



May 20, 2009
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(**Editor's Note:** The full online version of *Supergram* is available at <http://www.fcps.edu/mediapub/publicat/sgm.htm>.)

School Board Approves New Grading Scale to Begin in 2009-10

The School Board has voted to approve a new grading scale for all Fairfax County Public Schools students that will go into effect beginning with the 2009-10 school year. Get details at <http://commweb.fcps.edu/newsreleases/newsrelease.cfm?newsid=1162>.

FCPS Wins NSPRA Gold Medallion Award

Fairfax County Public Schools has received the **Gold Medallion Award from the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA)** for its campaign, Community Engagement: Changing School Start and Dismissal Times. The Gold Medallion Award is the top national competition recognizing superior educational public relations programs. Get details at <http://commweb.fcps.edu/newsreleases/newsrelease.cfm?newsid=1167>.

Terri Breeden to Head Department of Professional Learning and Accountability

Terri Breeden, who has been Fairfax County Public Schools' assistant superintendent for Professional Learning and Training (PLT) since May 2006, has been tapped to lead the new Department of Professional Learning and Accountability, which combines the former Departments of Professional Learning and Training and Accountability, effective July 1. Get details at <http://commweb.fcps.edu/newsreleases/newsrelease.cfm?newsid=1177>.

Tips for Your Health: Have a Trouble-Free Pregnancy

If you or someone you know is having a baby or thinking about having one, you are not alone; last year, more than 500 FCPS employees gave birth. To help, HR Wellness, in the Office of Benefits, partnered with the March of Dimes (MOD) to offer FCPS employees a resource and information-rich web site for family planning stages from prepregnancy to post partum, called My Nine Months. The web site also contains some interactive tools such as a due date calendar, a prepregnancy financial and emotional readiness checklist, as well as an ovulation calculator. The focus of the web site is to help parents and babies stay healthy during all stages of family planning.

Additionally, the FCPS My Nine Months web site links to the official MOD web site, which contains even more information and tools to promote healthy pregnancies and healthy babies. Site visitors can sign up for free daily pregnancy tips to be sent directly to their cell phones, or

they can receive them on the web. To register go to http://www.marchofdimes.com/pnhec/28699_28714.asp.

The mission of MOD is to improve the health of babies by reducing preterm births, birth defects, and infant mortality. One of their important campaigns is to educate pregnant families about early recognition of the signs of preterm labor. If you are pregnant or know someone who is, take the time to read over and share this valuable pregnancy information.

So where do you find the FCPS My Nine Months web site? It can be found under Prenatal Information on the HR Wellness web site, found at <http://www.fcps.edu/DHR/employees/benefits/wellness/index.htm>, or by going directly to <http://www.marchofdimes.com/hbhb/viewer.asp?plc=48>.

Don't stop there; bookmark it and share it with others. After all, it's all about having healthy babies who might one day be FCPS employees too! For more information, contact HR Wellness at hrwellness@fcps.edu.

Communications Corner: Distribution of Fliers in Schools

Recently, the Department of Communications and Community Outreach has been getting calls regarding the distribution of fliers from nonschool-related groups. Policy 1367, originally enacted in 2003, governs the way fliers are to be posted or distributed. **Bottom Line: School principals are responsible for determining whether materials from nonschool-related groups satisfy the requirements of this regulation.** Get policy info at <http://www.boarddocs.com/vsba/fairfax/Board.nsf/0/536856B70E5A65FD85256FCF00663956?OpenDocument>.

Department Newsletters

The May, June, July issue of *MoneyTalks*, produced by the Department of Financial Services, has been posted on FCPSnet. Get details at <http://fcpsnet.fcps.edu/fs/moneytalks/MayJuneJuly09.pdf>.

FCPS by the Numbers

32: The number of FCPS students to win a National Merit Scholarship from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Get details at <http://commweb.fcps.edu/newsreleases/newsrelease.cfm?newsid=1159>.

