



June 17, 2009

printer-friendly version

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

All Fairfax County High Schools Make Newsweek's List of Top High Schools

All Fairfax County high schools have been designated among the most demanding public schools in the country and are featured in the 2009 Newsweek-Washington Post list of 1,478 top U.S. high schools. Get details at

<http://commweb.fcps.edu/newsreleases/newsrelease.cfm?newsid=1199>.

Supergram's Summer Schedule

With the school year drawing to a close, *Supergram* will be shifting to its summer schedule of one issue per month during July and August. Issues will be posted on **July 15** and **August 12**, with article deadlines of **July 8** and **August 5**, respectively. Get details at

<http://fcpsnet.fcps.edu/cco/strategiccomm/pubs/guide.shtml#supergram>.

FCPS Recognized as Laureate and Finalist by Computerworld Honors Program

Fairfax County Public Schools has been recognized as a Laureate by the IDG (International Data Group) Computerworld Honors program for the Flight School project. Get details at

<http://commweb.fcps.edu/newsreleases/newsrelease.cfm?newsid=1198>.

FCPS Wins Five Telly Awards

Fairfax County Public Schools has captured **five Telly Awards for 2009**. The Telly Awards, similar to the Emmy Awards, recognize exceptional cable programming and are among the most sought-after awards in the television, commercial, and video industry. Get details at

<http://commweb.fcps.edu/newsreleases/newsrelease.cfm?newsid=1189>.

Communications Corner: Have News Clips Sent to You by E-Mail

The Department of Communications and Community Outreach provides FCPS staff members with a daily clipping service of education-related stories from more than 35 publications and also maintains a searchable database of past articles on FCPSnet at

<http://commapps.fcps.edu/eclips/>. Links to stories relating to FCPS, as well as regional and national education news, are e-mailed to staff members every morning. If you would like to receive these "eClips," contact Sara Kolb at sara.kolb@fcps.edu.

Tips for Your Health: Play It Safe This Summer and Live Easy

Before heading off on vacation or for a few weeks of summer fun, take heed and mind these tips from Camille Bartus, FCPS wellness specialist, so that you can have a fun and safe time. Get details <http://www.fcps.edu/mediapub/publicat/so061709/summertime.pdf>.

FCPS by the Numbers

1,500: The approximate number of FCPS buses needed to transport more than 110,000 students daily using 6,500 separate routes. FCPS transports more students every day than any school system in the U.S. with the exception of New York City. Get details at http://www.fcps.edu/fts/tran/about_us/index.htm.

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 July 15. Articles for that issue are due no later than Wednesday, July 8.** If you have any comments, questions, or suggestions, Grunig can be reached at 571-423-1212. **Please Note:** The *Career Quest* (formerly *Job Opportunities*) publication and web pages are provided by the **Department of Human Resources**.

Quote to Note

"Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass on a summer day listening to the murmur of water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is hardly a waste of time."

John Lubbock

About Our People

- **Penny McConnell**, director of the Office of Food and Nutrition Services, served as the chair of the Global Child Nutrition Forum in Stellenbosch, South Africa, in May. In partnership with the World Food Programme, Joint Aid Management, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, representatives from 14 African nations were invited to attend. Each representative drafted a plan for implementing sustainable school feeding and home grown programs in his or her country and used the School Feeding Toolkit, coauthored by McConnell, as the working document. Future technical assistance and progress reports will be coordinated by the Global Child Nutrition Foundation.
- **Connie Thibeault**, ESOL assessment teacher at Devonshire, wrote an article titled "First Language Insights Into Second Language Acquisition," which was published in the spring AccELLerate Newsletter for the National Clearinghouse on English Language Acquisition (NCELA). The article addresses the need for careful analysis and comparison of first and second language skills in considering the needs of English language learners who are experiencing academic difficulty.
- Eleven FCPS teachers have been selected as Fellows of the Northern Virginia Writing Project (NVWP) Summer Institute. This year's NVWP Fellows from FCPS are:

- **Zach Carter**, math teacher, South Lakes.
- **Angela Collins**, music teacher, Willow Springs.
- **Erin Crostic**, second grade teacher, Wakefield Forest.
- **Charles Daly**, social studies teacher, Lee.
- **Julian Dotson**, English teacher, West Potomac.
- **David Friedman**, English teacher, Chantilly.
- **Laura Goodman**, English teacher, West Springfield High.
- **Lauren Jensen**, English teacher, Lee.
- **Bryan Pahl**, English teacher, Fairfax.
- **Alison Rockmann**, English teacher, Lake Braddock.
- **Kelly Worland**, third Grade teacher, Wolftrap.

