

November/December 2004
Vol. 7, No. 6

Gifts for Education

Looking for a great gift idea? The Community Foundation of Frederick County manages many accounts that benefit public education. Among the newest are the "Join the Band" Fund,* launched by local musician Andy Carignan and The Wise Guys band to put musical instruments in the hands of children who otherwise couldn't afford them, and the "Buy a Seat Campaign," a graduation project initiated by Middletown High senior Becky Selzer to furnish the Earth & Space Science Lab planetarium.

There's also the two-year-old Spaceship Earth Fund to support ESSL renovations. Or your gift can support the general Gifts for Education Fund to provide grants to schools that apply for special purposes. More options are listed online at www.cffredco.org.

When you make a donation in honor of someone special to you, The Community Foundation will send a recognition gift card (amount omitted) to the honoree. With gifts of at least \$50, the Community Foundation will send the honoree a colorful gift package that acknowledges the donation and includes two jars of McCutcheon's famous fruit products. All donations are tax deductible.

You may also designate a "gift for education" in your will. Each gift, says the



"We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give."

— Winston Churchill

Foundation, is "for good...forever...for Frederick County."

To learn more about "Gifts for Education" options, please contact David.A.Miller@fcps.org, 301-696-6882, visit www.cffredco.org or call 301-695-7660. You may send your check payable to The Community Foundation of Frederick County to 312 East Church St., Frederick, MD 21701. If applicable, please specify the honoree's name and address.

*The "Join the Band" Fund principal must reach \$5,000 by June 2006. Once it does, the interest earned will generate perpetual benefits for students. ★

2004 Gifts for Education grants totaled \$4,600!

Emmitsburg ES – \$500 to support a Head Start program for 20 pre-schoolers

Frederick HS – \$350 to support student attendance at a Towson University journalism conference

Gov TJ HS – \$600: Half for computer lab software to provide after-school remedial language skills support; half for a restaurant management project to teach students organization, communication and teamwork skills

Heather Ridge – \$500 for its positive reinforcement behavior modification system

New Market ES – \$750 for school-wide assemblies featuring "The Anti-Violence Schoolyard Circus" to reinforce conflict-resolution skills and "It's Not Magic, It's Science"

Oakdale ES PTA – \$500 to increase family and community involvement through a series of Curriculum Nights for math, science and language arts

Walkersville ES – \$400 for Space Day Challenge activities, incorporating science, math, research, language arts, technology and history lessons for 4th graders

West Frederick MS – \$700 for 8th grade school-to-career activities

Wolfsville ES – \$300 for two Math Nights, for grades pre-k – 2 and grades 3-5

(Left to right) The Maryland School Counselor Association named Gov. TJ Middle School Counselor **Kim Long** Maryland's Middle School Counselor of the Year. The FCPS Maintenance Department selected Hayward Complex Shop Leader **Roger Stull** Employee of the Year. Warehouse Delivery Specialist **Charles Grable Jr.** does first-class work as he couriers FCPS mail and Print Shop products.



Supervisors wishing to commend an employee for first-class work: Please e-mail Dian.Nelson@fcps.org.



Negotiations in Progress

Contract negotiations with the Frederick County Teachers Association (FCTA), the new Frederick County Administrative and Supervisory Association (FCASA) and the Frederick Association of School Support Employees (FASSE) are gearing up for the new year.

The FCTA negotiating team includes teacher specialist **Bret Bedall**, teachers **Gary Brennan** (chair) and **Carol Daiger**, school counselor **Beverly Fairchild**, FCTA President **Nancy Dietz**, and chief negotiator MSTA UniServ Director **Steve Lenzo**. Executive Director of Legal Services **Jamie Cannon** leads the BOE team, which includes Assistant Principal **Kathy Campagnoli**, Principal **Donna Hauver**, Fiscal Services Director **Hal Keller**, Human Resources Director **Paula Lawton** and Associate Superintendent **Steve Martin**.

MSTA Organizational Specialist **Malethia Armstrong** heads FCASA's team, joined by Curriculum Specialist **Bonnie Hain**, Principals **Debra Munk** (chair), **Steve Parsons**, **Aaron Phillips** and **Mark Pritts**, and Assistant Principals **David Kehne** and **Kathleen Schlappal**. **Jamie Cannon** leads the BOE team, which includes Director of High Schools **Hank Bohlander**, Elementary Director **Sherry Collette**, **Hal Keller** and **Paula Lawton**.

MSTA UniServ Director **John Gates** is at the helm of the FASSE team, which includes FASSE President **Steve Brako** and team members Instructional Assistants **Karen Blackwood** and **Gloria Miller**, Technician **Leslie Haugh**, Lead Custodian **Mike Joy**, MSTA staffer **Dan Gottheimer**, Transportation Trainer **Mary Wilson**, Secretary **Sue Roderick** and HVAC Mechanic **Tom Ward**. **Jamie Cannon** leads the BOE team, which includes Food Service Officer **Cheri Dattoli**, Facilities Manager **Joe Dattoli**, Principal **Gerald DeGrange**, Human Resources Officer **Robert Hagans**, **Hal Keller**, and Acting Transportation Manager **Barbara Scotto**. ★

Arts and Teaching Academies

The BOE has given the green light to two high school academy programs. Both are open to students countywide who can register for the programs this winter for the coming school year.

Brunswick HS will introduce a Teaching Academy that will provide students with a foundation for careers in education.

Gov. Thomas Johnson HS is preparing to launch an Arts and Communication Academy next fall. Building upon TJ's existing countywide Advanced Music Studies program, the ACA will also offer advanced courses in theatre and visual arts. ★

Key Appointments

Welcome to new BOE member **Barbara Craig**, who begins her 4-year elected term December 8. With the end of BOE President **Linda Naylor's** term, **Dr. Bonnie Borsa** will serve as BOE president, and **Dr. Michael Schaden** continues as vice president.

Since the last *Inside FCPS*, we said farewell to **Elaine Klein** upon her retirement and to **Dick Wandres**, who took a position with Anne Arundel County Public Schools. Congratulations to **Barbara Scotto**, acting Transportation manager, and to **Cindy Stull**, the newest personnel officer in Human Resources. ★

ASK THE SUPERINTENDENT

This section features questions to and answers from Superintendent **Dr. Linda Burgee**. Please send your questions for future issues to Marita.Loose@fcps.org.



Q: What are the Maryland High School Assessments?

A: The HSA are tests in English 10, algebra/data analysis, biology and government. They include multiple-choice and written-response questions. All students in Maryland must take the four tests in middle or high school, whenever they complete each of the four courses.

Q: Do students have to pass the HSA in order to graduate?

A: Students who graduate before 2009 are required to take the tests, but they don't have to pass the HSA to receive their diplomas. However, passing HSA scores will be a graduation prerequisite starting with the class of 2009. The state is still working out the fine points, but students will have to either pass each of the four tests or earn a minimum composite score.

Q: What if a student fails an HSA?

A: They can retake it the next time it's given. Our goal is to identify those students who are struggling and give them extra help in advance so they are better prepared to do well.

Q: It seems like just yesterday that students had to pass the Maryland Functional Tests to graduate. Why are they being replaced by the HSA?

A: The Functional Tests were developed in the 1980s to measure basic skills, and the great majority of FCPS students actually passed the tests during middle school. Today, however, the world expects much more than the basics from our graduates. The more challenging HSA are designed to measure how well equipped Maryland's students are to meet those expectations.

Q: Is one more testing program really necessary?

A: No Child Left Behind creates accountability for schools and school systems. The HSA program introduces individual student accountability, providing an objective means for a student to demonstrate the critical skills and content knowledge expected of a high school graduate. If we are providing the right instruction in our classrooms and our students are learning what we teach — and I believe that's happening — then these new tests will furnish further proof that FCPS is a first-class school system.

☆☆☆ ACCOLADES ☆☆☆

Nation's Best Six FCPS teachers achieved certification this year from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards: **Lori Bower, Carrie Crawford, Owen Davis, Lana Early, David Herber** and **Shirley Olsen**. Each will receive \$1,000 from the MSDE and \$1,000 from FCPS annually for the national certificate's 10-year duration. To learn how you can become nationally certified, visit <http://www.nbpts.org>, or email Cindy.Stull@fcps.org.

