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# GLASGOW PANTHER

Published by the Ellen Glasgow Middle School PTA – September, 2005

Ellen Glasgow Middle School - 4101 Fairfax Parkway Alexandria, VA 22312 - 703-813-8700 [www.fcps.edu/GlasgowMS](http://www.fcps.edu/GlasgowMS)

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## President's Letter

Welcome to the first issue of the Glasgow Panther for the 2005-2006 school year. This newsletter will be published monthly by the Glasgow PTA and represents just one of many ways we are involved in our school. So far this year, we hosted the Back to School Breakfast for our wonderful teachers and staff, we provided the funds for the new homework agendas given to every student at the beginning of the school year, and we are working on the production of the Glasgow phone directory to give to every student. And the PTA continues to be involved in the final planning stages of our new building.

Looking forward, the PTA will provide a chance for students to take part in the Reflections contest and to participate on an Odyssey of the Mind team. Later in the year, they can attend the Book Fair and a cultural arts event. Pizza Bingo Night and the always popular Hoop Night will return in the spring. And we will contribute funds to ensure that every student will have the opportunity to take part in a grade level field trip.

Our efforts to raise funds must continue in order to sponsor all of these activities as well as to provide other needs for our school. Those efforts are off to a great start with the Kathryn Beich catalog sales (there are still a few days left to submit your orders). This proved to be very successful for us last year and we are hoping for even better sales this fall. Our students also have the chance to show their school spirit with the purchase of Glasgow t-shirts and hooded sweatshirts.

There are so many ways you can help. Please join the PTA – dues are just \$10 a year. (Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 11, at 7:00 p.m. in the Glasgow Library.) These meetings provide another way to receive information.

I welcome all of you to join us for our activities – whether it be assisting with Pizza Bingo Night or working on the Book Fair or preparing food for Staff Appreciation or any of a number of other activities throughout the year. Just a little of your time will go a long way toward making this a great year for our children.

I hope to see you soon!

**Cindy Waters**, PTA President

## Important Dates

Wednesday, Sep 14 - Back to School Night (7/8 Grades)  
Thursday, Sep 15 - Back to School Night (Explorer Team)

## Principal's Corner

Welcome back to another exciting year of learning at Glasgow Middle School. We are a good school that's in the process of becoming a great school! Together with you, our staff will create a community of learners that supports and respects the diversity and uniqueness of every student. We are committed to developing and improving the social, emotional and academic potential of all of our Glasgow Middle School students.

To accomplish these goals, we are busy creating an instructional environment that sets high expectations for all our students, both in their personal responsibility and in their academic achievement. Our world class programs and proven initiatives are structured to support and challenge students with a broad range of gifts and challenges.

You have an important part to play here, too. Keep informed about your student's friends, teachers, activities, and classes. Join the PTA and support the Kathryn Beich fundraiser-- every dollar we earn directly supports our instructional program. Use your Family Perspectives "In Focus" calendar to stay abreast of school events. The turn out for Back to school night was phenomenal! Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to hear directly from our teacher's information regarding their expectations and their respective curricula. Join us for our first Touching Bases conference that will be held on November 11, 2005 from 1:00 – 3:00. Please mark your calendar! This is a wonderful time to take a few minutes to "touch base" with your child's teachers regarding their academic progress. And finally, please register for our "Keep in Touch" system that allows you to receive updates and vital information regarding events at Glasgow automatically through email. "Keep in Touch" can be easily accessed by going to the FCPS web page ([www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu)). Just click on the "Keep in Touch" icon.

Glasgow has experienced several changes for the 2005-06 school year. Joining our already strong and highly dedicated staff is a slate of highly-qualified and well-seasoned teachers. Over the next few months, Glasgow administrators and leaders will introduce you to them in this newsletter. I'm happy to welcome Dr. Miriam Stein as our new 8th Grade Administrator. Dr. Stein joins us from Bailey's Elementary School. Her knowledge of our community and its people, along with her expertise in language instruction have already proved to be invaluable.