Each Fellow will receive a \$500 stipend and earn six graduate-level college credits to study the latest writing research and effective classroom practices at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va. After completing the institute, Fellows will become NVWP teacher consultants and provide in-service programs, workshops, and credit courses on the teaching of writing to professional school staffs throughout Northern Virginia. NVWP is part of the National Writing Project (NWP).

- **Mamiya Sahara Worland**, teacher of Japanese in the Japanese partial-immersion program at Great Falls, is the 2009 recipient of the United States-Japan Foundation Elgin Heinz Outstanding Teacher Award. The award is given annually to exceptional teachers who further mutual understanding between Americans and Japanese and includes a monetary award of \$2,500 in addition to \$5,000 in project funds.

Worland proposed a Japanese garden for her project. Great Falls is currently undergoing an extensive renovation. Worland recognized that a Japanese garden would be a wonderful addition when the school completes renovation in fall 2010. It will not only serve as an educational resource for the students, but will also create a beautiful garden to be enjoyed by the community.

Worland, known to the students as Sahara Sensei, has been teaching Japanese in the Japanese partial-immersion program for 19 years, and has taught for 16 of those years at Great Falls.

- Three FCPS staff members—**Bob Lamons**, science teacher, **Susan Socha**, math teacher, and **Sandy Todd**, educational specialist, instructional technology—from the Online Campus school at the Sprague Center, presented a session at the Regional Illuminati Community Conference in Washington, D.C., hosted by the Pan American Health Organization in March.

Their topic, "Innovative Accountability Techniques for Online Conferencing," was also shared in real time over the Internet with online conference attendees throughout the United States and with special gatherings in France, Columbia, and Brazil.

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

2009-10 Total Compensation Statements to Be Distributed Electronically

Starting this summer, total compensation statements for 2009-10 **will no longer be mailed to employee residences**. However, in early August, each employee will receive an electronic salary notification in his or her FCPS e-mail account; it will contain position and salary information for the 2009-10 school year.

For more information, contact Client Services at 571-423-3000.

Insulin, Diabetic Supplies Now Available via Mail Order

As of May 1, Express Scripts added insulin and some diabetic supplies to its maintenance medication list. This list represents prescription drugs that Fairfax County Public Schools' medical benefits participants must obtain through Express Scripts' home delivery service. Home delivery saves you money on your prescription drug copayments. Basically, you receive a three-month supply of your prescription drug with home delivery for what you would have spent for a three-month supply from a retail pharmacy.

For more information about home delivery, see pp. 19-20 of the FCPS Employee Benefits Handbook,

<http://www.fcps.edu/DHR/employees/benefits/2009health/pdfs/09benefitshandbook.pdf>.

For a list of Express Scripts' maintenance medications (MMD215) effective May 1, go to

<http://www.fcps.edu/DHR/employees/benefits/news/RxMailOrderAdditions.pdf>.

Note: A participant will incur a copay penalty if he or she continues to use retail pharmacies for items on Express Scripts' maintenance medication list. For more information, contact the Office of Benefit Services at 571-423-3200.

VRS Member Benefits Statements to Go Online

Effective September 1, the annual VRS Member Benefit Profile statements will be made available online only. The Virginia Retirement System will no longer be mailing individual printed statements to home addresses.

To access your VRS Member Benefit Profile statement—as well as your individual account data—you must register for a secure myVRS account online through the members section on the VRS web site at www.varetire.org. If you have not already registered online with VRS, put it on your to do list now. For more information, call 1-888-827-3847

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?

2008-09 Best of the Web Award Winners Announced

The Department of Communications and Community Outreach would like to congratulate the following curators for being selected as winners in the annual FCPS Best of the Web Awards program.

- **Carrington Crabbe**, Laurel Ridge Elementary School; Larry Burke, principal.
- **Laura Jones**, McNair Elementary School; Theresa West, principal.
- **Melinda Snyder**, Hayfield Elementary School; Barbara Vaccarella, principal.
- **Megan Farrelly**, Twain Middle School; Aimee Holleb, principal.
- **Starlyn Comai**, Falls Church High School; Cathy Benner, principal.