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\$\$\$ Grants coordinator **Doreen Bass**, elementary director **Sherry Collette** and principals **Grason Jackson, Ann Reeve** and **Bobbi Nash** netted FCPS \$440,000 a year for five years by winning a highly competitive 21st Century Community Learning Center grant from MSDE. The grant allows **Hillcrest, South Frederick** and **Waverley** elementary schools to provide hundreds of students with after-school learning and enrichment opportunities through partnership with groups such as Eliminating the Achievement Gap, TeamLink, the Way Station and YMCA.

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Superior Congratulations to FCPS Maintenance Department employees of the month: Walkersville cluster HVAC mechanic **Ken Lawson** and Center City cluster lead mechanic **Gary Pocock**, for November and December, respectively.

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Benefits Multiplied School bus driver **Raya Mills** enriches her young bus riders' travel time by teaching them multiplication tables while the bus makes its way to and from school. Teachers and students love her success.

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Pappy Lorenzen Linganore teacher and cross-country coach **John Grim** did a first-class job ensuring that this year's Pappy Lorenzen Meet was a success. John's "expertise as an announcer and his seasoned cross-country high school runners were awesome," say curriculum specialists Lynn Carr and Jeannie Schulze.

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Good News FCPS came away a winner from the recent National School Public Relations Association's Chesapeake Chapter Communications Contest. Our "What Makes a Snow Day" public service announcement, 2004 Summer Institute registration booklet, Graduation Project brochure and this newsletter all won awards. Kudos to **Bill Watson, José Rosapepe, Marita Loose, Dian Nelson, Steve Blickenstaff, Ron Alexander** and the **Print Shop**.

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Adult Ed Advisor/assessor to our External Diploma Program **Priscilla Hughes** won the 2004 Outstanding Professional Award at this year's National External Diploma Program Council Conference.

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Healthy Students **Helen Monk** attended the MSDE-sponsored Motivate, Educate, Activate Summit to address healthy eating and physical activity in school communities. Maryland First Lady Kendel Ehrlich and State Superintendent Nancy Grasmick greeted participants. Watch future issues for more on student health and ways FCPS will address the epidemic of overweight, undernourished and sedentary youth.

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Shared Expertise French teachers **Dragana Blonder** and **Teresa Wilson** and German teacher **Mary Kay McDonald** presented sessions at this year's Maryland Foreign Language Conference.

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Commendable 21 schools earned awards in the 2004 Maryland School Performance Recognition program for student achievement on the Maryland School Assessments. For overall performance: **Deer Crossing, Green Valley, Kemptown, Middletown, Myersville, Urbana, Wolfsville** and **Yellow Springs Elementary, Middletown, Oakdale** and **Windsor Knolls Middle, Linganore, Middletown** and **Tuscarora High** and **Rock Creek**. For improvement by particular subgroups: **South Frederick, Waverley** and **Wolfsville Elementary, Monocacy** and **Thurmont Middle, Frederick** and **Urbana High** and **Rock Creek**.

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Outstanding For their "Give a Phone, Get a Cone" service-learning project that recycled cellular phones to senior citizens, **Sandra Zimmerman's** class at **Thurmont MS** earned a Governor's Crime Prevention Award. The 2004 Mount Saint Mary's University Education Award for outstanding contributions to teacher preparation programs goes to Personnel Officer **Sunora Knill-Wilbar**.

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Caring Students in 10 schools collected donations for the Kids Helping Kids food drive: **Orchard Grove, Parkway, Sabillasville, Valley** and **Wolfsville Elementary** plus **Oakdale, New Market, Walkersville, West Frederick** and **Windsor Knolls Middle**.

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Grants 8 schools received Gladhill Agricultural Education Grants, totaling \$4,900: **Carroll Manor, Liberty** and **Walkersville Elementary, Oakdale Middle** and **Catoctin, Frederick, Linganore** and **Tuscarora High**.

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Distinguished Maryland Superintendent Nancy Grasmick visited **West Frederick MS** to learn about their innovative intervention programs to meet the needs of a diverse enrollment and **Monocacy Valley Montessori** to see Maryland's first public charter school.

