



February 2006

Especially for Parents:

- ❑ IEP training specialists, in collaboration with the Parent Resource Center, conducted workshops on the IEP process for over 60 parents during the month of January. Additional workshops in this series include *Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) Services and Placement* on February 21 and 22, and *IEP Forms* on March 7 and 8. Parents may register by calling the PRC at (703) 204-3941.
- ❑ The Parent Resource Center in collaboration with Career and Transition Services will offer *An Introduction to Transition Planning and Overview of FCPS Career and Transition Services* on March 9 (Snow Date – March 16) at Hayfield High School Media Center from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Transition specialists will present information about transition planning in the IEP, Career and Transition services available in FCPS, and resources to assist in the transition process. The flyer with more information may be accessed at: www.fcps.edu/ss/careertransition/whatsnew.htm.
- ❑ Integrated Technology Services will be offering the following in-services for parents and FCPS staff in February and March:
 - Assistive Writing in the Inclusive Classroom on Monday, February 6, 2:30 – 4:15 pm, Rocky Run MS, ITS Lab, Room 150.
 - Software to Support Struggling Writers on Thursday, February 23, 2:30 – 4:15 pm, Rocky Run MS, ITS Lab, Room 150.
 - Visual Strategies for Students in Low Incidence Programs on Thursday, February 23, 2:30 – 4:15 pm, West Potomac HS, ITS Lab, Room 309
 - Introduction to PowerPoint on Tuesday, March 7, 2:30 – 4:15 pm, Dunn Loring Center, Room 11
 - Using PowerPoint and Word Templates to Create All Kinds of Books (K-6) on Thursday, March 9, 2:30 – 4:00 pm, Rocky Run MS, ITS Lab, Room 150
 - Free Resources for Your Math and Science Classroom on Tuesday, March 21, 3:15 – 5:00 pm, Rocky Run MS, ITS Lab, Room 150
 - Integrating Assistive Technology in the Classroom and Workplace: Understanding Adapted Access on Tuesday, March 28, 3:00 – 5:00 pm, Dunn Loring Center, Room 11
- ❑ For descriptions of the in-service, go to: <http://www.fcps.edu/ss/its/in-services.htm>. To register, email: ITSupport@fcps.edu. Please include your name and your child's school, and the letter and title of the class you would like to attend. Questions? Contact Ellie.Stack@fcps.edu

Especially for Staff:

- ❑ William Reeder, coordinator, Integrated Technology Services, and Jennifer Carr, assistive technology specialist will be featured in a live online professional development Virtual Interactive Presentation (VIP) sponsored by Don Johnston Professional Services. Their session, *Empowering Students to be Self Advocates for Assistive Technology* will be presented on February 21 at 1:00 pm and March 8 at 1:00 pm.

- ❑ Joan Hahn facilitated a workshop on January 27, 2006, for the Transportation Leadership Academy. She provided a full day of activities and information related to special education, including a brief history of program development in FCPS and information about the various disability groups included under IDEA 2005.
- ❑ Special education secondary services staff presented two school-based workshops on *Research-Proven Strategies for students with Special Needs in the General Education Classroom* on January 19 for both special and general education teachers at Frost Middle School.
- ❑ Members of the secondary team, in collaboration with consultants from Autism Partnership, conducted a training entitled, *Behavior Solutions* for sixty secondary teachers of students with autism, mental retardation, and severe disabilities on January 30 at the Mason District Government Center. Autism Partnership consultants also provided advanced training for autism teachers implementing ABA strategies on that same day.

Other:

- ❑ Dr. Terry Scott, University of Florida, presented two workshops for over 600 FCPS staff members on Monday, Jan. 30. Teams from 39 of the 42 schools previously trained in Positive Behavior Support spent the morning with Dr. Scott learning about *Managing Yellow Zone Students in a Green Zone Classroom* where he discussed strategies for managing challenging behavior in the classroom. In the afternoon, Dr. Scott presented a comprehensive workshop for psychologists, social workers, alternative schools staff, and inclusive school resource teachers on *De-mystifying Functional Behavior Assessment*, focusing on common language as schools take a team approach to looking at the behavioral needs of individual students.
- ❑ Carlos Miranda Gomez, a 2005 graduate of the Davis Career Center, was named the Employee of the Year at the Tysons Corner DoubleTree Hotel on Saturday, January 14. Gomez was a member of the DoubleTree work site team while a student at Davis Career Center. DoubleTree's managers were so pleased with his performance that they encouraged him to apply for regular employment upon graduation from FCPS. Carlos commutes to work via mass transit and quickly learned all requisite skills for his new position. He was named Employee of the Month a few months after joining the staff, which made him eligible to compete for the Employee of the Year award.
- ❑ Nate Sparks, Coordinator, Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) presented a teacher workshop on *SOL Accommodations for the Visually Impaired Student* on January 27 at Dunn Loring Center. Educational Service Vision coordinators from three counties in Virginia, FCPS teachers of students with visual impairments, and two FCPS IEP specialists attended the workshop.
- ❑ Robyn Feuerberg and her daughter Amy Feuerberg made a presentation at a School Board work session on January 23 regarding how assistive technology benefits Amy at school and in her everyday environment outside of school. Amy used her communication device to speak with the School Board members. Following the presentation, William Reeder, coordinator, Integrated Technology Services, and Janis Speck, assistive technology specialist answered questions regarding the use of assistive technology in Fairfax County Public Schools. More information on assistive technology services in FCPS may be found in the December 2005 edition of Family Center on Technology and Disability (FCTD) *News and Notes*. This article may be accessed at www.fctd.info. William Reeder, Carmen Sanchez, and Patricia Addison were interviewed for this article.

- On January 30, 2006, Linda Burkhart, an educational consultant, presented *Adaptations for Students Who Face Severe and Multiple Challenges: From "Light Tech to "High Tech" Part II*. This presentation is a continuation of Part I, offered last year, focusing on creative and practical strategies to address the complex needs of this student population.
- Joan Hahn, specialist for students with physical disabilities, and Marsha Goldberg, educational specialist, Parent Resource Center, presented information to docents from museums in the northern Virginia area about accessibility issues at Gunston Hall, the home of George Mason, on February 6. They discussed ways that the docents can help make museums more user-friendly for students who receive special education services.
- Since summer 2005, more than 960 special education teachers have participated in institutes or courses in academic content areas to meet highly qualified teacher requirements under the mandates established by NCLB and IDEA 2005. The Office of Special Education will continue to collaborate with other FCPS offices and local colleges and universities to ensure that a variety of options continue to be available to support special education teachers in expanding their expertise in the core content areas.