Important Notice for *Supergram* Article Submissions

Article submissions for *Supergram* should be sent to Andy Grunig at andy.grunig@fcps.edu. **The next issue will be posted on June 3. Articles for that issue are due no later than Wednesday, May 27.** If you have any comments, questions, or suggestions, Grunig can be reached at 571-423-1212. **Please Note:** The *Job Opportunities* publication and web pages are provided by the **Department of Human Resources**.

Quote to Note

"Outstanding leaders go out of the way to boost the self-esteem of their personnel. If people believe in themselves, it's amazing what they can accomplish."

Sam Walton

About Our People

- **Carole Kihm**, principal at Longfellow, has been awarded the Nancy F. Sprague First-Year Administrator Award and has been named the 2009 Outstanding First-Year Principal by Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS).

"Principal Kihm has converted Longfellow into 'a place to thrive,'" says parent Juliana Cofrancesco. "She has created a positive learning environment where students feel a sense of ownership of their school. ... She pays attention to detail and creates time for every student without losing sight of the big picture and getting sidetracked."

Longfellow PTA president Wilma Bowers credits Kihm with creating a welcoming environment—not only for parents of Longfellow students but also for parents of the eight feeder elementary schools—and for establishing cordial relationships with the surrounding community, including a neighboring nursing home and a synagogue. Kihm holds weekly student pizza lunches to solicit students' ideas and input on how to improve the school and has instituted a Star Student of the Month program to recognize 20 students each month whose photos and accomplishments are publicized in the main hall. Bowers praises Kihm for making parents feel part of a school their children attend for only two years and for encouraging students to become more independent during that time.

Kihm is also cited for improving communication with parents by using the FCPS Keep in Touch system, FCPS 24-7 Learning, e-mail, traditional mail, and parent coffees and for establishing staff committees to debate and decide matters that emerge from those modes of communication. And while instituting professional learning communities at Longfellow, Kihm "provided the faculty with independence and freedom to create new ideas and checkpoints for the curriculum," says Bowers. View the press release at <http://commweb.fcps.edu/newsreleases/newsrelease.cfm?newsid=1143>.

For more information about FCPS' employee awards, go to <http://www.fcps.edu/DHR/employees/awards/index.htm>.

- **Tara Murphy**, who teaches sixth grade at Mount Eagle Elementary School, has been named the 2009 Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) First-Year Teacher of the Year.

In her first year as an FCPS teacher, Murphy found herself as Mount Eagle's only sixth grade teacher—with 24 students, 19 of whom spoke English as a second language. A significant number of those students had special needs or were eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Their reading levels spanned from second grade to eighth grade levels. In order to meet the school's goals of having all students achieve at high levels, Murphy met the challenge by focusing on class building and teambuilding, creating teams of four students based on differing ability levels. With this framework, her

students learned to support each other in class, exemplify their strengths, and get help when they needed it. "I have seen tremendous growth in all my students due to their improved self-confidence," says Murphy. "Our classroom is an environment of active learning where every student is held accountable and challenged to reach his or her greatest potential."

Murphy plays "thinking music" as her students work, uses art to help her students visualize concepts, and makes history come alive by directing students to play the roles of historical figures. While doing a review of a social studies unit, Murphy asked her colleagues if they would be available to serve as lifelines for students playing Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? Murphy's class played the game with questions based on facts about Colonial America. She differentiates instruction using creative strategies to meet the various learning needs of all her students. If students are not succeeding at performance assessments, she rewrites her lesson, uses different strategies, and teaches the concept in a different way until all the students understand the material.

In an effort to make a personal connection with her students' families, Murphy accompanied principal Brian Butler to visit the homes of students who were struggling in school. "The message that Tara is sending when she does this is that she cares deeply enough about the success of her students to step out of the comfort zone of most teachers," says Butler. Murphy also attended students' sporting events in an effort to make a personal connection. View the press release at <http://commweb.fcps.edu/newsreleases/newsrelease.cfm?newsid=1163>.

