

March/April 2006  
 Vol. 9, No. 2

## First-Class Achievement

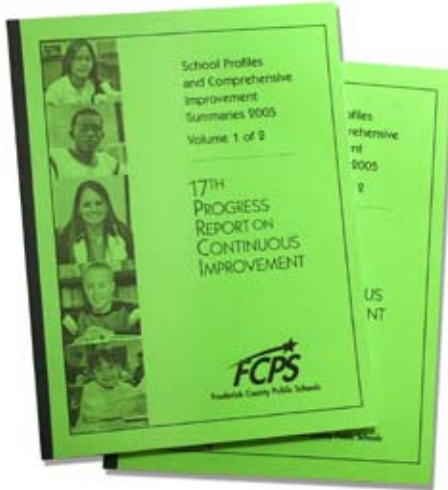
**F**CPSS is 1 of only 4\* Maryland districts that achieved AYP—Adequate Yearly Progress—in 2005. Maryland set the AYP standards to meet federal No Child Left Behind requirements. For the 2nd consecutive year, FCPS met Maryland’s AYP targets for all categories and student subgroups.

100% of our high schools made AYP, as did 83% of our middle and 91% of our elementary schools. Our student attendance is up, suspension rates are down, and we have the state’s lowest dropout rate, for the 2nd year in a row.

“I am very pleased to see the hard work of our teachers, leaders, other staff and students reflected in a second year of districtwide AYP,” says Superintendent **Linda Burgee**. “It took concerted and coordinated effort systemwide to achieve this goal.”

All FCPS subgroups demonstrated AYP in reading and math, with the progress of special education students sufficient to meet the federal “safe harbor” requirement. Had FCPS not made districtwide AYP, an MSDE provision would have kicked in that examined additional results by subgroup levels. At that level, high school special education scores for reading and math show a need for improvement.

“Our Master Plan directs our continued focus on accelerating



### Frederick County 2005 AYP: Met

All indicators must be “Met” to make AYP

All Students	Attendance Rate	<b>Met</b>	Graduation Rate	<b>Met</b>
	Percent Proficient Reading	Percent Proficient Mathematics	Percent Proficient Reading	Percent Proficient Mathematics
All Students	<b>Met</b>	<b>Met</b>	<b>Met</b>	<b>Met</b>
Am. Indian/Alaskan Nat.	<b>Met</b>	<b>Met</b>	<b>Met</b>	<b>Met</b>
Asian/Pacific Islander	<b>Met</b>	<b>Met</b>	<b>Met</b>	<b>Met</b>
African American	<b>Met</b>	<b>Met</b>	<b>Met</b>	<b>Met</b>
White (non-Hispanic)	<b>Met</b>	<b>Met</b>	<b>Met</b>	<b>Met</b>
Hispanic	<b>Met</b>	<b>Met</b>	<b>Met</b>	<b>Met</b>
Free/Reduced Meals	<b>Met</b>	<b>Met</b>	<b>Met</b>	<b>Met</b>
Special Education	<b>Met</b>	<b>Met</b>	<b>Met</b>	<b>Met</b>
Limited Eng. Proficient	<b>Met</b>	<b>Met</b>	<b>Met</b>	<b>Met</b>

student achievement in reading and math, particularly for historically under-performing subgroups, including special education and English Language Learners,” says Dr. Burgee.

“Each year Maryland raises the AYP standards bar higher, and targets become more difficult to achieve. We have made outstanding progress and must continue to use every means we have—and advocate for additional resources needed—to achieve the higher standards required in coming years.”

For more about how we’re doing, see the recently published 17th FCPS Progress Report on Continuous Improvement (Volumes 1 and 2), available in every school and at [www.fcps.org](http://www.fcps.org).

\*The other 3 Maryland counties making AYP are Carroll, Howard and Washington ★

**First Class** ★  
**STAFF**  
 Thanks to you,  
 public education works  
 in Frederick County!

(L to R) The Civitan Club named Brunswick’s **Susan Douglas** Elementary Special Education Teacher of the Year. Walkersville HS English teacher **Laura Oswald** is Frederick County’s Agnes Meyer Teacher of the Year. West Frederick MS Renzulli specialist **Kaye Stefanick** has devoted 25 years of first-class teaching to FCPS students.



