

MAD Memos



James Madison High School
2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna, VA 22181



Volume 2 Number 3

November 2005

James Madison High School-www.fcps.edu/MadisonHS

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ATTENTION:

This is the ***LAST issue*** of **Mad Memos** to be distributed by mail.
You can get all future issues from the **JMHS Website**

<http://www.fcps.edu/MadisonHS/News/madmemos.html>

You can receive an email each time a new issue is posted. For this, be sure to register with **Keep In Touch** at **<http://fcps.medianext.com/madisonhs/start.html>** (see the **Keep in Touch** article in this issue of **Mad Memos** for more information about this important service). New issues are usually posted around mid-month.

This improvement offers many **great advantages:**

- **most timely** way to get the information: no print shop, processing or shipping delays,
- **corrections and changes** are **immediately available**,
- **simple process** that is **very easy to learn**,
- **saves our school lots of money, time and labor**
- **easy-to-follow instructions** to be **included on the website**
- **easy to read** on your computer screen: you can ZOOM your display to make the print larger,
- **highlight** any parts you want **and paste** them into a **separate document** for your own use,
- **easy to print** from the website,
- **cannot be lost**: can always print another copy from: **<http://www.fcps.edu/MadisonHS/News/madmemos.html>**
- **help is available**: email or call John Landis (the website curator) at **John.Landis@fcps.edu** or (703) 319-2352

If you do not have internet access, you or your child can **get a copy from the JMHS main office**. Or you may complete and send in the form below in order to continue receiving Mad Memos by mail—but please know that the PTSA cannot guarantee that all of the information will be timely by the time you receive it.

I do not have internet access. Please continue to mail my copy to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please drop this form off at the JMHS front office, or mail to:

**Madison High School PTSA
ATTN: Mad Memos
2500 James Madison Drive
Vienna, VA 22181**

President's Message

Dear Parents, Teachers and Students,

In my back-to-school letter I encouraged all families to sign up on the "Keep In Touch" email system. I said then that it is the most reliable way to get information to you. Many of you signed up.

Now I offer you an even greater incentive to sign up. After this issue, MadMemos is going electronic. We are moving into the 21st Century. Something of a miracle since we're only 5 years into its first decade! Why are we doing this? You can find an article later in this issue with lots of reasons but, for me, only two are really important.

First, speed. The deadline for articles for MadMemos is the Friday after the PTSA meeting. Our wonderful editor can put the issue together over the weekend. Our amazing webmaster can post it that Monday. And you, dear families, will receive an email with a link—NOT an inbox-busting attachment—to the new issue within 24 hours via the KIT system. Voilá! You have access to the goings-on at school in a timely manner. You won't have missed any of the events. You'll actually have time to plan to attend rather than just rushing out of work or home because you just read your mail and the event is that night.

Second, locatability (Is that a word? Probably not.) Once you are notified by the KIT system that MadMemos has been posted to the school's website, you can always find it there. No more searching through the accumulated mail on the kitchen table. No more "honey, do you have the school newsletter?" If you forget or get confused by all the great events at school, you can pull MadMemos back up through the website and straighten yourself out.

So, here's what you do. Go to www.fcps.edu/MadisonHS/ (case sensitive) and right there in the middle you'll see "Parents: click to ... Keep In Touch!". Click on

Principal's Message

In Steven Levitt's book, *Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything*, Mr. Levitt explores and attempts to explain a number of the current riddles that challenge modern day society. Without providing a book review, I would like to say that the book provoked some questions in my mind concerning student achievement and student motivation. More importantly, I began to explore the programs that we have in place at Madison High School to help support student achievement at all levels and in all grades. Perhaps the greatest resource that we have available during the school day is the *Student Assistance Period*, offered to all students from 9:00 a.m. to 9:35 a.m. each and every day.