- **Roxie Godfrey**, family and consumer sciences teacher at Mount Vernon, was named the Teacher of the Year by the Virginia Association of Family and Consumer Sciences at its 2009 conference on April 24 in Richmond. Godfrey will also be honored at the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences National Conference on June 26 in Knoxville, Tennessee.
- **Angela Charlton**, counselor at Fox Mill, has completed her doctorate in counselor education from Virginia Tech. Her dissertation topic was "School Counselors' Perceived Self-Efficacy for Addressing Bullying in the Elementary School Setting."
- **Donna Ruggles**, kindergarten teacher at Springfield Estates, has received the 2008-09 Elementary School Teacher of the Year award from the Springfield Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 7327. Ruggles, who has been employed by FCPS for ten years and has worked at Springfield Estates for nine years, was nominated by a parent of one of her students. She began working as an instructional assistant in the school's reading lab, where she taught reading groups in grades K-6. She returned to school in 2004 and earned her master's degree in education in order to become a classroom teacher.
- Franklin math teachers **Clara Hauth-Pflugrath**, **Jo-Anne Carra**, and **Linda Gillen**, assisted by **Steve Klarevas** and **Patti Freeman**, presented "Taking the 'Testiness' out of State Standards-Based Testing" at the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics 2009 Annual Meeting and Exposition held in Washington, D.C., April 22 through 25. The workshop focused on the creation of theme-based, comprehensive reviews for end-of-year state assessments and included instructional strategies, hands-on activities, and planning tools to help make review sessions appropriate and successful for all learners.

- **Avemaria Collins**, family consumer sciences teacher, and **Evie Granville**, social studies teacher, both at Robinson, were presented with the Rotary Club Meritorious Educator Award on Wednesday, May 6, at West Springfield Country Club. Collins and Granville each received a \$250 honorarium and \$250 for a class project of their choice. The award recognizes teachers for outstanding motivation of students, effectively teaching problem solving skills, contributions to character building, being an effective role model, and evidence of “service above self.”

How Do I Get Mentioned in About Our People?

Submit your good news for **About Our People** to *Supergram* editor Andy Grunig at andy.grunig@fcps.edu. We want to hear from you!

What Type of Information Is Used in About Our People?

The following categories of items will be published:

- Employees who publish articles or books.
- Those who successfully defend doctoral dissertations.
- Employees who receive regional, state, or national awards for their professional accomplishments.
- Employees elected to serve in regional, state, or national education organizations.
- Employees who give presentations at regional, state, or national meetings.
- Those who receive grants or are selected for scholarships that involve travel or the sharing of ideas.

Editor’s Note: Send your electronic photo along with your good news.

Benefits

Changes Coming to 403(b) Program

At its May 7 meeting, the School Board voted to approve changes to the 403(b) program as recommended by the Selection Advisory Committee, which reviewed the vendor proposals. Beginning September 1, contracts will be in effect with Valic, TIAA-CREF, and Great West Retirement Services. Contracts with existing 403(b) vendors will expire on December 31.

The new contracts provide best in class mutual fund, annuity, and stable value products while ensuring competitive fees and the same quality participant servicing that employees have grown to expect. Over the next seven months, extensive communications will be deployed to educate employees on the upcoming changes, and ample opportunities will be provided for employees to meet with vendor representatives who have been awarded contracts.

Answers to some of the most commonly asked questions to date can be found on the Department of Human Resources web site at <http://www.fcps.edu/DHR/news/403bnews.htm>.

UConnect Has a New Look, Easier Log In

UConnect, the source for all your payroll, leave balance, and benefits information, has undergone an upgrade to better serve you. Not only does UConnect have a new look and feel, but logging in has never been easier! Now simply log in using your regular system logon and password (the same way you log onto your computer every morning).

Stay connected to your information with UConnect! Log on at <http://www.fcps.edu/DHR/uconnect>.

If you have limited computer access or if you need help logging on, contact the HR Client Service Center at 571-423-3000, or stop by the Department of Human Resources at Gatehouse Administration Center I for assistance.

Want to Learn New Skills at Your Own Pace? Try eLearnIT!

