

# McNair School News

*A fully accredited Virginia school*

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**Dear Parents,**

**It is really very hard to believe that we are winding down this school year. It has been a great year! We have had a wonderful year with your children. There are many things to celebrate at the end of the year. The children are now prepared to move on to the next grade level and have shown tremendous growth. We know our sixth graders are leaving us well prepared to begin their middle school experience. We will miss them!**

**The boundary process has helped to make this an eventful year. Many students are leaving McNair. Some to a brand new school, and others to schools much closer to their homes. McNair will become a GT Center and we expect that all of our students will fit in the building. We wish all of our families who are leaving the best in your new school. We hope you can join us on Friday, June 12, for our PTA hosted family movie night!**

**Fairfax County Public Schools has created a new bus schedule that maximizes time and reduces the transportation budget significantly. For those of you staying at McNair, our school hours have been updated for the 2009-2010 school year. Beginning September 8, we will open at 8:35 and close at close at 3:15. Early dismissal on Mondays will be at 12:45. Next year, McNair will be a GT Center and transportation to and from GT Centers will still be in place. We are attaching the FCPS calendar for next school year so that you can plan for vacations around school breaks.**

**You should be very proud of your students as they have worked so hard on SOL testing. They have taken this time to show what they have learned this year. They have shown great progress! It has been a privilege to work with your children and our McNair families. Thanks so much for your continued support. On behalf of all us at McNair, I want to wish you a restful and peaceful summer.**

Sincerely,

Principal

## **FECEP/Head Start**

Fairfax County Public Schools Family and Early childhood Education Program (FECEP)/Head Start is now accepting applications for three and four year old children for its child development program, school year 2009-2010. Children must be 3 years old by September 30th or 4 years old to be

considered for the program. Priority for placement is given to children who are 4 years old by September 30th and income eligible children with disabilities. Families must reside in Fairfax County.

To apply for the program and to see if they are in-

come eligible, parents are asked to call the FECEP/Head Start office at

703-277-2624 for English and 703-277-2673 for Spanish. There are a limited number of classroom spaces, so please call now.



# Congratulations to our Word Masters



*Two students representing McNair Elementary School recently won highest honors in this year's Word Masters Challenge—a national language arts competition entered by approximately 230,000 students annually, which consists of three separate meets held at intervals during the school year.*

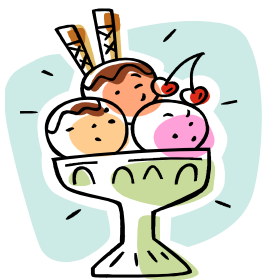
*Competing in the very difficult Gold Division of the Challenge, fourth graders Bryson Malo and Aeris Pugh both earned perfect scores in the year's third meet, held in April. In the entire country only 180 fourth graders achieved at this level. Other students at the school who also achieved outstanding results in the meet included fourth graders Omare Ansari, Madeline Nicol, Harita Bhatt, Ye Eun Oh, Gabriel Perez, Jaspreet Ranjit and Hanna Rollman and sixth graders Stanley Yoon and Sami Saab. The students were coached in preparation for the Challenge by their classroom teachers.*

*The WordMasters Challenge is an exercise in critical thinking that first encourages students to become familiar with a set of interesting new words (considerably harder than grade level), and then challenges them to use those words to complete analogies expressing various kinds of logical relationships. Working to solve the Challenge analogies helps students learn to think both analytically and metaphorically. Though most vocabulary-boosting and analogy-solving activities have been created for high school students, the WordMasters materials have been specifically designed for younger students, in grades three through eight. They are particularly well suited for able and interested children, who rise to the challenge of learning new words and enjoy the logical puzzles posted by analogies.*

*The WordMasters challenge has been administered for the past 22 years by a company based in Allendale, New Jersey, which is dedicated to inspiring high achievement in American schools. Now that all three of the year's meets have been concluded, medals and certificates will be awarded to those who achieved and/or improved the most in the course of the year.*



## McNair Has Awesome Readers!



We will celebrate all the wonderful reading our students have done this year with an ***Ice Cream Party*** on June 11 and June 12. Each grade level will join us one afternoon for this sweet treat. We would like to thank the McNair PTA who will provide the ice cream for this celebration!



## McNair Music Notes



Congratulations to the Fourth Grade Chorus on a fine production May 14th! Students presented the program "Let George Do It," conducted by Mr. Buboltz. The children were dressed with an array of revolutionary period hats and red coats. They presented their lines and songs well. The musical connected with the Virginia history strand in their regular curriculum.

