

**December 2005**

**Especially for Parents:**

- Integrated Technology Services will be offering the following workshops for parents and FCPS staff in December and January:
  - *PC Boardmaker – The Basics and Beyond* - Thursday, Dec. 15, 2005, 2:30-4:15  
Rocky Run MS, ITS Lab, Room 150
  - *Introduction to PowerPoint* - Thursday, Jan. 12, 2006, 2:30-4:15  
Dunn Loring Center, Room 11
  - *"I Didn't Know it Did That!"- Microsoft Word Strategies for Students* - Thursday, Jan. 19, 2006, 2:30-4:15, Rocky Run MS, ITS Lab, Room 150

For descriptions of the workshops, go to: <http://www.fcps.edu/ss/its/inservices.htm> . To register for one of the workshops, send an email to: [ITSsupport@fcps.edu](mailto:ITSsupport@fcps.edu). Please include your name, your child's school, your child's special education program, and the letter and title of the class you would like to attend. If you have questions, please telephone Ellie Stack at 703-204-4015 or email her at [Ellie.Stack@fcps.edu](mailto:Ellie.Stack@fcps.edu)

- Staff from Career and Transition Services (CTS) will be holding two (2) CTS Nights this year to provide families with the opportunity to learn more about career and transition services on the following dates:
  - Chantilly High School – Monday, Jan. 23, 2006 (snow date – Tuesday, Jan. 24)
  - Edison High School – Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2006 (snow date – Wednesday, Feb. 7)
- The Parent Resource Center is offering four new Sibshops that will start after the holidays. They will be held at Aldrin Elementary School, Waples Mill Elementary School, Key Center, and Kilmer Center. For information about dates, times, and registration, please go to <http://www.fcps.edu/ss/prc/Sibshops.htm>.

**Especially for Staff:**

- Speech and language clinicians were trained on the administration, scoring, and interpretation of the Clinical Evaluation of Language Fundamentals Test (CELF-4) on December 5, 2005. Dr. Amy Gabel, consultant from Harcourt Assessments, provided the training. The CELF-4 is an assessment administered by clinicians and is used in determining the profile of a student's language abilities.
- Assistant principals attended a workshop "Hot Topics in Special Education" on November 30, 2005. Topics included literacy instruction for students with disabilities, support staff writing effective IEPs, supporting students with emotional disabilities, and legal issues in special education.

- Elementary special education teachers attended collegial workshops in math, literacy, and technology on December 5, 2005, that focused on differentiated assessment and effective instructional practices for students with disabilities within the general education curriculum. In the technology workshop, teachers learned to access and adapt existing *PowerPoint* and *Classroom Suite* templates for activities that support content area instruction.
- The Office of Special Education (OSE) provided the following workshops in November and December for staff who work with elementary students receiving Autism, MR, MOD/SD, or NCE services:
  - *Systematic Teaching*
  - *Functional Literacy*
  - *Creating Materials to Support Functional Literacy*
  - *Life Skills Curriculum (using the Life Skills Curriculum guide)*
  - *Activities to Support a Life Skills Focus*, which linked instructional activities to the domains of learning and the SOLs.
- OSE staff conducted the following school-based workshops during November for special and general education teachers:
  - Stuart High School: Effective Collaborative Teaching in English
  - Poe Middle School: Unit Organizer Content Enhancement
 The secondary services staff also conducted a workshop on the REWARDS reading program for middle and high school special education reading teachers. In addition, secondary services staff shared information on supporting learners with special needs with a cohort of new career and technical education teachers at Leis Center.
- Selected secondary special education teachers participated in a full-day workshop presented by OSE staff on November 10 where they received updates on the Virginia Accountability System (VAS), staff development opportunities, and highly qualified teacher requirements. They also received training on fundamental Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) concepts and ideas for enhancing classroom instruction using ABA reinforcement strategies.

**Other:**

- Over 850 high school students with disabilities, their parents, and professionals attended the seventh annual ***Future Quest: A College and Career Forum for Students with Disabilities, Parents and Professionals*** on November 19, 2005, at George Mason University. This forum provided an opportunity for attendees to learn about post-school college and career options. In her keynote address, Dr. Temple Grandin, a best-selling author, scientist, and person with autism offered testament to the success individuals with disabilities can realize.
- The schoolwide positive behavior support programs at Lees Corner Elementary School and Carl Sandburg Middle School have been recognized by the FCPS cable television broadcast ***School Scene***, which reports important school system initiatives, showcases excellence, and highlights and promotes upcoming school system events. The video clips are available at:
  - <http://www.fcps.edu/mediapub/cable-tv/schoolscene/index.htm> Scroll to **What's Up With That: Quiet Zones**. This segment investigates the "zones" at Lee's Corner Elementary School.
  - [http://www.fcps.edu/mediapub/cable-tv/schoolscene/ss\\_archive.htm](http://www.fcps.edu/mediapub/cable-tv/schoolscene/ss_archive.htm) Scroll to **PBS Process at Sandburg MS** to learn about their "Positive Behavior Supports" discipline program.