The Department of Information Technology's eLearnIT web site provides, via the Internet, skills development training that is available **free of charge** to any employee of Fairfax County Public Schools. These courses offer FCPS employees a wide variety of training opportunities designed to enhance critical business, professional, and IT skills.

With eLearnIT you get:

- Access to more than 2,000 interactive and engaging online courses at a variety of skill levels—online and self-paced for your training development or for use as a quick reference tool.
- Admission to “Books 24x7,” a Skillsoft web site that has thousands of up-to-date, searchable books, online, to be used for study and reference. Favorites can be placed on bookshelves for easy access.
- 24x7x365 availability—your time frame and your Windows computer. You can learn at your own pace, bookmark your place for return later, and download courses for work offline.
- Online mentoring—quick answers to your specific questions.

Visit <http://www.fcps.edu/MTS/TrainingServices/elearn/> to learn more about eLearnIT. Register now and start learning today!

FCPS Online Classifieds Free for Employees

(Note: If you are trying to access the classifieds from your home computer, you will need to use the virtual private network (VPN), because the classifieds are located on the **FCPS intranet.**)

The FCPS Online Classifieds system—**which is for employees only** and, as such, can be found on FCPSnet (the FCPS employee intranet) at <http://commapps.fcps.edu/classifieds>—is a free way for employees to post ads for personally owned items that they are seeking to buy, sell, or give away, such as electronics, real estate, items for children, fitness and sports equipment, furniture, pets, cars, and tickets. It's also a great tool to help an employee **look for someone to share a ride to work, find a roommate, or rent real estate.**

Ads for employee-owned businesses or school or workplace fund-raisers will not be accepted. A complete list of **rules of use** can be found at <http://commapps.fcps.edu/classifieds/Policy.cfm>.

Due to server restrictions, **electronic photos cannot be uploaded along with postings.** Feel free to include information in your posting that a picture is available by e-mail upon request. For answers to some other frequently asked questions, go to <http://commapps.fcps.edu/classifieds/FAQ.cfm>.

The FCPS Online Classifieds system is completely self-service and allows users to post new ads or update or renew existing ads at any time. Highlights and security features of the FCPS Online Classifieds system include:

- A user must log in using his or her existing FCPS network user name and password.
- A user must agree to the posted conditions before submitting an ad. **A user cannot use his or her FCPS phone number or e-mail address as a listed point of contact.**
- Active ads are searchable by date, category, and keyword.
- Ads will be reviewed by the system administrator before they are posted online. **Ads will be approved or denied within two to three business days** or as soon as resources allow. An automatic e-mail will be sent upon approval or denial to a user who includes a personal e-mail address as part of his or her contact information.
- A user who includes a personal e-mail address as part of his or her contact information will receive an automatic e-mail reminder before the ad is set to expire.

For more information, contact Andy Grunig at andy.grunig@fcps.edu. If you encounter a technical problem, contact Phung Trinh at phung.trinh@fcps.edu.

Send Your Success Stories

Have you used the FCPS Online Classifieds to buy or sell anything or to rent a room or a house, or do you have any other FCPS Online Classifieds success story you would like to share? Send your stories to andy.grunig@fcps.edu.

Did You Know?

Nomination Deadline Extended to May 29 for Spillane Leadership Award

The nomination deadline for the Robert R. Spillane Leadership Award has been extended to **May 29**. The Spillane Leadership Award honors two outstanding FCPS employees who, through their leadership, have made a significant impact on students. This award opportunity focuses on recognizing someone in FCPS who “keeps the main thing the main thing.” Instructional and support employees with five years of service are eligible. Award winners will be recognized at the annual Leadership Conference on August 5. Information and the nomination form are available online at www.fcps.edu/DHR/employees/awards/index.htm.

Barbara May Named April News Liaison of the Month

Barbara May, special education teacher at West Springfield High School, has been named the News Liaison of the Month for April by the Department of Communications and Community Outreach (DCCO). This new recognition program rewards school news liaisons for submitting newsworthy media tips and creative photographs. May has served as West Springfield’s news liaison since 2002.