The focus of this block of time is to provide students additional opportunities to get the time and support they might need to assist them with their academic performance. Teachers are able to provide review, clarification, and remediation for daily instruction that a student may have missed. Students can makeup homework, take a short quiz or test, or complete an assignment for a class. The Library is available to all students who seek a quiet place to study or need to complete research on a particular topic. Our computer labs are available to students, as are the art rooms and guidance offices. Peer tutoring (through the National Honor Society) is available in Warhawk Hall. Students are provided a minimum of two hours weekly to seek the time and support that they might need to reach their academic goals. I encourage each parent to ask your student how he or she makes use of this gift of time.

The *Student Assistance Period* is the cornerstone to the program of providing additional time and support to all of our students at Madison High School. The program has resulted in a 6% drop in the number of failing grades across the board in all subject areas and, as an unintended consequence, many of the students who have wisely utilized the time daily have raised their grades by a half letter. Parent support and encouragement at home for the *Student Assistance Period* might also eliminate some of the tough conversations that take place when student academic performance is at less than the optimal level. This block of time is just another example of how we are trying to use the concepts and processes behind the Professional Learning Community model to help learning and increase student achievement at Madison.

In addition to SAP our teachers are trying to improve communication with students and parents through the use of *Blackboard.com*. If you have not already done so, please ask your son or daughter to show you the Blackboard site for all of their classes. As the school becomes more comfortable and proficient with this platform my hope is that very shortly all assignments will be available for review via the internet. This is not only a goal for Madison High School, but also a goal for all Fairfax County Public Schools. Teachers proficiency on Blackboard and I hope that you will

.the graphic. A screen will appear and ask for your email address. Enter that and hit "submit". You'll get a profile page asking for some basic information and giving you options about what types of information you'd like to receive via KIT. Answer question 1 "yes" and answer question 2 by checking "monthly website updates". Fill out the rest of the information if you want, hit submit and you are done! It will take you less than 2 minutes. And you need not worry about getting a flood of emails from Madison or FCPS: you can control that by the number of boxes you check when you register (and you can always go back to KIT later and change your profile). So please help us keep you efficiently informed: register for this valuable service TODAY.

Welcome to the 21st Century!

For Madison's best year yet –

Bettina Lawton
JMHS PTSA President 2005-06

ptsaprez@cox.net

Ethics Day presents students with 4 different situations forcing them to make ethical decisions to solve the dilemma. Permission slips were mailed home on Nov. 14 and should be returned to government teachers. This is considered a regular school day, attendance will be taken, and business attire is expected.

and I hope that you will see continued progress in all of our disciplines throughout the school year.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact with the school—teachers, guidance counselors, administrators—when you have questions or comments.

Happy Thanksgiving!
Mark Merrell
703/319-2311
mark.merrell@fcps.edu

SCHOOL SCHEDULE CHANGES FOR DECEMBER 6

Underclassmen—grades 9, 10 and 11—will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, December 6 to allow JMHS faculty and staff to participate in staff development opportunities.

Seniors—grade 12—will NOT be dismissed early that day. They report to school as usual for ETHICS DAY. They will board school buses for the Vienna Community Center at about 7:30 a.m. and will return to Madison about 1:45 p.m. Regular bus transportation home will be provided at the usual time—2:20 p.m.

Vienna-Madison Community Coalition

The Vienna-Madison Community Coalition has several upcoming events designed to promote a drug, alcohol, and violence free environment for our youth. Key dates to keep in mind:

Monday, November 21: VMCC meeting, 6:30-8:30pm at the Vienna Community Center's Senior Lounge. We invite all parents and students to take advantage of the opportunities to network with other persons from the community who are committed to help our young people make safe and healthy decisions.

Thursday, December 1: 7:00-8:30pm Parent-to-Parent Dialogue on Teen Drug and Alcohol Issues. Please join us for this panel discussion and open dialogue, as a follow-up to student panel and law enforcement panel from last year. It will be an opportunity to share ideas and challenges with other parents who have dealt with and/or are concerned about these issues.

For further information, contact Sara Freund, Coalition Coordinator, at shfreund@aol.com or the coalition's program coordinator for Madison - Karen Mokate at Marquezfamly901@aol.com .

Northern Virginia Project Graduation
All Night Alcohol and Drug Free Celebration

Class of 2006 All Night Grad Reservation

.....
All Night Graduation Volunteer

I would like to volunteer and be a part of the celebration. Call or email me:

Student(s) name _____ **Grade** _____

Parent(s) name _____ **Phone** _____
Email _____

Clip and mail to JMHS All Night Graduation Celebration
2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna, VA 22181

.....
All Night Graduation Donation

YES! I would like to make a tax-deductible donation:

- _____ **\$100.00 to help buy gifts for each senior's 'goody' bag**
- _____ **\$100.00 to help with the cash prize drawings**
- _____ **\$ 40.00 to fund a reservation for a needy senior [1/21/06 goes to \$50]**
- _____ **\$ 25.00 toward general expenses**
- _____ **\$ _____ other cash donation**
- _____ **Other non-cash donation to use as a prize drawing**

.....
Clip and mail with your check payable to JMHS All Night Grad Celebration
2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna, VA 22181

The Madison Environmental Club, with the support of the PTSA, has kicked off a major fundraising effort to raise money to transform an outdoor area into an outdoor classroom and courtyard. Now is your chance to buy a commemorative brick to leave your stamp at James Madison High School and help make this dream becoming a reality! These brick pavers with inscriptions will be installed in a courtyard adjacent to a pond/wetland area (with waterfall!) for all to enjoy.

Abiles
Abrahamson
Adams
Andrews
Asman
Baldassari
Barnhurst
Blackwell
Blaesing
Bosworth
Brennan
Burke
Butler
Callsen
Carnahan
Cassady
Cassady
Chickinsky
Christensen
Christensen
Conroy
Cushnie
Dailey
Davies
Devolites
Eck
Ellis
Fisher
Fitzella
Foley
Ford
Foulis
Frigiola
Gambarelli
Ginley
Godshaw
Gongaware
Grenade Willis
Harvey
Hayes
Hazard
Heppner
Hrbacek
Huff
Hynes
Jacobs
Jay
Jindal
Kachman
Kangaroo

Peter
Ida
Kira
Margaret
Tom
Stephen
Kelly
Kate
Jason
Sarah
Meredith
Mary
Blake
Taylor
Zach
Brandon
Keegan
Lindsay
Jennifer
Jessica
Matthew
Christen
Kasey
William
Alexandra
Alison
Annie
Steven
James
Shannon
David
Drew
Michael
Kathleen
Megan
Brian
Kathryn
Philippe
Andrew
Joey
Jackson
Charlotte
Tiffany
Julie
Kevin
Laura
William
Ravi
Ally
Jenny

Karny
Kassab
Keissling
Kenny
Kettering
Koch
Kohrmann
Landow
Lanza
Lawton-Belous
Lee
Lowe
Ludwig
Magellan
Makharita
Malone
Manfredi
Marquez
Martin
McCarthy
McNamara
Mella
Meriwether
Miagkov
Miller
Moblely
Monday
Murphy
Nishiyama
Nobile
O'Brien
Olson
Orasin
Ostrowski
Pagano
Paul
Perry
Pickett
Powers
Randolph
Rawlinson
Rice
Richardson
Rifenbark
Roesener
Sawetz
Glasener
Sayce
Scott
Scott

Matthew
Stephanie
Chris
Sean
John
Andrea Lee
Phillip
Alec
Jessica
David
Sophia
Jeannine
Sam
Mark
Noah
Killian
Andrew
Daniel
Allison
Kimberly
Conor
Heather
Catherine
Alexandra
Rebecca
Eric
Eric
Thomas
Alison
Ashleigh
Patrick
John
Sarah
Michael
Allison
Sebouh
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Lindsey
Patrick
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Zachary
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Graham
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Megan

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11
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Sethi	Nitika
Shenefelt	Michael
Shore	Donald
Shrestha	Lena
Sparrow	Kerry
Stolarik	Matthew
Sweet	Jim
Thomas	Jake
Togashi	Kelly
Uhrig	Alexa
Verley	Rebecca
Vretos	Alexis
Weber	Kelly
Weschler	Leonard
Wheeler	Gregory
Wilder	Justin
Willis	Amy
Wood	Katherine

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

Capitol Steps is coming to Madison High School

Sunday, March 19th, 2006

Madison Auditorium

Please buy your tickets to see this great show at Madison and support the After Graduation Celebration

List
Is
As
Of
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Do you have a “Zapper” on your home telephone?