### Upcoming Music Events:

Fifth Grade Medieval Day: Thursday, June 4

End of Year Band & Strings Concert: Thursday, June 4th 8:45 a.m. and 6:30 P.M.

End of the Year Fifth & sixth Grade Chorus concert: Thursday, June 11th 8:45 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

Please check with your children for more information coming home regarding these performances. During the summer months there are many opportunities for musical fun and learning. For band and strings students, the Franklin Middle School music camp will be held June 24—July 17th. For more information, contact Lawrence Walker, Director (Band) 703-904-5145 or Cindy Crumb, Assistant Director (orchestra) 703-219-2236.

After June 18, call 703-904-5145.



The James Madison University will offer a children's Vocal Arts Camp for singers grade 4-12. The dates are July 19-25. For more information go to [www.childrenschoralcamp.org](http://www.childrenschoralcamp.org). Finally, if your child loves to sing and is looking for a wonderful local group to sing with, check out the Fairfax Choral Society at [www.fairfaxchoralsociety.org](http://www.fairfaxchoralsociety.org). There are groups for elementary aged children which provide learning and performance opportunities and lots of fun!!

We thank you for your support of the music program. Please do not hesitate to contact us about your child's involvement in music!

### Your Music Team,

**Erik Buboltz, Valerie Junttila, Becky Sweet – General Music**

**Patricia Adams and Kelsey Fraser – Band**

**Mary Huber and Allison Devereux – Strings**



## Your child is in the movies!!



Have you ever wanted to have a copy of one of the many movies and photo stories produced by McNair staff? These can be yours for a donation to the technology department. Check McNair's website for more information.

## Fairfax County Public Library Summer Reading Programs

The Summer Reading Program runs from June 18 to September 5. Children may sign up at any Fairfax County Library. Preschoolers through sixth graders must read 15 books, including books that are read to them. Students in grades 7-12 must read eight books. In June, book suggestions can be found at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library). Completed logs must be turned in to the library by September 5 to receive a coupon booklet full of free and discounted prizes.. The library's Web site will have a list of sponsors and their coupons in June. Borders, Cold Stone Creamery, Fairfax County Park Authority, Glat, Mount Vernon and many others are providing coupons. Libraries will have free programs all summer long. If you have any additional questions, contact your nearest library or [libraryevents@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:libraryevents@fairfaxcounty.gov).



## Parent's Corner:

### Exposing Children to Career Choices

“What do you want to be when you grow up?” Upon hearing this question, chances are that your children have no firm ideas about what they want to be or do—but it’s never too early to help them explore all the options out there. Now, more than ever, children are seeing that there’s nothing that they can’t achieve.

**GET THEM INVOLVED.** From Scouts to Boys and Girls Clubs, there are wonderful after-school organizations that help children learn and grow. Many bring in guest speakers to talk about their careers and take field trips to “work sites” ranging from fire stations to hospitals.

**REAL ALL ABOUT IT.** School and public libraries are stocked with books for children that introduce them to interesting careers. Check out titles like *When I Grow Up*, *See What you Can Be*, *Jobs People Do*, *Career Day*, and don’t forget Dr. Seuss’ inspiring *Oh the Places You’ll Go*. Online, visit [www.khake.com/page64.html](http://www.khake.com/page64.html), which offers career exploration guides and resources for younger students.

**HAVE THE “TOOLS” ON HAND.** Children can’t know if they’re good at something unless they try it. By having a wide variety of supplies available, your children can explore different skills, while having fun in the process. Calculators, math puzzles and games, and building sets are appealing to those who might end up in math or engineering careers. Toy medical kits and a supply of Band-Aids are always a hit, and can light a fire in future health professionals’ lives. Art supplies, craft kits, and musical instruments may spur an interest in the arts. Check for low-cost used items at thrift stores or garage sales.

**HELP THEM START THEIR OWN BUSINESSES.** While the days of newspaper routes and lemonade stands are fading fast, there are many ways kids can try out the world of work. With your supervision, your children could launch a pet-sitting or leaf-raking business, sell homemade crafts or baked goods, or earn cash working as “mother’s helpers.” Help them track how much they’re spending to advertise their services, show them how to set a financial goal and mark their progress toward it.

### McNair Yearbooks

Yearbooks will be distributed on Friday, June 12. Most students preordered their yearbooks but we do have some extras. The yearbook costs \$17 and can be purchased by sending a check to McNair.



### Summer Reading List

Summer reading lists for fifth and sixth grade students are available on the FCPS website. Please check our McNair website for links to educational programs and information that will be of value to your children this summer. The library is a great place to go on a warm summer afternoon! Reading with your child this summer will bring great gains.