During April, May submitted news about the West Springfield High counseling department earning a nationally recognized ASCA (American School Counselor Association) model program known as RAMP; dedication of a memorial garden planned and constructed by a West Springfield High senior that honors graduates who have died while on active duty in the military; and the results for WSHS students from the Virginia History Day competition. May, who has been employed by FCPS for 18 years and at West Springfield for seven years, received a \$25 gift card from Starbucks for being named April’s News Liaison of the Month.

Spring WebStar Winners Announced

The new FCPS WebStar Awards (previously known as the Best Practices Awards) will be awarded three times each year by the Department of Communications and Community Outreach to the web curators of three elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school for school web sites that best demonstrate the following criteria:

- Usefulness of content.
- Clarity of design.
- Ease of navigation.
- Adherence to FCPS web policies.

The spring WebStar winners are:

- **Carrington Crabbe**, Laurel Ridge Elementary.
- **Laura Jones**, McNair Elementary.

- **Andrea Ricketts**, Stratford Landing Elementary.
- **Megan Farrelly**, Twain Middle School.
- **Starlyn Comai**, Falls Church High School.

Nominations will be gathered during the months of September, December, and March, and all FCPS school and department web curators will vote on the entire list of nominees. All WebStar winners will automatically be eligible for the Best of the Web awards, to be given in May.

For more information, contact Nancy Moy at nancy.moy@fcps.edu or 571-423-1221.

Leonard Bumbaca Named ERFC Trustee

The Educational Employees' Retirement System of Fairfax County (ERFC) Board of Trustees election to fill one trustee vacancy will not be conducted as planned for May 12 through May 14. Section V. of Notice 4771 states that "if only one properly processed nomination petition is submitted, the voting instructions will be waived and the successful candidate announced."

Leonard Bumbaca, mathematics teacher at Annandale, was unopposed and will serve as an ERFC trustee for three years beginning July 1.

Information for Educators

Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Named FCPS 2009 Business Partner of the Year

The **Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA)** has been named the Fairfax County Public Schools 2008-09 Partner of the Year for its work with Sandburg Middle School. MWAA was honored at the 22nd annual FCPS business-school partnership reception and awards ceremony held May 14.

MWAA was recognized for its 19-year partnership with Sandburg Middle and for the creative way the organization has worked with the school and its students. Chief executive officer James Bennett serves as principal for a day at the school each year, and Sandburg principal Wendy Eaton serves as CEO of MWAA one day each summer. Student studio and performing artists have a venue for their work at Reagan National Airport; their artwork is hung year-round in the historic terminal, and students in the orchestra, jazz band, and chorus perform regularly at the airport. During the holiday season, students create ornaments for a tree displayed in the baggage claim area.

For Sandburg's annual Career Day, MWAA provides professionals representing many different positions to talk about their careers. Employees also participate in a reading mentor program and talk to students about money management. MWAA fire department members volunteer their time to provide CPR, AED (cardiopulmonary resuscitation, automated external defibrillator) training to Sandburg staff members. MWAA employees adopt needy Sandburg families during the holidays, and, each year, the group presents each of two students with a citizenship award and a cash prize.

Other winners include:

- **Herndon United Methodist Church**, Community Partnership Award.
- **Mitre Corporation**, Career and Technical Education Award.
- **Trible's Inc.**, Career Connections Award.
- **Capital One and the Heart of American Foundation**, Blue Ribbon Award for Outstanding Event, for their Library READesignSM project at Glen Forest Elementary School.
- **Washington Metropolitan Airports Authority**, Blue Ribbon Award for Improving Reading, Writing, and Speaking.
- **West Potomac High School and Bucknell Elementary School**, School-Based Mentoring Award.
- **Coldwell Banker and Louise Archer Elementary School**, Outstanding Mentoring Partnership Award.
- **Santana's 30/30 Club**, Blue Ribbon Award for Promoting Appropriate Student Behavior.

