

## Public Education Works for You



Join with hundreds of FCPSers from all jobs across the system to get recharged for next school year at our 8th annual Accent on Achievement Summer Institute, August 8-9. Hosting us this summer: the beautiful Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg. The cost: Absolutely free.

There are 100+ workshop topics! Most are 90 minutes. Some are 3 hours, and a few full-day focus features give you in-depth time on a topic. Select your own combination of keynotes and workshops to round out your day.

Lunch is in the spacious campus dining hall, and a free continental breakfast is served before each morning's keynote.

Check out the full brochure and print your registration form at [www.fcps.org](http://www.fcps.org). Or call 301-644-5125 for a copy. Please register by June 16. Many classes will fill quickly. ★

### Bring friends & family to keynotes—8:30 AM

Tuesday, August 8

#### **Ian Jukes:** "Our Future at Twitch Speed!"

Can you speak the language of our "digital native" students? With major advances in technology, Jukes says changes in the next decade will dwarf those of the past 50 years. Find out what's ahead.



Jukes

Wednesday, August 9

#### **Robert Barr & William Parrett:** "Against All Odds"

Today's youth face challenges you can help them meet. Come for a positive message that will strengthen your skills to influence the young people you know—whether in the classroom, cafeteria, office, health room, school bus or home.



Barr



Parrett

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

(L to R) Maintenance mechanic **Rick Barnard Jr.** is May's Maintenance Employee of the Month—check out April's honoree on page 3. Whittier ES Principal **Lynda Johnson** is Maryland's award winner in the National Distinguished Principal's Program. Spring Ridge ES Renzulli teacher **Regina Farnsworth** received a "Great Books, Great Teacher" award in Chicago.



## Ideal Partners

Thanks to **Ideal Buick-GMC-Hyundai**, FCPS Teacher of the Year **Mark Sunkel** (left) gets to drive a Hyundai Sonata free for one year.

General manager Tim Phillips presented keys to Mr. Sunkel at the May 24 Board of Education meeting. FCPS Career & Technology Education coordinator **Jim Ferrant** says the dealership will also continue providing valuable mentoring and internship opportunities for local students through the Automotive Youth Educational Systems program. ★



## 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: School system employees often have opportunities to serve as ambassadors for FCPS. Over the summer, many of us will come in contact with folks we don't normally see day-to-day during the school year. As our most visible ambassador, what advice do you have about responding when someone wants to know about our schools?**
- A:** I see many employees doing a first-class job as FCPS ambassadors already. At the May BOCC-BOE public hearing about our budget many spoke eloquently about how much they love their jobs and feel rewarded by the type of work they do, knowing they make a difference in the lives of our community's children. Many also spoke about financial needs and what resources it takes to educate our county's children and keep high-quality staff in Frederick County. *Here are some points Dr. Burgee often makes when talking about FCPS:*
- Q: I've heard complaints that too much taxpayer money goes to public education. How do you respond to that?**
- A:** Public education is actually a real bargain—even for taxpayers without students in schools, using the services our graduates offer throughout the community. Unless we devote the necessary resources to produce successful high school graduates, our citizens will pay far more to support adults who can't earn a living wage. I think in the end, a poor education has an even bigger price tag.
- Q: How would you respond to comments that "schools aren't what they used to be"?**
- A:** It's true. They're much better than when I was a child in the '50s or when my parents were children years before. Test scores prove that today's children meet society's expectations to be better educated. And we work harder than ever to meet the needs of *all children*, providing special education, English Language Learner classes, accelerated programs, additional reading and math assistance and much more. Society is changing, and our schools must change accordingly.
- Q: Are schools safe? I hear news of bomb threats, bullying and other concerns.**
- A:** We pay close attention to school safety and communication with students and families. Although you will find some incidents splashed across the headlines and evening news, schools are among the safest places kids (and staff) can be. Every school has a safety plan, with staff prepared to manage situations from severe weather to power outages and more. Local safety experts—including the Frederick County Office of Emergency Management, Sheriff's Department, police, fire marshal and many others—stand ready to assist. Plus, we have an excellent anti-bullying program that's designed to address that concern early.
- Q: How does FCPS get family and community involvement in schools?**
- A:** Partnership is essential to our mission to provide a 1st-class education. We make it a high priority to keep all stakeholders informed with email, Web updates, TV, grades online, meetings, voicemail and newsletters. Important parent messages are translated to other languages. Our Master Plan specifies targets for reaching our goal to engage all sectors of the community in the education of our children.
- Q: Any other ambassador tips?**
- A:** There is so much we do right to provide public education that works for everyone in Frederick County. Think of all that you're proud of—such as being 1 of only 4 districts in Maryland reaching Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets. Be bold enough to advocate support for the work we do. Going into a new year as your superintendent this July, I deeply appreciate what excellent work you do and pledge my continued advocacy for public education.

☆☆☆ ACCOLADES ☆☆☆

**Best in State**

- This year’s National Distinguished Principals Program announced its statewide award winner is Whittier ES Principal **Lynda Johnson** (see page 1).
- The Maryland School Psychologists Association selected Urbana Middle Principal **Frank Vetter** as a 2006 Outstanding Educator for excellence in partnering with school psychologists and for supporting quality health services.
- 1 of 4 Maryland finalists for Intel and Scholastic Schools of Distinction awards: **Gov. TJ MS** for exceptional collaboration among school staff, community members and business leaders to benefit students.
- **Frederick HS** students aced National History Day “group documentary” competition, a 2nd year in a row. Kudos to advisors **Ty Crompton** and **Beth Strakonsky**. Also in National History Day competition, a **Middletown MS** student won the junior paper prize.
- In state-level Destination ImagiNation competition, high school teams from **Linganore, Urbana** and **Walkersville** qualified for Global Finals.
- A senior at **Gov. TJ HS** placed 1st in a statewide PTA Reflections essay contest.
- **Linganore HS** students in **Deborah Carter**’s class won top awards in Latin competition at the Junior Classical League convention.



