

January 2007

Especially for Parents

- On February 2, Mayer-Johnson and DynaVox Technologies will be sponsoring an Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) workshop developed specifically for Fairfax County schools' teachers and parents of students with special needs at the Hilton Garden Inn Fairfax. The morning session will feature AAC in the Classroom and the afternoon session will be a hands-on introduction to Boardmaker 6. Registration is limited.
- Dr. Mitch Taubman and Jon Rafuse, *Autism Partnership* consultants, conducted a seminar on December 7, at the Dunn Loring Administration Center for parents of secondary students receiving Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services, entitled *Behavior Management Programming for Middle and High School Students with Low-Incidence Disabilities*.

Especially for Staff

- On January 26, the countywide in-service day for teachers, an array of workshops will be offered for elementary teachers working with students with disabilities. These workshop topics include: reading comprehension for students with disabilities, specialized reading instruction, powerful writing strategies, functional math, social skill development, implementing Applied Behavior Analysis in small groups, addressing behavioral issues, and addressing instructional needs of students with emotional disabilities. Special education teachers may also participate in a mathematics mini-conference held that day.
- Office of Special Education (OSE) secondary team members conducted the following school-based training sessions:
 - On December 5, a member of the OSE secondary team collaborated with specialists from the Office of Middle School Instruction to provide training for the faculty of Liberty Middle School. The staff received training on implementing research-based strategies for increasing student achievement identified by Robert J. Marzano in his book, *Classroom Instruction that Works*, with a focus on vocabulary development and the use of graphic organizers.
 - On December 13, secondary team members gave a presentation on co-teaching to the entire faculty at Luther Jackson Middle School. Training included information on different co-teaching models and strategies that promote effective co-teaching. OSE staff will provide follow-up training and support for co-teaching throughout the school year.
 - On December 14, secondary team members gave a presentation on "Differentiation Made Easy" for special education teachers at Thoreau Middle School. Training included demonstration of the use of the Ed Ellis *Makes Sense Think Sheets* and other graphic organizers, and vocabulary development.
- During the week of December 4, Dr. Mitch Taubman and Jon Rafuse, *Autism Partnership* consultants, worked collaboratively with secondary low incidence OSE staff members to provide school-based consultation and support to low incidence teachers at twelve middle and high schools.

- On December 21, a day of professional development was provided for nine middle and high school teachers by a FCPS teacher certified as a Strategic Instruction Model (SIM) professional developer on how to teach students to use the Test Taking Strategy, one strategy of the Learning Strategies Curriculum developed by the Center for Research on Learning at the University of Kansas.
- Preschool special education teachers and instructional assistants attended a workshop, *Emergent Literacy Across the Curriculum*, on December 4, 2006. Participants learned about the components of literacy instruction and how to support students within the language arts block.
- Administrators for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing Program sponsored Dr. Asiah Mason, Coordinator for Emotional Intelligence at Gallaudet University, to speak to administrators and teachers about *Emotional Intelligence for Students who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing* on December 20, at the Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons.