

June 2005

Especially for Parents

- The fourth annual Chatterbox Fun Fair was held on Saturday, May 21, 2005, at Kings Glen Elementary. Pictures are online at <http://www.fcps.edu/DSSSE/its/Chatterbox/>. The fair is specifically organized for preschool through sixth grade students (and their families) using picture boards or devices with sound to help them with communication and currently is receiving assistive technology support from Integrated Technology Services (ITS). Over 300 students and their family members attended this year's Fun Fair.
- ITS will again provide assistive technology (AT) support to students with disabilities attending summer school. ITS staff members along with Technology Outreach Program Support (TOPS) teachers will be providing on-site support on a regular basis throughout the summer session. This will include:
 - Assign an ITS staff person to each summer school site who will establish a regularly scheduled support time.
 - Provide software, peripherals and communication devices as needed.
 - Offer additional summer software checkout as requested.
 - Provide each summer school special education class with appropriate software as needed.
 - Offer on-site training opportunities as requested.
 - Provide project support to summer school staff members by request.

Especially for Staff

- The Office of Special Education (OSE) is offering six sessions during the *Summer of Learning* program. *Summer of Learning* is available to special education and general education teachers, June through August 2005. Sessions being offered by OSE are: *Comprehension Strategies That Work for All, Using Kidspiration to Facilitate Writing, On the Move: MultiSensory Instructional Strategies for Tactile and Kinesthetic Learners, Practical Reading and Writing Strategies for ESOL Students with Learning Disabilities, Math Instruction for Elementary Students with Disabilities in the General Education Classroom, and The Student Who Can't Sit Still.*
- OSE in collaboration with the Instructional Services Department and George Mason University will be offering a three-credit course, entitled EDUC 597 *Elementary Curriculum Strategies* in August 2005. This course will provide teachers with content and instructional strategies for the four core curricular areas (language arts, social studies, mathematics and science) at the elementary level and will support special education teachers in becoming "highly qualified."

- The Academic Diversity Institute is scheduled for August 16, 2005 at Hayfield Secondary School. The Institute is designed to further develop the expertise of school staff members in *differentiating instruction* to meet the diverse needs of all students. This year's theme is: *Within Our Reach: Challenging All Children*. Special education staff members will present sessions that provide instructional strategies for the specific needs of preschool children through high school students.
- All staff members providing ABA services for students with autism will receive an online survey request during the week of June 7, 2005. The purpose of this survey is to provide staff members the opportunity to provide feedback regarding the training and support they have received during this first year of enhanced autism services.
- Administrators from Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) schools attended a full day Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) session in Timonium, Maryland on May 4, 2005. This was in preparation for the PBIS training that FCPS will be providing for up to 15 additional schools during the summer. George Sugai, University of Oregon, presented an overview of PBIS followed by workshops conducted by exemplar schools from across the state of Maryland.
- Members of the secondary special education team coordinated a curriculum project adapting and modifying Family Life Education (FLE) lessons and materials to better address the needs of students with autism, mental retardation, severe disabilities, and other health impairments.
- Members of the secondary special education team held an informational meeting for middle school principals who will be receiving students transitioning from the Enhanced Elementary ABA Services program. An *ABA Fundamentals* workshop will be offered to secondary staff from selected middle schools and high schools in June 2005.
- Interpreter training will be held on June 3 and June 6, 2005. The trainings will be presented by *Signing Hands* at Dunn Loring Center. The trainings will cover three areas: *Dance of Self Discovery*, *Songs Every Interpreter Should Know*, and *Analyzing Your Interpreting*.
- Staff working with students who are deaf or hard of hearing will attend a workshop entitled, *Focus on Literacy for Students Using Total Communication: Meeting the Needs of Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing in Virginia's Public Schools* coordinated by the *Partnership for People with Disabilities* at Virginia Commonwealth University and funded by the Virginia Department of Education on June 21, 2005 in Fredericksburg, VA.

Other

- Professional Development and Support Services is proud to announce the completion of the first two special education licensure cohorts for teachers and paraprofessionals through a collaborative partnership with George Mason University (GMU). Students in GMU cohorts I and II completed the course work and internships required to become fully licensed in special education while earning a masters degree in special education. In addition, the first University of Virginia cohort for general education teachers

becoming licensed in special education through the master's degree program also was completed this spring.

- On May 26, 2005 the Assistive Technology Club at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology with Kathy Rini and Lenore Cummings (ITS resource teachers who sponsor the club) presented information to the School Board during the ***Spotlight on Learning*** segment about the adapted books they make for children in preschool special education classes.
- Anna Swenson, a teacher of the visually impaired, has been named Teacher of the Year for Braille Instruction as part of the Braille Institute's ***Braille Challenge Celebration***. She is being flown to Los Angeles by the Institute in June to accept this award.
- AnhVinh Phung, ABA coach, presented her research paper, ***The Role of Modeling and Automatic Reinforcement in the Construction of the Passive Voice***, in a symposium at the ABA International Conference in Chicago on May 30, 2005.
- The Physical and Occupational Therapy program gave their STARS – ***Super Teaching Assistants Responsible for Success*** awards. This award was presented to FCPS paraprofessionals in positions who have demonstrated exemplary support in providing services to students. The following deserving paraprofessionals received this certificate:

Ana Soto- Key Center
Ricky Bynum- Annandale Terrace Elementary School
Rebecca Deiss-Kings Park Elementary School
Patty Alexander-Key Center
Ne Prathumratang-Key Center
Nasima Shumi-Sunrise Valley Elementary School
Maryann Chinemilly-Deer Park Elementary School
Linda Skutnik- Key Center
Lilly O'Donnell-Key Center
Jackie Grosky-Freedom Hill Elementary School
Emily Koo-Key Center
Darlene Dorsey-Columbia Elementary School
Brigitte Schultz-Deer Park Elementary School
Beth Alter-Deer Park Elementary School
Bassil Hashimi-Key Center