## Public Education That Works for You

The 8<sup>th</sup> annual FCPS Accent on Achievement Summer Institute for all staff is on its way August 8-9.

Day 1 kicks off with keynoter **Ian Jukes's** dynamic message about the future of education at "twitch speed" with global information technology. Think you speak the language of our "digital native" students? Get a glimpse of what the future holds!



**Ian Jukes**

On Day 2, keynoters **Robert Barr** and **William Parrett** bring strategies everyone can use



**Robert Barr**



**William Parrett**

to motivate students for success. Come for a positive message that will strengthen your skills to influence the lives of today's young people.

Reserve your space early for this free training with 100s of workshop choices. Registration brochures go to all staff in May (and get posted at [www.fcps.org](http://www.fcps.org)). Thousands of teachers, administrators and support staff have rated this an A+ learning opportunity. Mount Saint Mary's University hosts us this year. Join FCPSers from across the system to get recharged for a new school year. ★

## Are You Satisfied?

"Parent involvement is a key component of our first-class school system," says Superintendent **Linda Burgee**. That's why May 8-22, FCPS asks all parents and school-based certified staff to indicate their satisfaction with family and community involvement in our schools.

**For parents:** Schools will receive fliers May 1 to send home with every student May 8 (not before, please). The flier gives parents the steps for taking the online survey, from the [www.fcps.org](http://www.fcps.org) home page May 8-22. Schools need to identify times/places for parents without Internet access to complete the survey at school. Communication Services has sent all principals an article to run in school newsletters to inform and remind parents of the survey, available in both English and Spanish.

**For certified, school-based staff:** The staff version of the survey also runs May 8-22, accessible at <http://insidefcps/default.cfm> or use a link you will receive via email. (The staff survey won't be on the FCPS public Web site.)

Launched last year for baseline data, the survey runs this year and then every other year to gather school-specific data for school-improvement efforts. Please encourage full participation! If you have questions, please contact [Steve.Hess@fcps.org](mailto:Steve.Hess@fcps.org). ★

## ASK THE SUPERINTENDENT



**T**his section features questions to and answers from Superintendent **Dr. Linda Burgee**. Please send your questions for future issues to [Marita.Loose@fcps.org](mailto:Marita.Loose@fcps.org).

**Q: Why does FCPS build new schools and additions ahead of renovating some of our oldest schools such as Linganore High and West Frederick Middle?**

**A:** Each year, the Board of Education updates a long-term facilities master plan, intended to balance our needs for additional seats to accommodate our growing enrollment and renovations of older schools (<http://www.fcps.org/content/publications.cfm>). It is a difficult balance to achieve, and the Board has concerns about overlooking our older facilities in the race to provide more classrooms. In some cases, building a new school enables us to renovate and enlarge an older school. This happened at TJ High, where construction of the new TJ Middle freed space in the formerly combined middle/high school to begin modernizing the aging high school. Building the new Oakdale High will allow us to transfer Linganore students there in fall 2008, so we can renovate and enlarge Linganore without students in the building.

**Q: If Oakdale High opens in 2008, does that mean the Linganore renovation will begin then?**

**A:** At this point, no—primarily because the Board of Education has no funding authority and depends on the state and county for school construction and modernization money. Recently, the county government planning staff recommended that the Commissioners push back funding of the Linganore High renovation to FY '11/12. At press time, we continue to seek funds to start this project earlier.

**Q: How can citizens support the BOE's recommended FY '09 schedule for Linganore?**

**A:** I believe our local and state elected officials value input they receive from taxpayers on matters affecting our children. Our Board welcomes community support and participation in the process to secure state and county dollars for FCPS school construction and renovation projects.

**Q: What is the timeline for West Frederick MS modernization?**

**A:** This is another example where our BOE placed priority on beginning work earlier than the BOCC-approved funding. The BOE requested FY '09 funding for WFMS completion in 2010. The BOCC pushed the project back a year but then on March 16, after working with our Board, placed more than \$13 million of the county's unallocated, one-time operating budget money into the BOE's capital budget, putting West Frederick back on schedule.

