5031](http://commweb.fcps.edu/directory/map_base.cfm?locid=5031).

The meeting begins promptly at 7:30 pm on that Wednesday. Guests are welcome to observe and/or provide public comment at any meeting. For more information about the Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities, visit <http://www.fcps.edu/dss/ACSD>.

**12 November-** FCPS ABA Enhanced Autism Services Parent Monthly Workshop from 9 to 10:30am and from 7 to 8:30pm the Dunn Loring Admin Center, 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring, VA 22027 in Room 1. A map and directions are at [http://commweb.fcps.edu/directory/map\\_base.cfm?locid=5008](http://commweb.fcps.edu/directory/map_base.cfm?locid=5008).

The topic is TBD. This workshop is for parents whose children are receiving special education services using Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) at the preschool, elementary or secondary levels. A map and directions are at [http://commweb.fcps.edu/directory/map\\_base.cfm?locid=5031](http://commweb.fcps.edu/directory/map_base.cfm?locid=5031). For the complete schedule of ABA Parent Workshops and to download flier and registration form go to <http://www.fcps.edu/ss/ABA>.

**12 November-** FCPS Workshop on Wellness. Join us for a morning to focus on yourself and your relationships. Learn strategies to reduce stress and improve wellness from 10 to Noon at the City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax, VA 22030.

A map and directions are at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/direct.htm>. Please register by calling the Parent Resource Center at 703-204-3941 or registering online at [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=j6CZj8Q5aaXeTYGwmDKuMw\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=j6CZj8Q5aaXeTYGwmDKuMw_3d_3d). Accommodations and interpreters are available for workshops. Please let us know two weeks in advance if you need any of these services. For more information, visit [www.fcps.edu/cco/prc](http://www.fcps.edu/cco/prc).

**13 November-** FCPS Workshop on Good Behavior Made Easy ~ 1...2...3! Join us for a comprehensive 3-session series on developing parenting skills to reduce the likelihood of challenging behaviors in preschool and kindergarten children. Refreshments will be served! "Make-n-Take" activities you can use at home right away! It is on Friday, 11/13/09 from 10 to Noon at the Dunn Loring Center (Entrance 1 - Room 11), 2334 Gallows Rd, Dunn Loring, VA 22027. A map and directions are at [http://commweb.fcps.edu/directory/map\\_base.cfm?locid=5008](http://commweb.fcps.edu/directory/map_base.cfm?locid=5008). Please register by calling the Parent Resource Center at 703-204-3941 or registering online at

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=7aA8TB9FGBNptNQZtLRQfQ\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=7aA8TB9FGBNptNQZtLRQfQ_3d_3d). Accommodations and interpreters are available for workshops. Please let us know two weeks in advance if you need any of these services. For more information, visit [www.fcps.edu/cco/prc](http://www.fcps.edu/cco/prc).

**14 November-** POAC-NoVA PVBIA Parent program Workshop on Being Sexually Appropriate. From 10am to 2pm for \$25 in Lorton. Being Sexually Appropriate presented by Ted Hoch, Ph.D., BCBA and Jennie Kampf for parents of kids ages 2 and up. This class gives you information on how to help your child become aware of appropriate touch, where and who to address in front of, and other related critical life skills. Registration to [pvbia@poac-nova.org](mailto:pvbia@poac-nova.org) is simply sending your name and if you are a parent or teacher. Cost \$25 (pay pal is the preferred method of payment) at [http://www.poac-nova.org/base.cgim?template=online\\_payment](http://www.poac-nova.org/base.cgim?template=online_payment). For location, please register by emailing [pvbia@poac-nova.org](mailto:pvbia@poac-nova.org).

**14 November-** FCPS Workshop on Moving On to Life in the Community. It is a resource fair of vocational, residential, independent living, leisure/recreation, and advocacy options for individuals eligible for ongoing employment and day/community support services after graduation. It is on Saturday, 11/14/09 starting at 8:30 to 11:30 am at Chantilly High School, 4201 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly, VA 20151. A map and directions are at [http://commweb.fcps.edu/directory/map\\_base.cfm?locid=2003](http://commweb.fcps.edu/directory/map_base.cfm?locid=2003). Accommodations and interpreters are available for workshops.

Please let us know two weeks in advance if you need any of these services. For more information, contact Sue Eaton at [Susanne.eaton@fcps.edu](mailto:Susanne.eaton@fcps.edu), or 703 642-4239, or visit <http://www.fcps.edu/ss/its/rate/index.htm>.

**14 November- DSANV Workshop on Reading: Assessment and Reading Programs** from 10:00am to 2:00pm at the Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St. Alexandria, VA 22314. From 10 to 12. The presenter is Maureen Delaney Nameroff, MS on Assessment and Remediation She will be leading us in discussion regarding the differences between the typical classroom model of teaching reading and the Direct Instructional Model and the different programs to teach reading that are currently proving effective for public school students. Part of our time together will cover different reading assessments as well. A former special education teacher, Maureen has a MS in Counseling Psychology and has worked previously as a child/family therapist. Maureen has three children, two on the Autism Spectrum. She is currently a co-chair of the School Board's Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities and has chaired their Reading subcommittee for the past two years. From 12 to 2, the presenter is Beth Lennox on Literacy for All Ages! Beth is a veteran teacher with 17 years of experience, with 10 years of working with individuals with special needs, from infancy to adults. Have you considered teaching your baby to read to help acquire language? Do you have an elementary school aged child who has room for improvement in reading? A teenager who could use some encouragement with literacy and comprehension? Do you have a non-reader? Using techniques based on Sue Buckley's research to teach reading and improve short term memory, parents and educators can significantly impact reading skills. From sight reading and phonemic awareness through phonics and comprehension, you'll come away with methods that really work for students with emerging skills or who struggle with reading. This program is FREE and open to the public. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Noelle Holloman at [NoelleH@dsanv.org](mailto:NoelleH@dsanv.org) or 703-621-7129. Please check [www.dsanv.org](http://www.dsanv.org) for details.

**17 November- FCPS Workshop on Coping with Feelings**. This workshop will address the feelings parents may have about raising a child with a disability; from 10 to Noon at the Burke Centre Library, 5935 Fred Oaks Road, Burke, VA 22015. A map and directions are at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/direct.htm>. Please register by calling the Parent Resource Center at 703-204-3941 or registering online at [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=ltTTVQ3yoy3rxAkpf0&tpg\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=ltTTVQ3yoy3rxAkpf0&tpg_3d_3d). Accommodations and interpreters are available for workshops. Please let us know two weeks in advance if you need any of these services. For more information, visit [www.fcps.edu/ccp/prc](http://www.fcps.edu/ccp/prc).

**17 November- Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental**

**Services (DBHDS) public hearing** starting at 1:30 p.m. at the Northern Virginia Training Center, 9901 Braddock Road, Fairfax, VA 22032. A map and directions are at <http://www.nvtc.dhmrvaas.virginia.gov/Directions.s.html>. Section 37.2-315 of the Code of Virginia requires that the Department develop and biennially update a six-year plan for the behavioral health and developmental services system. The plan identifies services and supports needed by persons with mental health or substance use disorders or intellectual disability across the Commonwealth, defines resource requirements, and proposes strategies to address these needs. The Comment Period is from October 15, 2009 through November 20, 2009. The Department welcomes your comments on the Plan and its recommendations. You can also provide written comments to Charline Davidson, Director of Planning and Development for the Department at DBHDS, 1220 Bank Street, P. O. Box 1797, Richmond, VA 23218-1797 or via fax at 804-371-0092. You can also speak at a public hearing on the Plan. The video-conference hook-up will enable participating members of the Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and Department staff to hear all presenters. Presenters are encouraged to bring a written copy of their comments.

**17 November- Proactive Parents meeting on "THAT'S DEDUCTIBLE?!"** Just in time for end-of-year tax planning! Learn tax saving strategies often overlooked by individuals and preparers. As a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER and Dad to 3 children--2 with disabilities-- Christopher Waddell understands the complexity of planning for long term support of our children and also the financial toll it takes to raise a child with special needs. Attendees will learn about:

- \* Health Savings Accounts, other tax-favored health plans, and Dependent Care plans.
- \* How much can you deduct for long term care premiums and expenses?
- \* How to make the nondeductible deductible?
- \* What are impairment-related work expenses?
- \* What capital expenses for improving your home can be deducted?
- \* What medical expenses can you include this year?
- \* Can I deduct Educational Advocacy Expenses? and more.

Christopher regularly appears in national and local media, including Business Week, CNBC, Comcast CNN, and Financial Planning magazine, and, since 2006, has been named in the Consumer Research Council of America's annual Guide to America's Best Financial Planners. This is hosted by Rosemary Speight, Cathleen Creighton Thompson, and Beth Troutman. It is from 7 to 7-9:30pm at Christ Church, 8285 Glen Eagles Lane, Fairfax Station, VA 22039. Look for sign upon entering. COST is \$10. Please RSVP to [troutmanbeth@yahoo.com](mailto:troutmanbeth@yahoo.com). (NOTE: The 2nd part of this series will be held after the holidays in January to address how to protect the money you

save--Special Needs Trusts, presented by Kelly Thompson, Attorney).

**21 November- POAC-NoVA Information and Support Group Meeting on "How to Consider and Work with Feeding and Eating Disabilities for Children on the Spectrum from a Behavioral Standpoint"** by Dr. Ted Hoch, BCBA. From 1 to 4:30pm in the library of the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax, VA (From the Capital Beltway (495), take exit 52A, (Little River Turnpike West; also called Route 236 West). The JCCNV is located on the right-hand side, 1.5 miles west on Little River Turnpike, at the intersection of Guinea Road).

**21 November- Future Quest 2009 conference on "Facing Your Future: Steps to Creating the Life You Want" at the Johnson Center of George Mason University (Fairfax Campus)** from 8:30 am to 2:40 pm. The Mason Pond Parking Deck at Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 is the closest one to the Johnson Center. A FREE career & college forum for students with disabilities, parents & professionals. Keynote Speaker is JENNIFER KEMP, Senior Policy Advisor, U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Disability Employment Policy. You Can Learn About: Options After High School; College Application Process; Strategies For Success; Career Planning; Career/Technical Schools; Supports You Can Use at School & Work; and New sessions for students with Intellectual Disabilities. For Pre-registration/ accommodations/information, visit [www.VaCollegeQuest.org](http://www.VaCollegeQuest.org) or <http://georgemasonuniversity.cloverpad.org/Default.aspx?pagelid=270260&eventid=63890&EventViewMode=EventDetails>. On-Site Registration begins at 8:00 am. - George Mason University Johnson Center. Sponsored by the Northern Virginia Transition Coalition. For more info, contact Karen Sherman at 703-228-2545, [ksherman@arlington.k12.va.us](mailto:ksherman@arlington.k12.va.us) or Deborah Hammer at 703-855-9882, [dhammer@autismsupports.org](mailto:dhammer@autismsupports.org) or find us on Facebook. For accommodations please register by 10/21/09.

**21 November- Sensory Friendly Movie. Please join AMC and the Autism Society for "Planet 51"** from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm at the AMC Tyson's (McLean) - 703-734-6212, AMC Potomac Mills (Woodbridge) - 703-490-3801, and AMC Rio Cinemas (Gaithersburg) 301-948-6673. Cost is \$6 per person. AMC Entertainment (AMC) and the Autism Society have teamed up to bring families affected by autism and other disabilities a special opportunity to enjoy new current in a safe and accepting environment on a monthly basis with the "Sensory Friendly Films" program