

January 2008

Especially for Parents

- On December 1, 2007, over 700 students, parents, and professionals gathered at George Mason University for *Future Quest: A College and Career Forum for Students with Disabilities*. Conference highlights included a keynote presentation by noted author and advocate Jonathan Mooney and twenty seven workshops addressing different topics related to the transition to life after high school. The next *Future Quest* conference will take place October 2009.
- The next session in the series of preschool parenting support workshops will take place on January 10, 2008, at Dunn Loring Center addressing the topic of promoting healthy sleep in preschool children. For more information, please contact the Parent Resource Center at 703-204-3941.
- Throughout the year, Assistive Technology Services (ATS) is offering a series of trainings focused on the integration of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) into the daily routine of students. This training is open to both staff and parents. In January the topic will be *Visuals to Foster Communication*. Participants will discover how visual strategies can be used across the curriculum to encourage communication and participation. The following sessions will be offered:

January 7	2:30-4:15 p.m.	Rocky Run Middle School, room 150
January 15	2:30-4:15 p.m.	Dunn Loring Center, room 11
January 29	6:30-8:15 p.m.	Dunn Loring Center, room 11

Details about these sessions and future sessions, along with registration information, can be found in 'Keep in Touch'. Future sessions will include the following topics:
 - AAC Templates
 - AAC and Literacy
- On January 30 Office of Special Education (OSE) staff members will present an overview of low incidence services to the FCPS ombudsmen at Dunn Loring Center.

Especially for Staff

- Preschool teachers attended a workshop entitled *Planning for Inclusive Practices* on December 3, 2007. Information concerning the state initiative to expand inclusive placement opportunities for preschoolers was discussed.

- On January 28 the countywide in-service day, the Early Childhood Elementary Office of Special Education (OSE) will be offering a variety of workshops for special education teachers as listed below. Staff members may register through my PLT.

Language Development in Preschool Children	Lee HS	8:30-3:30 p.m.
Connecting Math and Number Worlds	Colin Powell ES	8:30-3:30 p.m.
Functional Math Skills	Kilmer MS	8:30-11:30 a.m.
Addressing the Unique Needs of Students with High Functioning Autism/Asperger's Syndrome	Kilmer MS	12:30-3:30 p.m.
Verbal Behavior Fundamentals	Jackson MS	8:30-3:30 p.m.
ABA Advanced Curriculum Analysis and Hands-On	Fairview ES	8:30-3:30 p.m.

- On January 28 staff members from the Elementary Office of Special Education will be presenting *Putting a Picture to Words* at the math mini-conference sponsored by the Department of Instructional Services at Westfield H.S. The presentation will be on an adapted problem solving strategy from Singapore. This strategy involves a very structured drawing process that can be applied to word problems. It is applicable to all operations and emphasizes comprehension of math language through visual representations.
- On January 31 Dr. Ron Leaf, FCPS ABA consultant, will be presenting a workshop for school administrators, *Understanding ABA in the Classroom*, from 8:30a.m.-2:00p.m. at Gatehouse, rooms 4050/51. This workshop will present information on applied behavior analysis and what to look for in a classroom implementing enhanced autism services.

Other

- On December 4 and 5 staff from the Office of Special Education, Office of Student Services, and Office of Instructional Services, attended a two-day training introducing the Virginia Department of Education's Response to Intervention initiative. Presenters included the Deputy Director of Research and Practice at University of Kansas and professors from State University of Albany, University of Virginia, and University of South Florida.