With a team that's strong both at home and at school, we are ready to reach new heights this year. I look forward to working with you all.

**Deirdre M. Lavery**, Principal

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## Glasgow Gets FIT!

You may have noticed on your student's schedule this year the addition of "FIT Period." FIT is an acronym for Flexible Instructional Time. Each day, students return to their teams for forty-five minutes of personalized learning. Each day's content varies based on school-wide goals and individual students' needs.

Every week students receive specialized instruction in strategies designed to help them become ever-more-competent readers. The focus is on how to read the textbooks and research material on which older students must increasingly rely as sources of information about core subject areas (science, math, history, and English). Students learn organizational, test-taking, note-taking, and general study skills that comprise key Approaches to Learning. Some classes have already been discovering, for example, how important it is to understand how each person's unique learning style affects academic success.

During FIT, teachers of the arts, music, foreign language, and technology enrich the core curriculum by connecting their own discipline with the essential skills and knowledge assessed through the IB Middle Years Program, the Fairfax County Middle School Accountability plan, and the state Standards of Learning. Some students will receive enrichment from our Gifted and Talented Education specialist. Others will immerse themselves in Spanish language and literature. Eighth graders might work on their MYP Mini-Personal Projects; students might reflect on their roles and activities in Community and Service.



Students still learning good work habits will have the time and careful supervision they need to finish assignments, make-up missed class work, and complete essential homework. Academic coaches are available to assist students and teachers succeed.

Most importantly, FIT will give teachers the opportunity to address the specific needs of their students with enormous flexibility. Teachers will use data they gather through common grade-level assessments to identify students who need more time to learn, or who need to approach the subject from another angle. Their goal will be to intervene quickly, so that no child is left behind.

For students who have already mastered the basics, FIT provides teachers the chance to broaden horizons and extend learning in new directions. Maybe there's an experiment that would be a great learning experience, but for which there wasn't time in the regular schedule of classes; an activity or a play; a technology application or project that combines fun and learning; a challenging piece of music or a more complex artistic method-- all these things fit in FIT.

Be sure to find out from your students what they're doing to get FIT this year. It's exercise for their brain!

## Who was Ellen Glasgow?

Newcomers to Ellen Glasgow might be wondering, "Who was Ellen Glasgow?" That being the case in our family, I decided to look her up in Wikipedia, the free online encyclopedia. Here is what it tells us:

Ellen Anderson Gholson Glasgow (April 22, 1873 - November 21, 1945) was a Pulitzer Prize winning American novelist from Richmond, Virginia. Beginning in 1897, Glasgow wrote 20 novels, mainly about life in Virginia. Her own education had been rudimentary, a fact Glasgow compensated by reading widely. Today, her novels are regarded as more than just depictions of life in the South.



On her passing in 1945, Ellen Glasgow was interred in the Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, Virginia.

Select bibliography

Novels:

*The Descendant* (1897)  
*The Voice of the People* (1900)  
*The Battle-Ground* (1902)  
*The Deliverance* (1904)  
*The Romance of a Plain Man* (1909)  
*Virginia* (1913)  
*Barren Ground* (1925)  
*They Stooped to Folly* (1929)  
*The Sheltered Life* (1932)  
*Vein of Iron* (1935)  
*In This Our Life* (1941) (Pulitzer Prize 1942)

Autobiography:

*The Woman Within* (published posthumously in 1954)

Jim McBride

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## Expanding the Promise of No Child Left Behind

Students, parents and staff from the Northern Virginia school community are invited to the U.S. Department of Education's Tuesday, September 20 pre-show evening reception and live public television broadcast of Education News Parents Can Use. The topic for the show is "High Schools: Expanding the Promise of No Child Left Behind."

The invitation below provides logistical details for attending the evening reception and live broadcast. RSVP by contacting Dustin Watson at 240-472-9148 or [dmwatson5@yahoo.com](mailto:dmwatson5@yahoo.com). Free roundtrip bus transportation may be provided to groups of 35 people that guarantee attendance at this free event.

The broadcast will feature back-to-school tips and information for parents of students and provide advice for keeping students on track as well as tips on course selection. It will showcase teachers and administrators from high schools that are successfully applying the No Child Left Behind principles of high standards for all students and evidence-based approaches to learning. The program will also highlight State Scholars, Advance Placement (AP), Community College Access/Dual Enrollment, International Baccalaureate and other promising initiatives designed to increase the rigor and relevance of the high school years.

Join Us for the

U.S. Department of Education's Broadcast of

Education News Parents Can Use

To learn About

**High Schools:**  
**Expanding the Promise of No Child Left Behind**

Tuesday, September 20, 2005  
Reception Begins: 6:30 p.m.  
Broadcast: 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**Location:**

WETA-TV (PBS Studios)  
WETA Production Center  
2775 S. Quincy Street  
Arlington, VA 22206

RSVP:  
Dustin Watson: (tel) 240-472-9148;  
[dmwatson5@yahoo.com](mailto:dmwatson5@yahoo.com)

## "KATRINA AID" Benefit Performance

Fairfax Families Care is pleased to announce a major fundraiser, the Katrina Aid show, to benefit families who have come to our region after having been displaced by the hurricane. Produced by the Cappies, Katrina Aid will be an all-student all-star showcase of performers from 23 high schools in Northern Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia.

The Katrina Aid show will be at 7:30 PM on Saturday, September 24, at Hayfield Secondary School, 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria, Virginia.

Admission is by donation of ten dollars. A donor ticket is \$25, and a sponsor ticket is \$50. Larger donations are also welcome.

For tickets, please call 703-924-4759, or order tickets through the Cappies web site, [www.cappies.com](http://www.cappies.com).

"Our kids are putting on a great show to help these families," said Judy Bowns, Cappies Chair. "We expect to sell out Hayfield's 1400-seat theater very quickly, so if you want to be part of this very special event, please order your tickets soon." Donations will be tax deductible, as gifts to the Northern Virginia Community Foundation, for Fairfax Families Care. Media inquiries about this event should be directed to Bill Strauss, [strauss@cappies.com](mailto:strauss@cappies.com), 703-821-0871.

## John King, Belvedere's "Grandfather"

Those of you who came from Belvedere Elementary School know Mr. John King well. For years, Mr. King has worked at the kiss and ride at Belvedere, welcoming the children to school every morning and seeing them off every afternoon. He taught the "Just say 'No' to drugs" program and served as the defacto school grandfather. Mr. King had a heart attack in June and had to undergo major heart surgery in August. He is doing well now, and returned home on Saturday, September 10. He will certainly have to spend a long time at home resting and it may be a long time before he is able to resume his post at Belvedere. Mrs. King says that the one thing that Mr. King enjoys more than anything is a card from former Belvedere students. You can send him one to his home at:

Mr. John King  
6508 Columbia Pike  
Falls Church, Virginia, 22041

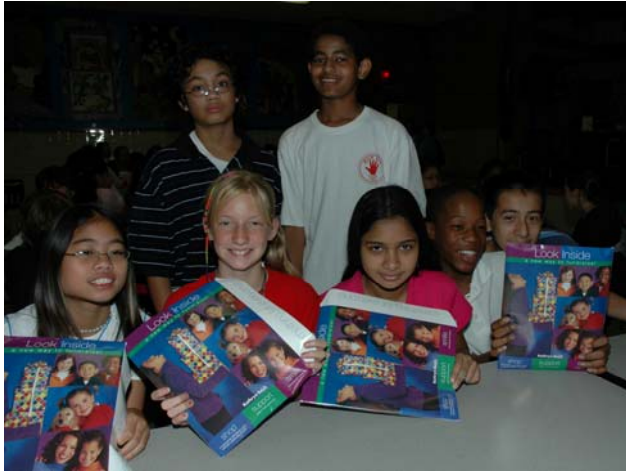
We all wish him the best and a speedy recovery.