If so, please contact Darcy Diggs in the Attendance Office to discuss how we may leave automated messages for you regarding student attendance, emergency information, and upcoming events. Zappers prevent our programmed calls from completing their mission, resulting in repeated and annoying calls to your home.

703-319-2503

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND
NEEDS PARENT SUPPORT**

Each year the Madison PTSA, through its Professional Development Fund, provides funds to teachers, administrators and counselors for continuing education conferences, workshops, etc, designed to further knowledge and sharpen skills.

This program is vital to the success of our children. The faculty who take advantage of this fund receive help in defraying part of the costs of furthering their education as it directly relates to school responsibilities. Students, as well as parents, benefit because the sponsored programs help teachers stay on the leading edge in their respective disciplines. And, not least of all, the entire school benefits when the school personnel knows that the school community is behind them. Professional development is a tangible recognition of the primary role teachers, administrators, and counselors play in the success of our schools a center for excellence. This year, already, the professional development fund has received several requests for hundreds of dollars.

We need your financial support to keep this program going. If you would like to make a tax deductible investment in the quality of your child's high school experience you can do so by contributing to the Professional Development Fund. Please complete the form below. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at your convenience.

Susan Hildebrand
703-281-3364

MADISON PTSA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

Enclosed is my contribution of \$_____ for Madison's Professional Development Fund.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please make checks payable to JMHS PTSA PDF and mail to James Madison High School, PTSA, 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna, VA 22181.

All contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

Editor's Note!

To prevent misunderstandings and avoid future publishing problems the following rules will be strictly adhered to:

- 1. All articles, announcements, and fliers must be submitted each month for publication that month. No carryover articles will be published.**
- 2. All of the above MUST be sent to: <bmeister1@cox.net> no later than midnight, the Friday after the monthly PTSA meeting to be included that month.**
- 3. All materials MUST be submitted in WORD as attachments, or in the body of the e-mail. Non-electronic submissions are not acceptable.**
- 4. Submit materials exactly as you want them published, in normal page format.**

.Parents - to - Parents•

A panel discussion and open dialogue among parents

The Vienna Madison Community Coalition and the Madison High School PTSA invite all parents to an evening of dialogue and exchange of ideas regarding limiting drug and alcohol abuse among our children. The evening will include a panel discussion that will address questions like the following:

How can we talk about alcohol and other drugs with our sons and daughters?

How can parents negotiate effective limits on what their teenage children may and may not do?

What are appropriate consequences for first or repeated use of alcohol or other drugs by sons or daughters?

What are appropriate strategies for hosting and supervising teen parties?

How can parents work together to help our young people make good decisions?

this session will take place on Thursday, December 1, 2005 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in Warhawk Hall at James Madison High School. Please come! Bring your questions and ideas.

The event has received funding from federal funds provided by Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act.

JMHS Band News

Congratulations go out to the JMHS Marching Band on a wonderful season that was topped off by a terrific performance on November 5th at the United States Scholastic Band Association (USSBA) Championships at Giants Stadium. It was a thrilling experience for not only the band but also the many parents who made the long trek up to New Jersey to see them perform.

As we head into the colder months we still have lots of great band related activities for you to enjoy. C December 1st and 2nd come see the ever-famous Tiny Tots Concerts. Then mark your calendar for JM Jazz Band Winter Concert on Tuesday, December 6th and the JMHS Winter Concert on Tuesday, December 13th.

Virginia Music Educators Conference – JMHS Symphonic Band had the privilege of being asked to perform at the music educator's conference in Norfolk, VA this last weekend.

Many thanks to the following people and businesses that sponsored the VMEA trip.

- All Star Movers
- CACI
- Crystalake Engravers
- Faro Consultants
- Fox Products Corporation
- Foxes Music Stores
- Ketterman's Jewelry
- Ms. Catherine Lincoln
- M Tech Group, Inc. / Geeks on Call
- The Miller Marketing Co, Inc.
- Music Masters, LLC
- Oakton Women's Club
- Sparta, Inc.
- Vienna Paint and Decorating Company
- Washington Music Center
- Woodwind and Brasswind

Tiny Tots Concerts - Don't delay – tickets are going fast!

Costumed performers such as Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, Frosty the Snowman and some very special surprise guests will delight one and all. Sing, dance and clap along with the band as you are introduced to the wonderful world of music and symphonic instruments. On Thursday, December 1st the shows are at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. and the December 2nd shows are at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00p.m. Tickets are \$4.00 per person and can be purchased by calling Donna Logan at 703.938. 0350 or Marci Kitner at 703.620.5974.

MHS Bands Citrus/Pecan Fundraiser

The JMHS Bands Citrus/Pecan Fundraiser is not over yet! Freshly picked oranges, grapefruit, tangerines, and pecans will be available for purchase by the public the weekend of 3-4 December in the Madison High School front parking lot. Pecans are \$9.00 per one pound bag, and citrus is \$16.00 per full case and \$8.00 per half case. Although students are no longer taking individual orders, anyone may still place an order with the Citrus Chairperson, Cherie Fuchs, by telephone (703-573-8571) or email (cfoxva@cs.com). Reserve your order now or come to the school on Saturday, December 3 (9am-4pm) or Sunday, December 4 (11am-3pm) and make a purchase.

Use this opportunity to put your own holiday fruit baskets together as gifts to friends, family, and business contacts, and support the band at the same time.

White House Ornament Sale

JMHS Band Members are selling beautiful White House Ornaments celebrating the Presidency of James A. Garfield. Ornaments are still available by contacting any band or color guard member or calling by Terri Kingsley at 703.281.3590.

Come One, Come All

Need a quick dinner during the December craziness and don't want to cook?
Come on out and help support the JMHS Band!

Date: Monday, December 12th, 2005

Time: 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Location: Joe's Pizza and Pasta, 435 Maple Street, Vienna

Menu: Joe's "All You Can Eat" Buffet will be available for \$7.99, or any item on the menu may be ordered.

How does the fundraiser work? When you pay your bill, tell the cashier that you are a supporter of the JMHS Band. Joe's will donate 10% of your bill to the JMHS Band. **You must tell the cashier that you are there to support the Band for the Band to receive the donation!** Everyone is invited - band members and their families, friends, neighbors, etc! Stop by for a bite to eat!

Kathy Uhrich, PTSA Liaison
JMHS Band Parents Association
rkuhrich@verizon.net

MAC ATTACK

The JMHS Minority Achievement Committee, PTSA invites parents to join us as we map out activities that will boost the success of our students here at school and in the community. We are again arranging Career Day Tours at local business sites, providing active community volunteer opportunities, scheduling guest speakers, securing computers for students in need, and preparing other activities of interest. Please join us at our next meeting on Sunday December 11, 2005 at 4:00 – 5:30 PM.

For details, email me at jlarnold_uro@hotmail.com or call 703-620-4202 (preferred) or 703-742-7757. Include your child's full name and grade level. When sending an email, please use "JMHS MAC" as the subject so that your message will not be deleted in error. All JMHS parents and students are encouraged to participate regardless of race or religion.

I look forward to meeting you.

**Janice Lee Arnold MD
Chairperson,
Minority Achievement Committee
JMHS, PTSA**

**Andrea Lee Koch
Student Liaison
12th grade**