

March 2005

### Especially for Parents

- The next applied behavior analysis (ABA) parent workshop will be held on April 5, 2005. Information about this workshop will be posted online on *Keep in Touch*. For additional information, contact Liane Sprunk at 703-246-7774
- The Parent Resource Center (PRC) cosponsored a regional workshop, *Life Planning Tools*, on Saturday, February 26, 2005. More than 150 parents and students attended to learn about future life plans, guardianship alternatives, circles of support, trusts and financial plans, and self-determination. Other sponsors included PRCs from the northern Virginia region, the Arlington County Department of Human Services, and the Arc of Northern Virginia.
- Contact the PRC at 703-246-3941 to register for one of the following parent workshops:
  - *Transitioning to Postsecondary Education: What Are My Options?* will be held on March 17, 2005, 10:30 – 12:00 pm, George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, VA. This workshop is targeted for special education students approaching graduation. It will provide students and parents with an opportunity to learn about variety of post-secondary education options including, community college, training and technical schools, and four-year colleges. Information about legal responsibilities and disability support services in school will be provided as well.
  - *An Introduction to Transition Planning and Overview of Career and Transition Services* will be held on April 14, 2005, from 7:00 – 9:00 pm at Dunn Loring Center, Room 107. This workshop will discuss the transition plan and its relationship to the Individualized Education Program (IEP), services available to assist in the transition process, and how students are involved in the transition process. Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) career and transition specialists will be presenting information regarding the transition plan and available resources.

### Especially for Staff

- Extensive training continues for staff members working with students on the autism spectrum. On February 1, 2005 sixty-one instructional assistants attended a full day *ABA Hands-On Training* session conducted by FCPS ABA consultants, Ron Leaf and Todd Streff. On February 8, 2005 fifty-three teachers and instructional assistants working with preschool or elementary autism classes attended an *ABA Fundamentals* workshop conducted by Ron Leaf, Ph.D., *Autism Partnership*.

- On March 2, 2005 approximately 30 elementary special education teachers participated in a workshop on reading instruction for students with disabilities. In this session, co-presented by a general education reading teacher and a special education teacher, participants discussed ways to include students with disabilities in specific reading instruction based on assessment and how to differentiate the instruction based on individual need.
- Sixty-one autism teachers and 44 instructional assistants working with autism classes have completed the ABA core training series which includes: *ABA Fundamentals*; *ABA Hands-On*; and *Verbal Behavior Fundamentals*. They received a certificate for completing this series and the teachers received a \$25 stipend for classroom materials.
- The Office of Special Education (OSE) will offer a wide array of professional development opportunities during spring 2005 for staff members working with students with low incidence disabilities. Offerings for the month of March include: *Picture Exchange Communication System - Part I and Part II*, *Applied Behavior Analysis and Discrete Trial Teaching*, *Overview of Asperger's Syndrome and High Functioning Autism* and *The Prescription for Success for Working with Students with Asperger's Syndrome and High Functioning Autism*. *Recognizing and Teaching Students with Asperger's Syndrome/High Functioning Autism*, an Academy course, will include a parent panel and an adult speaker with Asperger's Syndrome.
- Karen Erickson, director of the Center for Literacy and Disability Studies, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, will present a two day workshop on *Literacy and Augmentative Communication* on April 25 and 26, 2005. Dr. Erickson is a nationally recognized presenter who specializes in the development of literacy skills for students with significant physical disabilities.
- Special education secondary team members held the second of two countywide full day workshops for 25 middle and high school special education reading teachers. Teachers were introduced to a number of strategies to help students learn to summarize what they've read and learned about a successful teacher researcher program at Robinson using high-interest fiction to engage poor readers and increase the number of books they read.
- Special education secondary team members are collaborating and planning with the Office of Middle School Instruction to develop and provide summer academies for middle school special education teachers who teach science, social studies, and English. The academies will focus on increasing teachers' knowledge of content, and their knowledge and use of research-based, content-specific strategies for students with high-incidence disabilities.
- The Video Journal of Education has developed a set of training videos, *Training Paraprofessionals and the Teachers That Work with Them* featuring paraprofessional/teacher teams from Fairfax County Public Schools. The training focuses on *Building the Partnership in the Classroom and Promoting Professionalism* and will be shared with schools throughout the system.
- The Office of Special Education sponsored a Leadership Academy Seminar, *Implementing PBS: A Schoolwide Approach Gets Results!*, for principals and other school-based administrators on February 16, 2005. A panel of principals currently implementing

schoolwide positive behavior support models for addressing student discipline shared their experiences with their colleagues.

- Dr. Margaret McLaughlin, University of Maryland, will present a Leadership Academy Seminar, "*The Accountability Challenge: AYP and Students With Disabilities*" on March 17, 2005 8:30 – 11:30. This presentation will focus on specific issues surrounding students with disabilities and the accountability requirements of No Child Left Behind (NCLB). An overview of national trends in performance and policies will be presented followed by an in-depth analysis of what we are learning about schools that are getting better results for students with disabilities.

## Other

- The ABA website has been updated and redesigned. For information on the enhanced services for student with autism visit the website at: <http://www.fcps.edu/DSSSE/ABA/>.
- Liz Mackie, ABA specialist, and some of the ABA coaches attended the First<sup>1</sup> Annual Conference of the Virginia Association for Behavior Analysis on Saturday, March 5, 2005. They presented a poster session: ABA in the Public School Setting: Fairfax County Public Schools' New Services for Preschool and Elementary Autism Classes
- The *High School Academic Bowl for Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHOH) Students* sponsored by Gallaudet University will be held for the Mid-Atlantic Region in Frederick, MD at the Maryland School for the Deaf on March 10-13, 2005. The purpose of the Academic Bowl is to foster the pursuit of academic excellence; promote a spirit of academic competition and good sportsmanship; and to encourage social opportunities for collegiality among students. Five students in the DHOH program at Woodson High School will participate this year.
- The *Mantua Elementary After School Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students* will be shown on the "Spotlight on Learning" segment during the next FCPS Board meeting scheduled for March 10, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. This program was set up three years ago to provide deaf and hard of hearing students with additional opportunities in improve their language fluency. For more information about this program please contact Tina Tingler, assistant principal, at 703-645-6300.
- Thirty-one occupational therapists attended a three-day workshop entitled *Assessment of Motor and Process Skills (AMPS) – School Version* on February 22, 23, and 24, 2005. This tool was developed in response to the need for a valid, reliable, and clinically useful evaluation tool for measuring the quality of a student's school task performance in typical classroom settings. The *School AMPS* provides a holistic framework for planning interventions and is closely aligned with best practices in school-based occupational therapy.
- William Reeder and Cheryl Temple from Integrated Technology Services will be members of a panel on *Technology Adoption and School-based Collaboration: Working Together* on Thursday, April 7, 2005 at the Council for Exceptional Children Conference in Baltimore, MD.
- Below are the dates for the annual *Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC) Orientations for Students With Disabilities*. All visits cover application procedures, placement testing, financial aid, accommodations, disabilities services, and optional

campus tours. Each campus will provide information on specific courses available at that location. If interested, students should contact their Employment and Transition representative as soon as possible.

March 9, 2005	Loudoun Campus
March 15, 2005	Alexandria Campus
March 16, 2005	Woodbridge Campus
March 17, 2005	Manassas Campus
April 27, 2005	Annandale Campus