*Jim McBride*

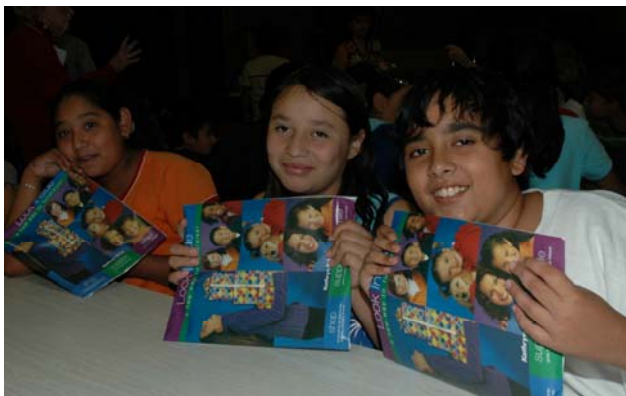
## Kathryn Beich Fall Fundraiser

This is a wonderful opportunity to win some great prizes and raise funds for the PTA that are earmarked for worthy school activities. All orders need to be turned in by Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Items are expected to be delivered on Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>.

The following photographs were taken at the Fundraiser kick-off on Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. They illustrate the eagerness shown by Glasgow students for the opportunity to raise funds for their school.



Some of the great prizes available to be won in the Kathryn Beich Fall Fundraiser



## Counselor Corner

Ms. Pat Ball [Pat.Ball@fcps.edu](mailto:Pat.Ball@fcps.edu) (x8733)  
Mr. Nathan Bynum [Nathan.Bynum@fcps.edu](mailto:Nathan.Bynum@fcps.edu) (x8732)  
Ms. Bianca Aloma [Bianca.Aloma@fcps.edu](mailto:Bianca.Aloma@fcps.edu) (x8743)  
Mrs. Beverly Porter [Beverly.Porter@fcps.edu](mailto:Beverly.Porter@fcps.edu) (x8731)

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## Ellen Glasgow Middle School

703-813-8700 / 703-813-8750 Attendance 703-813-813-8787

### Principal

Administrative Assistant  
Student Services  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade Administrator  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade Administrator  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Administrator  
Lead Counselor  
Counselor

### Deirdre Lavery

Gail Rostamie  
Susan Wrigley  
Paula Dolan  
Larry Aiello  
Miriam Stein  
Pat Ball  
Nathan Bynum

Counselor  
Counselor  
IB Coordinator  
Attendance  
Main Office  
Main Office

Bianca Aloma  
Beverly Porter  
Robert Harrison  
Leslie Marquez  
Judy Schline  
Maria Guerra

### PTA Officers

President	Cindy Waters	703-354-1133	watersfamilyva@cox.net
Vice Presidents			
Communications	<i>Vacant</i>		
Organization & Planning	Joni Laurence	703-941-7481	laurence4school@verizon.net
School Activities	Jan Rubenstein	703-849-8011	janrubens@cox.net
Treasurer	Regina Derzon	703-916-0655	rderzon54@cox.net
Secretary	Anne Wright	703-538-5739	awright110@cox.net

**The Glasgow Panther** is published by the Glasgow Middle School PTA. Articles for the Panther can be sent to [glasgownews@yahoo.com](mailto:glasgownews@yahoo.com). Send articles as MS Word attachments only. **Have a Glasgow Calendar item?** Contact David McMurray at [glasgownews@yahoo.com](mailto:glasgownews@yahoo.com) to have your PTA or school event published.

**“¿Habla español? Si tiene alguna pregunta sobre la escuela de su hijo o necesita hablar con los maestros o el consejero, llámenos al 703-813-8719. Estamos siempre contentos de servirle”**

**Ellen Glasgow Middle School**  
4101 Fairfax Parkway  
Alexandria, VA 22312