For more information, go to

<http://commweb.fcps.edu/newsreleases/newsrelease.cfm?newsid=1173>.

May 22 Is Application Deadline for 2009-10 Secondary Great Beginnings Coaches

The Department of Professional Learning and Training (PLT) is seeking coaches for the secondary Great Beginnings programs for the 2009-10 school year. Critical needs areas include math, language arts, ESOL, and special education. Current secondary classroom teachers who have an interest in supporting beginning teachers should consider applying. All Great Beginnings coaches receive a stipend of approximately \$3,000 as well as recertification points. Applicants should possess the following:

- A minimum of three years' successful teaching experience in FCPS.
- Extensive knowledge of curriculum and instruction, FCPS instructional goals and expectations, and solid classroom management skills.
- A strong desire to work with beginning teachers to support their growth and learning in the profession.
- Strong communication and human relations skills.
- A commitment to collaboration and teamwork.

Interested applicants must be available two days per month for professional development and after-school seminars during the school year. Applicants must also be available August 17-21 for coach professional development and August 24-28 for the Great Beginnings Summer

Institute. The application, a principal recommendation, a colleague recommendation, and an interview are required. Applicants may also be visited in their classrooms by the program managers.

Completed applications with the principal recommendation and colleague recommendation should be submitted **by May 22** for consideration.

Application packets are available at <http://www.fcps.edu/plt/greatb.htm>. For more information, call 703-204-4061.

Additional National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Information Meeting Added on May 28

A National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) information meeting on the certification process will be held from **5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 28, in training room 1 at the Dunn Loring Center**, 2334 Gallows Rd., Dunn Loring, VA 22027. This is in addition to the meeting being held from **4:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 21, in the instruction and professional development (IPD) room at the Fairfax Education Association (FEA) office**, located at 3917 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA 22030.

The NBPTS seeks to establish and maintain high and rigorous standards for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do. Each candidate for NBPTS certification undergoes an assessment process that includes four portfolios of the teacher's work and six assessment center exercises.

NBPTS certification is available in the following fields for secondary teachers: English and language arts, math, science, social studies, career and technical studies, health education, music, foreign language, physical education, and art. Generalist certificates, as well as art, music, and physical education certificates, are available for elementary school teachers.

Certificates are also available for teachers of students with exceptional needs (students birth to 18+), library media (students 3 to 18+), and for teachers of English as a new language (ages 3 to 18+), literacy: reading and language arts (ages 3 to 12), and school counseling (ages 3 to 18+).

Fairfax County Public Schools has more than 300 teachers certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. The Virginia Department of Education and FCPS offer stipends, dependent on budget availability, to teachers who attain NBPTS certification.

If you plan to attend or need additional information about NBPTS, send an e-mail to Patty Dimetres, national board program manager, Department of Professional Learning and Training, at patricia.dimetres@fcps.edu.

Register Now for 2009 Academic Diversity Institute

The Academic Diversity Institute is a one-day summer opportunity designed to further develop the expertise of prekindergarten-12 teachers and administrators as they work to challenge and engage all learners. It is offered through the collaborative efforts of a wide range of FCPS offices and departments.

This year's institute will be held at **West Potomac High School on August 19 from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** Breakfast will be provided starting at 7:30 a.m., and participants will receive compensation at the rate of \$15 per hour in addition to recertification hours assigned through MyPLT.

This year's keynote speaker is Rafe Esquith, who has been described as "one of America's most beloved and celebrated schoolteachers and living proof that patience, understanding, love, and imagination can work miracles." He has written two books, *Teach Like Your Hair's on Fire: The Methods and Madness Inside Room 56* and *There Are No Shortcuts: Changing the World One Kid at a Time*.

Registration will open in MyPLT on May 20 at 4 p.m. Search for "Diversity" in the course title. (Please note: If you teach in a modified calendar school, you will register directly with your principal.) For more information, go to <http://fcpsnet.fcps.edu/is/summeroflearning/diversity.htm>.