The winners were selected from quarterly WebStar award winners and were judged on the high quality of web-based communication between each school and the community it serves. The awards are given once annually to three elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school that best demonstrate the following criteria:

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

The winners were chosen by a vote of school and department web curators and will be presented at the annual curators conference, which will be held on Tuesday, November 3, at Gatehouse Administration Center I.

For more information, contact Nancy Moy at 571-423-1221, or go to <http://fcpsnet.fcps.edu/cco/web/curators/webstar0809.shtml>.

FCPS Is Now on Facebook and Twitter

Fairfax County Public Schools is now on Twitter, where news and information, emergency messages, and information about current issues are posted for those who choose to become followers of the school system. To follow FCPS on Twitter, visit www.twitter.com/fcpsnews and click on Follow.

FCPS also has a Facebook page; to follow FCPS on Facebook, visit www.facebook.com/pages/Falls-Church-VA/Fairfax-County-Public-Schools/74125402499 and select Become a Fan at the top of the page. The FCPS Facebook page currently includes a link to summer reading lists for students who will enter grades 6-12 in the fall and will also include up-to-date information about the school system.

Citizens can also receive FCPS news and information by subscribing to the school system's Keep in Touch e-mail messaging system or by subscribing to RSS (really simple syndication). To learn more about RSS, visit www.fcps.edu and go to the News Releases banner on the right side of the page, then click on the orange RSS logo.

Registration Now Open for Summer ACCESS Courses

Registration is now open for summer ACCESS (Academy Course Catalog for Employees in Support Services) courses at <http://www.fcps.edu/plt/access.htm>. Course topics include automated computer inventory system (ACIS), design and media, education decision support library (EDSL), library media eole, MyPLT, professional development series, school administrative student information (SASI), technology, time and attendance, and web site design.

Registration for ACCESS classes will remain open throughout the semester. All courses in the catalog are offered at no cost to all contracted employees.

VPN Available to All Employees

FCPS uses a virtual private network (VPN) to allow its employees to access school system computer network resources when they are not at an FCPS site. Every FCPS employee now has permission to use VPN, but a small piece of software is needed. The VPN software can be downloaded from FCPSnet at

http://servicecatalog.fcps.edu/it/infras_ntwk/ntwk_access/download_vpn.shtml. This software is not available for download from home, so if you plan to connect back to an FCPS resource when you are not at an FCPS site, be sure to download, install, and test the software before leaving your site.

If you would like more information on VPN and the regulations that govern its use, see the FCPS Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) Regulation 6410, the Data Security Regulation 6220, the Data Security Policy 6220, and the Remote Access Technical Bulletin 631.

The IT Service Desk can be reached at 703-503-1600 or ITServiceDesk@fcps.edu for questions or further information. Please note that the IT Service Desk supports only computer equipment that is supplied by FCPS.

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 (PLT-905) 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.

Information for Educators

Maria Kappel Named May News Liaison of the Month

Maria Kappel, career experience specialist at West Potomac High School, has been named the News Liaison of the Month for May 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. Kappel has been spreading the good news about West Potomac Academy since joining the staff four years ago.

During May, Kappel submitted press releases about the West Potomac Academy’s new partnership with the Copyright Alliance Education Foundation, the Motion Pictures dance performance and film festival, a runway collection by Fashion Design students, students selected to attend the State Junior Law Cadet program, and an appearance by entrepreneur Johnny Earle, a.k.a. Johnny Cupcakes, as well as a photo of him with students. Kappel, who has been employed by FCPS for 11 years, received a \$25 gift card from Starbucks for being named May’s News Liaison of the Month.

TMPC and Education Library Now on Summer Schedule

Summer has arrived and the change of seasons brings with it a change in hours at the Education Library and at the Teaching Materials Preparation Center (TMPC) located at the Sprague Technology Center.

As of Monday, June 15, both walk-in facilities began operating on their summer schedules. During the summer, the facilities are open from **8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**, Monday through Friday. This schedule will remain in effect throughout the rest of June, July, and August. Regular hours (8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Fridays) resume on Tuesday, September 8, the day after Labor Day. Call the Education Library at 703-503-7420 or the TMPC at 703-503-7430 for additional information.