NEWS TO USE

Liberal Leave To find out if the “liberal leave” policy is in effect when schools are closed due to inclement weather, watch channel 18, call the employee “snow hot line,” check www.fcps.org or subscribe to *Find Out First* for automatic email notices. Liberal leave means that most offices are open, and employees on the 12-month calendar are scheduled to work, but non-essential personnel may use their annual or personal leave after notifying their supervisor. Non-essential support employees may, with supervisor’s approval, make up time in lieu of using leave.

Snow Hot Line FCPS employees can find out about school closings and delays by calling 301-644-5111. The phone system is not sufficient to handle the public’s calls, so please keep the number confidential.

Find Out First Email is a great way to get FCPS news from emergency notices to press releases, calendar info and more. Request as much or as little information as you like. Sign up is free and easy from the www.fcps.org home page. *Find Out First* is available to the public and employees; each subscriber may list up to two email addresses.

Voicemail Remember to update your voicemail announcement when you’re away on leave, at a conference or we’re closed for a holiday or snow day. And don’t forget to change it when you return. “Away” messages on email help, too.

Help a Student Now’s the time to plan for hosting a “job shadow” student on Groundhog Day, February 2. For details: Lisa.Eye.Mangini@fcps.org.

Is it Ethical? FCPS employees and BOE members are covered by an Ethics Policy that includes issues such as conflicts of interest, outside employment, gifts and honoraria, use of prestige of office and disclosure of confidential information for financial gain. FCPS has a 5-member Ethics Panel that provides advisory opinions. A school official or employee may accept a gift from a school employee if the gift has a value of \$25 or less. If the gift is from a group of employees, the total may not exceed \$100, and no individual contribution may exceed \$25. An employee may not accept a gift over \$10 from an outside vendor. The policy is online at <http://www.fcps.org/dept/legal/109.pdf>.

Duty Free Employees on the 260-day work schedule are off on December 27 and 31. In 2005-06, holidays include Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and the day after, the Monday after Christmas, the Monday after New Year’s, Martin Luther King Day, Presidents Day, the Friday before Easter and the Monday after it, and Memorial Day.

Benefits Survey 2,120 employees (39%) returned the FCPS Health and Benefits Survey. The majority rated the medical (58%), dental (59%) and prescription (55%) plans good or very good, and an overwhelming majority of respondents felt the plans should remain the same. The item that had the most “very good” responses was “access to hospitals.” Retirees were more satisfied with all three plans than active employees, and active employees with single coverage were more likely to respond “average” to most items. Nearly 25% rated “choice of dentist” or “dental—fairness of copay” poor or very poor. 65% would like a single brochure that describes all three plans.

Summer Institute For six years, our own first-class staff has presented some of the best sessions at this FCPS event. Please consider ways to share your expertise with peers in a 90-minute workshop this August. Proposal forms are coming online in January.

Nominate Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher nominations are open until January 13. Please contact a school principal if you’re interested in nominating a full-time teacher who has at least 3 years FCPS teaching experience.



FCPS FACTOID What is the Judy Center?

A: The local MSDE-funded Judy Center provides comprehensive services for children and families to improve school readiness through early intervention. Cathy Perry directs the program, which is based at Waverley ES and also offered at Hillcrest and South Frederick elementary schools.



Tune to channel 18 for FCPS news:

Student Voice – 10 AM & 8 PM weekends

School Talk – 2:30 & 7:30 PM

Newsbreak – 10:30 AM
12:30, 5:30 & 9:30 PM

Inside Look – 2 & 7 PM

Health Matters – 11 AM & 9 PM

BOE Meetings – Wednesdays: 6 PM (live)
Calendar Handbook lists meeting dates
Re-broadcast the following evening

Bulletin Board – Menus, closing info, etc.
To submit news, fax: 301-696-6958 or
e-mail Dian.Nelson@fcps.org.

Classic Arts – 11 PM to 5 AM

www.fcps.org/cable18.htm

Schedules are subject to change

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Your news, ideas and suggestions are welcome.
Please fax 301-696-6958. Call 301-696-6900.
E-mail Dian.Nelson@fcps.org. Or courier to the
Communications Office, 115 E. Church Street.



Frederick County Public Schools
Working Together to Educate Each Child and Promote Success

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Have a wonderful
winter break!

Schools closed: December 24-31, January 17-19

FCPS Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration:

January 13, 7 PM at Gov. Thomas Johnson High School