**Q: Why open the new Middletown Primary and add to Thurmont Primary and New Market Elementary ahead of the above-mentioned renovations?**

**A:** We remain obligated to provide seats where growth requires it, and portables are the least desirable option for students in younger grades. Developer-assisted funding speeded Urbana Middle construction. In our fast-growing county, there are many challenges in balancing new construction with renovation. Our Board recognizes developers as potential funding sources and welcomes all suggestions: [boe@fcps.org](mailto:boe@fcps.org).

**Speak out! Board of County Commissioners:**

[FirstInitialLastname@fredco-md.net](mailto:FirstInitialLastname@fredco-md.net)

LThompson, MCady, JGardner, JLovell, BReeder

**Maryland School Construction Program Director:**

[DLever@msde.state.md.us](mailto:DLever@msde.state.md.us)

★★★ ACCOLADES ★★★

**GOLD MEDAL** *Expansion Management* magazine ranked **FCPS** among the nation's top 16% of school districts, naming us a Gold Medal School System. The magazine's 2006 Education Quotient report compared how well 2,800 districts prepare students to be part of the work force after graduation, and gave FCPS its highest rating.



**EXCELLENCE** Maryland's Assistant Principal of the Year is Frederick County's own **Deborah Thackston** at Brunswick ES. The 2006 Washington Post Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award goes to Walkersville HS English teacher **Laura Oswald**. For exemplary work with students, the Civitan Club named Brunswick ES teacher **Susan Douglas** Elementary Special Education Teacher of the Year. The Maryland Coalition for Inclusive Education presented Urbana ES principal **Connie Banes** an Excellence in Inclusive Education Award for implementing a schoolwide model that includes students with special needs in regular classrooms. Walkersville ES teacher **Ronnie Voigt** and math/science facilitator **Chris Horne** coached teams to "best overall" awards in Space Day National Design Challenges; their teams were 2 of 21 winning teams—and the only winners in Maryland.



**EQUITY** The Maryland Department of Education announced **Ted Luck**, FCPS supervisor of Education That Is Multicultural and Gifted and Talented Education, the winner of this year's prestigious Vanguard Award for extraordinary vision and leadership to advance the success of minority students. Also receiving awards from the MSDE for outstanding contributions to promote equity in educational opportunity: **Waverley ES staff**, Brunswick HS instructional assistant **Lillie Morris**, Rock Creek teacher **Janet Fox** and Spring Ridge ES teacher **Margaret Benson**.



**1<sup>ST</sup> IN STATE** Renzulli teacher **Janet Manning** coached the **South Frederick ES** Young Engineers team of 4<sup>th</sup> graders to a 1<sup>st</sup> place overall victory in Maryland Engineering Challenges, Division 1 competition.



**TOP 100** Maryland's business and legal news publisher *The Daily Record* named FCPS Family Involvement coordinator and Early Childhood Education specialist **Shari Ostrow Scher** 1 of Maryland's Top 100 Women for 2006.



**PARTNERSHIP** The Rotary Club of Frederick donated more than \$1,000 worth of books for the new **Heather Ridge** media center.



**ACHIEVEMENT** 14 of our Career & Technology Center students placed 1st in state-wide SkillsUSA competition. Kudos to their teachers **John Clark**, **Adam Frank**, **Kathy Imhoff**, **Kathy Koops**, **Clyde LaBrush** and **Candy Zentz**. The winning Academic Tournament team is from Walkersville HS, coached by **Eric Reickel** and **Rebecca Reickel**. Reading Rally winners: **Brunswick MS**, coached by **Jen Bean**, **Judith Hale**, **Karen Osborne** and **Lynne Rolland**.



**LEADERSHIP** FCPS electrician and former FASSE president **Steve Brako** ran a successful campaign for election to the Maryland Teachers Association Board of Directors. He takes office July 1.