Details regarding changes in operating hours are also posted on the Education Library web site at <http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/educationlibrary/>, and on the TMPC web site at <http://www.fcps.edu/MTS/TMPC/hours.html>.

Registration Now Open for Summer Leadership Seminars

Online registration through MyPLT for the summer leadership seminars is now open. Information about the leadership seminars as well as many informative articles will be available inside the new online publication, *PLT Compass*, which will be posted at <http://www.fcps.edu/plt/leadership.htm>.

The goal of *PLT Compass* is to provide direction, instruction, and inspiration for current and aspiring school-based and central office administrators, teacher leaders, and school teams within FCPS. Each issue has an overall theme; the theme for the summer issue is Closing the Gap.

For more information, contact Janet Kabel at Janet.Kabel@fcps.edu or 703-204-4013.

Proposals for Fall Leadership Seminars Due by August 11

The Department of Professional Learning and Training (PLT) is now accepting proposals for fall-winter leadership seminars. Fall-winter seminars run from September 21, 2009, to February 26, 2010.

Registration for these seminars will be offered through the new online leadership publication *PLT Compass*. The goal of *PLT Compass* is to provide direction, instruction, and inspiration for current and aspiring school-based and central office administrators, teacher leaders, and school teams within FCPS. Each issue has an overall theme; the theme for the fall-winter issue is Closing the Gap.

FCPS personnel may submit leadership seminar proposals through the online proposal form at http://www.fcps.edu/plt/Leaders/Programs/Leadership_Seminars.htm.

The deadline to submit a proposal is **August 11**. For further information, contact Janet Kabel at Janet.Kabel@fcps.edu.

Fulbright Teacher Exchanges Available for 2010-11 School Year

Overseas teacher exchange opportunities are available for the 2010-11 school year. FCPS participates in the school year direct exchanges. Other short-term exchanges are not supported by the school system due to the impact on instructional programs. In addition to meeting the Fulbright eligibility requirements, applicants **must have taught three years in FCPS prior to the exchange year.**

Opportunities and other eligibility requirements vary by country. Information and applications are available from the Fulbright Teacher Exchange at 202-464-3825 or by e-mail at fulbrightcte@aed.org. The application is also available at <http://fulbrightteacherexchange.org/cteapplication.cfm>. All applications must be approved by FCPS prior to submission.

All FCPS applications must be submitted to the Department of Professional Learning and Training, Dunn Loring Center, attn: Patty Dimetres. Applications must be received no later than **Friday, September 25**, to meet the Fulbright deadline. Applications will then be submitted by FCPS directly to Fulbright.

If you need additional information about the Fulbright exchange program, call 703-204-3934 or e-mail Patty Dimetres, program manager, Department of Professional Learning and Training, at patricia.dimetres@fcps.edu.

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

- **Julian Contreras** from custodian I to assistant building supervisor at Poe.
- **Terry Hunsberger** from energy management technician I/II to energy management technician supervisor at Sideburn Center.
- **Hak Tan** from custodian II to building supervisor I at Springfield Estates.

Transfers

- **Sang Huynh** from assistant building supervisor at Longfellow to building supervisor at Annandale Terrace.
- **Steven Gray** from kitchen equipment technician, facilities management, at Herndon Satellite to kitchen equipment technician at Sideburn Center.
- **Patrick McKee** from roofer apprentice to sheet metal apprentice, facilities management, at Woodson Complex.

Appointments

- **Sang Huynh** from assistant building supervisor at Longfellow to building supervisor at Annandale Terrace.
- **Steven Gray** from kitchen equipment technician, facilities management, at Herndon Satellite to kitchen equipment technician 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**.

- **Dorothy Luscavage**, teacher at Clermont, who retired March 1, 1997, and who died May 12.
- **Michael Beto**, teacher at Hayfield Secondary, who retired July 1, 1988, and who died April 28.
- **Julie Bohon**, teacher at Robinson, who died March 28.
- **Elizabeth Bryan**, kindergarten assistant at Keene Mill, who died April 17.
- **Judie Crabb**, teacher at Oakton Elementary, who retired July 1, 1996, and who died May 16.
- **Elizabeth Lynch**, librarian at Kings Glen, who retired July 1, 1995, and who died May 31.
- **Harold Sheridan**, teacher at Bryant, who retired May 1, 1978, and who died May 7.
- **Lorraine Morton**, teacher at Woodson, who retired July 1, 1983, and who died May 5.