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October 2005

Especially for Parents

- In October and November, Integrated Technology Services (ITS) will be offering several inservices which cover a variety of assistive technology issues faced in today's classroom, as well as the use and integration of software programs and devices in the instructional setting. Parents are also invited to attend these sessions. Register at the following website:
<http://www.fcps.edu/ss/its/inservices.htm>
- *IEP Forms Training for Parents* will be offered on October 18, 2005, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at the Woodrow Wilson Library in Falls Church and on October 19, 2005, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. at the Parent Resource Center (PRC) at Dunn Loring Center. Please contact the PRC at (703) 204-3941 for additional informational information or visit the website at
<http://www.fcps.edu/ss/prc/>
- *Moving on to Life in the Community: A Resource Fair (Part one of a two part series)* will be held on Saturday, October 22, 2005, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Woodson High School. Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Career and Transition Services, Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board Mental Retardation Services, and the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services sponsor this annual event to assist parents with planning for the future of students requiring ongoing supports after graduation due to mental retardation. Part one includes information about vocational training and employment service options. Part two, planned for spring 2006, will focus on independent living skills and residential placements. For additional information contact Sue Eaton at 703-503-4794 or susanne.eaton@fcps.edu.

TOP **Especially for Staff**


- *Collegial Study Groups* on three topics were initiated on October 3, 2005, for elementary special education teachers at nine different sites. Those attending the study groups will explore best practices in using technology to support content instruction for students with low incidence disabilities; literacy solutions; and mathematics. These *Collegial Study Groups* will have additional meetings on designated Mondays in November and December providing teachers with an opportunity for in-depth study of these topics.
- Consultants from *Autism Partnership* have begun monthly consultation sessions with designated secondary classrooms for students with autism, moderate retardation, and severe disabilities where teachers are implementing applied behavior analysis (ABA). In addition, the secondary team has a newly appointed curriculum resource teacher, Sara Cooner, designated to support the implementation of ABA instruction in secondary classrooms.

- Special education teachers from 21 middle and high schools attended training in the pre- and post-test assessments used for reading classes and the Reading Excellence Word Attack and Rate Development (REWARDS) reading program.
- Over 50 teachers attended a Basic Skills conference sponsored by the secondary team on September 1, 2005. A new curriculum guide for Basic Skills classes for students who benefit from a focus on social/emotional skills was distributed. The curriculum guide was developed by teachers of students with emotional disabilities over the past two summers.
- Numerous teachers, central staff members, and administrators attended the September 23, 2005 training conducted by the Virginia Department of Education on the revised Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP). Office of Special Education (OSE) staff will provide turn around training for schools during October and November.

TOP  **Other News**

- The early childhood/elementary team has developed a brochure, *Elementary Reading Instruction for Students with Disabilities: Reaching Every Student Through the Language Arts Instructional Framework* to support special education and general education teachers, as well as administrators, in providing appropriate instruction for students with disabilities in the area of literacy.
- Integrated Technology Services (ITS) is proud to announce that the sixth Annual Real Assistive Technology for Everyone (R.A.T.E.) conference will be held on Saturday, October 29, 2005, at Rachel Carson Middle School in Herndon. The R.A.T.E. conference is an educational technology conference presented by ITS, which focuses on strategies for using assistive technology hardware, software, and peripherals to enhance learning for all students, and especially for those with special needs. Registration information is available at <http://www.fcps.edu/ss/its/rate/>. Direct questions via email to Ellie Stack at ellie.stack@fcps.edu.
- Students from FCPS high schools will participate in *National Disability Mentoring Day* on October 19, 2005. This annual event links students with disabilities and mentors in employment settings who share with students information about their career fields. Many employers provide additional activities for students during their visits. Students are responsible for their transportation to and from the employment site.
- *Future Quest: A College and Career Forum for Students with Disabilities* will be held on Saturday, November 19, 2005, in the Johnson Center at George Mason University. This conference provides special education students with an opportunity to learn about post-school college and career options. The keynote speaker is Dr. Temple Grandin, one of the most accomplished and recognized adults with autism in the world. In addition, 27 different presentations are planned, addressing a variety of topics, including preparing for college, self-advocacy, current employment trends, and much more. For more information, please visit www.VACollegequest.org
- Thirteen employers have been recognized by Career and Transition Services (CTS) for their outstanding contributions to student employees. These employers received the *Outstanding Employer Award* from the Career and Transition Business Advisory Council at the conclusion of the 2004-05 school year. The award is in recognition for the experiences and support they provided in the workplace to students in CTS classes, including Work Awareness and Transition (WAT), Office Technology and Procedures (OTP), and at the Pulley and Davis Career Centers. The employers, the award recipient, and the nominating class are:
 - *Bush Hill Elementary School Library*, Pam Freer, nominated by Virginia Hills Center OTP
 - *Capital Hospice*, Becky Brooks, Thorton Liggans, and Maureen Williams, nominated by Holmes Middle School OTP

- ❑ *Falcons Landing Retirement Community*, nominated by Herndon High School WAT
- ❑ *Fort Belvoir Commissary*, Rosemary Anderson, nominated by Mount Vernon High School WAT
- ❑ *Hancock Fabric*, Sheila Acheampong, nominated by Madison High School WAT
- ❑ *Mosby Woods Elementary School Library*, Myrna Kaplan, nominated by Oakton High School WAT
- ❑ *Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport Equipment Maintenance Branch*, Richard Cooper and Gary Willey, nominated by Pulley Center
- ❑ *Burke Safeway*, Patty Loveless, nominated by Robinson Secondary School WAT
- ❑ *Senior Center Green Acres School*, Karen Bixler, nominated by Eleven Oaks Center OTP
- ❑ *Sodexo Food Services*, Lydia Tan, nominated by Chantilly High School WAT
- ❑ *Sunrise Assisted Living at Reston Town Center*, Sharon Sellers, nominated by Davis Center
- ❑ *Sunrise Assisted Living National Office*, Lisa Motley, nominated by Dunn Loring Center OTP
- ❑ *Two-Day Furniture*, Mary Bell and Leigh Parr, nominated by Westfield High School WAT

TOP  **Special** no items this month