Representing FCPS at the Maryland Instructional Computer Coordinators Association conference: Crestwood MS technology coordinator **Heather McCarthy**, receiving the FCPS Outstanding Technology Leader in Education Award, and Walkersville MS Renzulli specialist **Pamela Lippy**, receiving the FCPS Outstanding Technology-Using Educator Award.



**\$\$\$** 3 of the 7 Maryland Association of Elementary School Principals' Family Involvement Grants go to our elementary schools. Kudos to grant applicants at **Brunswick**, **Spring Ridge** and **Valley Elementary**

**New Faces in Key Places**

Please welcome our new Transportation Department Director **Veronica Lowe**. A huge thanks to **Barbara Scotto** for exceptional service as Acting Transportation Manager after Dick Wandres's retirement. Barbara resumes her role as Assistant Manager. ★



**Celebrating 25 Years**

Congratulations to the following 65 employees who have devoted 25 years of full-time service to Frederick County Public Schools. FCPS will honor these individuals at a banquet May 5:

- |                          |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Susan Alexander          | Jenny McGinnis   |
| Christine Baer           | John Miller      |
| William Bailey           | Linda Moss       |
| Teresa Baker             | Brenda Newhouse  |
| Robert Beavan            | Kathy Nichols    |
| Carol Bonner             | Karen Owens      |
| Mark Bowman              | Terry Perkins    |
| Nancy Brown              | Debra Phebus     |
| Gordon Brown             | Karen Pickett    |
| Wallace Carr             | Patsy Pilatsky   |
| Susan Carson             | Shirley Price    |
| Anne Cohen               | Cynthia Renn     |
| Meredith Connor          | Mary Rice        |
| William Crum, Jr.        | Jennie Rounsley  |
| James Deegan, Jr.        | Carl Setherley   |
| Susan Delaney            | Joan Shafer      |
| Marilyn Dolbeare-Mathews | Barbara Shorb    |
| Karla Eshelman           | Sally Smith      |
| Kathy Firor              | Cheryl Smith     |
| Carol Forman             | Victoria Snyder  |
| Martha Goodenough        | Long Souksavanh  |
| Jeffrey Grills           | Cyreasa Sprankle |
| Joyce Hanshew            | Kaye Stefanick   |
| Constance Harman         | Emma Stitley     |
| Douglas Hering           | Vicky Stultz     |
| Wanda Heurich            | Jarrett Walker   |
| Franklin Hilderbrand III | Cathy Ward       |
| Margaret Kaplan          | Elizabeth Warren |
| Carolynn Kaufman         | Michelle Weddle  |
| Theresa Keeney           | Laura Whitter    |
| Nancy Kelley             | Mary Ann Wiles   |
| Mary King                | Lois Winklepleck |
| Roscoe Lewis, Jr.        |                  |

If you worked for FCPS for 25 years but less than full time, you are still accumulating time toward this anniversary. For details, call 301-696-6930. ★

## NEWS TO USE

**Free Fields** The BOE voted in March to discontinue fees for use of school fields by community organizations and individuals. The elimination of regular field-use fees was effective immediately. Any group wishing to use an FCPS field needs to complete a standard "use of facility" form and provide proof of insurance, as they have in the past. The BOE continues to charge for building use and use of stadium fields. The BOE is updating related Regulation 100-1.

### Calendar

- The 2-hour early dismissal for students and Teacher Work Session scheduled for December 16 but postponed due to snow are rescheduled for Monday, May 15.
- Barring more closed days, school will end for students Monday, June 12, and for teachers Tuesday, June 13. The FCPS Leadership Symposium is June 21-22.
- Please amend your Calendar Handbook August 2006 page. After release of this publication, the BOE changed the first day of school for students in 2006-07. Instead of Thursday, August 24, schools will open to students Monday, August 28. Returning teachers report to work August 22.

**Tell the World** Got cool news? Find the best media contacts and excellent FCPS publicity tips at <http://insidefcps/dept/comm/default.cfm>.