June 30 Is Deadline for Summer 2009 Tuition Reimbursement Requests

Changes in the FCPS tuition reimbursement program became effective with the spring 2009 semester. The newly enacted Tuition Assistance Regulation 9005 establishes five priorities for tuition reimbursement and can be found at <http://www.fcps.edu/plt/treimbursement.htm>. The regulation outlines the approval process, when and how to apply for tuition reimbursement, and the Tuition Reimbursement Request form (PLT-905).

When to Apply for Tuition Reimbursement

- Tuition reimbursement must be preapproved.
- The last date to submit a summer 2009 Tuition Reimbursement Request form is June 30.
- A request for tuition reimbursement will not be approved after the last day on which a course meets.
- The employee must complete the **new** (PLT-905) tuition reimbursement request form located at <http://www.fcps.edu/plt/treimbursement.htm> and submit the completed application to the Department of Professional Learning and Training, Dunn Loring Center.
- Upon receipt of the request, the Department of Professional Learning and Training will notify the employee of the approval or denial of his or her request. Once a tuition reimbursement request is approved, the funds will be held in reserve for the employee.

How to Receive a Tuition Reimbursement Payment

To receive a reimbursement payment for **spring 2009 and summer 2009** tuition reimbursement requests:

- Tuition reimbursement payments will be initiated after the approved course has been satisfactorily completed with a grade of "A" or "B" or "Pass" (if it is Pass-Fail) for a graduate-level course or "C" or better for an undergraduate course as verified by an unofficial university transcript and/or grade report and proof of payment from the college or university.

- Grade verification and proof of payment for spring 2009 and summer 2009 coursework ending on or before June 30 must be received by the Department of Professional Learning and Training, Dunn Loring Center, by June 30.
- Tuition reimbursement payments are paid monthly and are included in the employee's paycheck.

Note: The cost of textbooks, miscellaneous fees, travel, etc., is not reimbursed by the tuition reimbursement program. Substitutes, hourly paid employees, and employees on leaves of absence are ineligible for tuition reimbursement. Final determination of an employee's eligibility for tuition reimbursement shall rest with the assistant superintendent, Department of Professional Learning and Training, or his or her designee.

Questions regarding tuition reimbursement should be directed to Rita Cloutier, Department of Professional Learning and Training, by phone at 703-204-3905 or by e-mail to Rita.Cloutier@fcps.edu.

Summer Academy Registration Now Open

The FCPS Summer Academy catalog is now available online at <http://www.fcps.edu/plt/catalogs.htm>. Online registration will be available beginning **May 20**. **All employees must register through MyPLT.** Follow these steps to use My PLT for the first time:

- Go to <http://www.fcps.edu/plt/MyPLT/index.html>.
- Click on the LOGIN button.
- Type your FCPS domain name in the username field.
- Type the same domain name in the password field.
- Click on the LOGIN button.
- You will be prompted to type a new password with a maximum length of eight characters.

If you have problems with your user name or password, contact the IT Service Desk at 703-503-1600 or ITServiceDesk@fcps.edu.

2009 Leadership Conference Speaker Announced

The 2009 Leadership Conference will be held on Wednesday, August 5, at Hayfield Secondary School in Alexandria. Dr. Jack D. Dale will kick off the day promptly at 8 a.m. with a welcome, introduction of guests, and his vision for the new 2009-10 school year. The morning keynote speaker will be **Tony Wagner**, bestselling author of *The Global Achievement Gap*. Wagner is codirector of the Change Leadership Group (CLG) at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. He consults with schools, districts, and foundations and has served as senior advisor to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Dr. Dale will dismiss support administrators at 11:45 a.m., and shuttle bus service will be available for transportation back to initial pickup locations. Instructional school-based administrators will remain for a keynote presentation in the high school cafeteria where a box lunch will be served. To facilitate efficient use of time in the afternoon, lunch will be served from 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Breakout sessions will begin promptly at 1 p.m. Shuttle buses will pick up administrators immediately after the sessions end at 3:45 p.m.