**National Honors** 7 of our high schools rank in the nation’s top 5% in encouraging students to take Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate tests: **Catoctin, Frederick, Gov. TJ, Linganore, Middletown, Urbana** and **Walkersville**. A **Linganore HS** senior is 1 of 44 winners in the Spanish Honor Society’s national essay contest. **Middletown HS** junior Jarrett Remsberg placed 2nd in Intel International Science & Engineering Fair environmental sciences competition. In addition to a scholarship, Jarrett will have an asteroid named after him!



**Excellent** Linganore science teacher **Mark Sunkel** is FCPS Teacher of the Year (see page 2). The Riverside Wal-Mart named Brunswick ES teacher **Carol Vogler** Teacher of the Year. For exemplary work with students, the Civitan Club named Rock Creek music teacher **Janet Fox**, Crestwood Middle’s **Susan Pickett** and Brunswick High’s **Beverly Shaffer** Special Education Teachers of the Year (in addition to Susan Douglas, acknowledged in our last issue). For excellence in implementing a Junior Great Books shared inquiry discussion at Spring Ridge ES, Renzulli teacher **Regina Farnsworth** received a Great Books Foundation “Great Books, Great Teacher” award in Chicago (see page 1).



**Dedicated** Walkersville HS Principal **Becky Koontz** received the Hood College 2006 PDS Partnership Award for service and dedication to the development of new teachers. Hood’s Charles Tressler Distinguished Teaching Award goes to Glade ES teacher **Lisa Bankert**.



**Outstanding** The FCPS Maintenance Department announces employees of the month: Frederick Cluster electrician **Chuck Persse** for April and locksmith assistant **Rick Barnard Jr.** for May (see page 1). Windsor Knolls MS Principal **Tracey Lucas** commends the following Maintenance staff for installing the school’s wonderful stained-glass window, created in partnership with local veterans and the PTSA: **Les Dorsey, George Garvis, Rob Johnson, Rick Redmond, Billy Rippeon Sr.** and **Billy Rippeon Jr.**



**Best Practice** May’s Maryland Center for Character Education’s “best practice” is from **Middletown ES**: [www.mdctrcharacter.org](http://www.mdctrcharacter.org).



**Shared Expertise** Middletown MS staff **Faith Hoover, Sharon Kalbarczyk, Carol Krajewski, Marcia Romaine** and **Monica Shuman** presented at a recent SoMirac (state reading association) conference.



*Local veterans and the PTSA partnered to create this patriotic window at Windsor Knolls MS.*

## New Faces in Key Places

**Angela Cornell** is our new Linganore CASS coordinator.

**Ann Hammond** will supervise Psychological Services after **Melanie Hoffman's** June 30 retirement. ★

## NEWS TO USE

**Meeting Goals** Our Save 5% energy-conservation measures have so far yielded 5.2% savings. With 2 months remaining at last measurements, 52% of FCPS facilities had reduced energy consumption 5% or more.

**Closed Fridays** Remember that 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 8 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.

**Immunizations** Please take every opportunity now and over the summer to remind parents of students entering grades 6-9 next year that students may not attend school the 1st day unless we have documentation of their hepatitis B and chickenpox (varicella) vaccines. Please direct all questions to your school nurse or FCPS Health Specialist [Helen.Monk@fcps.org](mailto:Helen.Monk@fcps.org).

**Teaching Certificates & Reimbursement** Please send all materials required for July 1 certificate renewal—grade reports, transcripts, PDPs, money orders—to HR by June 15. If you are taking a summer class, please send everything except the grade report by June 15, and send the grade report or transcript as soon as possible after course completion.

**Puzzling** Using a tool on DiscoverySchool.com, you can create numerous kinds of puzzles in a matter of minutes. Great for teachers, parents and students for creating and printing customized word search, crossword and math puzzles using your word lists: <http://puzzlemaker.school.discovery.com>.

### Summer Calendar\*

- 2-day **Leadership Symposium** begins June 21
- **Summer School** (middle/high) starts for teachers June 22 and students June 26. Middle-grades Summer School ends August 3 for students and August 7 for teachers. High school-grades Summer School ends August 10 for students and August 11 for teachers.
- **Career Camp:** June 26-30 for students
- **Curriculum Workshops** for secondary grades are June 26-29, July 3, 5-7, 10-13, and for elementary grades: June 19-22, 26-29, July 3, 5-7
- **Summer Success** for elementary grades (formerly Summer Academy): June 28 training for teachers new to the program; July 5 first day for students and returning teachers; August 3 last day for students and teachers
- **Summer Institute:** August 8-9
- **New-Teacher Workshops:** August 14-18; new teachers 1st day to report to work: August 21

\*partial list

**June 11: Lincoln Elementary Celebration, 2 PM**

**June 12: Last school day for students**

**June 13: Last school day for teachers**

**Have a wonderful summer!**

**June 16: Summer Institute registration due**

**June 19: 4-Day Workweeks Begin**

**June 21-22: Leadership Symposium**

**See News to Use (above) for other dates**

**School starts August 22 for returning teachers and August 28 for students.**



## FCPS FACTOID

*How many schools will have full-day kindergarten next fall?*

**A: 28** (17 will offer pre-kindergarten)



### 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** – 10 AM & 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  
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