How about a photo? After checking Student Information Cards for permission to share images of those photographed, email your digital photo (at least 1200x800 pixel JPEG) directly to [Frederick@gazette.net](mailto:Frederick@gazette.net) and [SBreitenbach@fredericknewspost.com](mailto:SBreitenbach@fredericknewspost.com). Make sure your caption includes names correctly spelled. Please copy your message to [Kelly.Gordon@fcps.org](mailto:Kelly.Gordon@fcps.org) for possible use on [www.fcps.org](http://www.fcps.org).

**Closed Fridays** 12-month staff will work 4-day weeks this summer beginning June 19 through the week of August 6. Mondays through Thursdays, employees who normally work a 40-hour week will work 10 hours per day, and those on a 35-hour week will work 8 hours and 45 minutes per day. [The exception is when FCPS is closed Tuesday, July 4—employees work their usual non-compressed schedules Monday and Wednesday through Friday that week.]

In addition to providing 7 weeks of 3-day weekends, the summer schedule stretches the FCPS budget by saving facilities costs. Normal 5-day weeks resume August 14. Please talk with your supervisor about your schedule. This is our 4<sup>th</sup> year of summer 4-day weeks.

**Immunizations** Please take every opportunity to remind parents of students entering grades 6-9 next year that school nurses need documentation of each child's hepatitis B and chickenpox (varicella) vaccines (or the month/year the child had chickenpox). Please direct all questions to your school nurse or contact FCPS Health Specialist [Helen.Monk@fcps.org](mailto:Helen.Monk@fcps.org).

**Save 5%** FCPS is seeing energy cost increases: electricity, up 2.4%; natural gas, up 44%; fuel oil, up 22% and propane, up 16%. Efforts to maintain thermostat settings and shut off unnecessary lighting are noticeable. But to avoid a cost overrun, we need your continued vigilance in conserving energy. Please:

- Turn off lights not in use
- Turn computers and peripherals off when not in use
- Minimize the use of personal space heaters and refrigerators
- Adapt your wardrobe to the climate conditions
- Report heating, AC and other building issues promptly via work orders

Contact FCPS energy specialist [Alem.Zewoldai@fcps.org](mailto:Alem.Zewoldai@fcps.org) for strategies to conserve energy at your building.

**April 16-22: Public School Volunteer Week**

**April 26: Administrative Professionals Day**

**May 7-13: Teacher Appreciation Week**

**May 15: Teacher Work Session; Students Dismissed 2 Hours Early**

**May 21-27: National Educational Bosses' Week**

**June 12\*: Last School Day for Students**

**June 13\*: Last School Day for Teachers**

**June 16: Summer Institute Registration Deadline**

\*as of March 31



## FCPS FACTOID

### Is FCPS administratively top heavy?

**A:** FCPS is the 2nd "leanest" district administratively in Maryland, with central office staffing at 3.2% of employees for 2004-05 (the most recently reported statewide data). The only district lower is Washington County at 3.1%. FCPS central office divisions include HR, Fiscal, Technology, Communication, Facilities and Legal Services plus Curriculum, Administration and School Improvement (CASI) divisions. See our 17th Progress Report, Volume 2 (p 42), in schools and online at [www.fcps.org](http://www.fcps.org).



### Tune to FCPS TV for school news:

**School Talk** – 2:30 & 7:30 PM

**Newsbreak** – 9:30\*, 10:30 & 11:30 AM  
12:30, 5:30, 8\* & 9:30 PM

**Community Partners** – 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  
email [Dian.Nelson@fcps.org](mailto:Dian.Nelson@fcps.org).

**Classic Arts** – 11 PM to 5 AM\*

10 PM to 10 AM Sat. & Sun.  
6 to 8 PM Sunday

\*weekdays only

[www.fcps.org/cable18.htm](http://www.fcps.org/cable18.htm)

*Schedules are subject to change*

**Inside FCPS** is produced by the  
FCPS Communication Services Division.

Your news, ideas and suggestions are welcome.

Please fax 301-696-6958. Call 301-696-6900.

Email [Dian.Nelson@fcps.org](mailto:Dian.Nelson@fcps.org). Or courier to the  
Communications Office, 115 E. Church Street.



Frederick County Public Schools

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