Updates will be posted as they become available on the Department of Professional Learning and Training web site, found at <http://www.fcps.edu/plt>.

People on the Move

Editor's Note: Information for **People on the Move** is provided by the Department of Human Resources, Office of Employment Services.

Promotions

- **Walter Smith** from sheet metal apprentice to welder I, facilities management, at Woodson Complex.
- **Nancy Sawicki** from office assistant at Ravensworth to student information assistant at Weyanoke.
- **Gregory Barron** from energy management technician supervisor to energy systems specialist, facilities management, at Sideburn Center.
- **Randy Fricks** from pipefitter II at Sideburn Center to pipefitter supervisor at Edison Satellite.

Transfers

- **Wilson Lopez** from building supervisor I at Glen Forest to building supervisor I at Laurel Hill.
- **Randall Allen** from safety and security assistant at Westfield to safety and security assistant at Chantilly.
- **Marian Wilson** from student information assistant at Robinson to student information assistant at Centreville Elementary.

New Hires and Appointments

- **Jorge Sanchez** to building supervisor I at Lemon Road.
- **Christopher Rosato** to HVAC technician I, facilities management, at Sideburn Center.

FCPS Remembers

About FCPS Remembers

Information for FCPS Remembers is provided by the Educational Employees Retirement System of Fairfax County (ERFC) for its members and by the Department of Human Resources for members of the Fairfax County Employees Retirement System (FCERS).

In the event of the death of any active employee who is now contributing to the ERFC and/or the VRS retirement systems, or any retiree who retired from these systems, **notify the ERFC retirement office by calling 703-426-3900**. The retirement office will provide the names to *Supergram* with details of the deceased's employment with FCPS. In the event of the death of an active member or retiree of **FCERS**, **notify Benefit Processing at 571-423-3200**.

- **John Hurley**, coordinator of research and testing at Willston Center, who retired July 1, 1979, and who died April 20.
- **Rose Marie Ormsby**, instructional assistant at TJHSST, who retired January 1, 1992, and who died April 5.
- **Shirley Addison**, food service worker at Marshall Road, who retired March 2, 2007, and who died on February 27.
- **Pearl Bumgarner**, food service worker at Herndon High, who died on March 31.
- **Corrinne Martin**, food service worker at Brookfield, who retired on July 1, 1985, and who died September 8, 2008.
- **William Kee**, custodian at Marshall, who retired on May 23, 1990, and who died November 25, 2008.
- **Bonnie Latimer**, bus driver at Lorton Center, who died December 1, 2008.
- **Carol Meador**, bus driver, Transportation, who retired on October 7, 1989, and who died December 22, 2008.
- **Joseph McLaughlin**, maintenance mechanic at Sideburn Center, who retired on March 27, 1987, and who died January 14.
- **Kwan Hall**, custodian at Sangster, who retired on May 24, 2005, and who died January 16.
- **Onnie Kennedy**, food service worker at Falls Church, who retired on December 23, 1988, and who died January 3.
- **Edna O'Connor**, food service worker at Kilmer, who retired on August 27, 1982, and who died March 18.
- **Hazel Stocks**, food service worker at Sandburg, who retired on July 12, 1988, and who died February 15.
- **Helen Walker**, food service worker at Flint Hill, who retired on June 16, 1979, and who died April 27.
- **Helen Altice**, teacher at Oakton High, who retired July 1, 1984, and who died March 3.

- **Winstead Balderson**, library assistant at Falls Church, who retired July 1, 1991, and who died March 29.
- **Michael Beto**, teacher at Hayfield Secondary, who retired July 1, 1988, and who died April 28.
- **Theresa Brennan**, public health training assistant at Davis, who retired January 1, 1995, and who died April 4.
- **Cheryl Costello**, teacher at Hayfield Secondary, who retired August 1, 2003, and who died March 11.
- **Sheila Cronin**, librarian at Mantua, who died April 3.
- **Ralph Toney**, teacher at Marshall, who retired July 1990, and who died May 13.