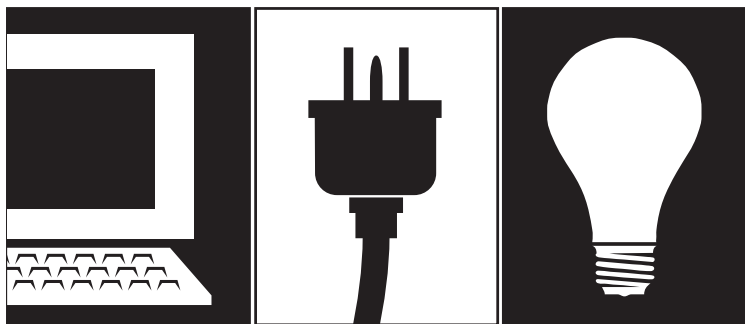


November/December 2005
Vol. 8, No. 6

Save 5% for Our Students



SAVE 5%

This year's severe hurricane damage has contributed to a steep increase in regional energy costs. Even with a mild winter, high fuel prices are projected to push FCPS significantly over budget. Without help, this will mean fewer resources going where they're most needed—to our classrooms.

You can help offset this increase and preserve our funding for education by joining the "Save 5%" campaign. Now through June 30, please strive to reduce energy consumption 5% where you work. At FCPS, 66% of our consumption is electric, 21% natural gas, 12% fuel oil and 1% propane.

Five ways to save electricity:

1. Turn off lights not in use
2. Turn off computers, monitors and printers not in use, especially after hours and weekends
3. Limit the quantity and use of small appliances, especially space heaters and refrigerators

4. Dress to accommodate thermostats set to reduce energy
5. Promptly report needed repairs that affect energy consumption

Facilities Services will provide monthly progress reports for each facility. Upon request, FCPS energy specialist Alem Zewoldai will visit your facility to offer energy-conservation suggestions: Alem.Zewoldai@fcps.org.

Communication Services will send you posters, factoid emails and other information. Channel 18 and Find Out First email will let the public know how to support our initiative to funnel education dollars away from energy costs and into our classrooms. ★



Cool Web sites about energy savings:

www.need.org

www.ase.org

www.eere.energy.gov/kids

www.energyhog.org

www.eia.doe.gov/kids

**First
Class
STAFF**

Thanks to you,
public education works
in Frederick County!

(L to R) In a November 11 article called 'Dead' Languages Thrive in Frederick Co., *Capital News Service* featured **Rick Brainerd's** 1st-rate work teaching Greek and Latin at Catoctin HS. Rock Creek School special education assistant **Ula Scott** has her principal's enthusiastic support for 1st-class staff recognition, as does Thurmont Primary reading specialist **Karen Yoder**, "definitely first class."





State Funds Aging-School Projects

In the larger scheme of school construction funding, new windows for an aging building might not seem worth shouting about. But it's good news for 8 schools that the Maryland Public School Construction Program is funding \$310,000 in improvements.

Included are window replacements at **Flexible Evening HS**, **New Market** and **Parkway ES**, gym floor improvements at **Parkway** and **South Frederick ES**, boiler improvements at **Rock Creek** and **Waverley ES**, plumbing pipe upgrade at **Brunswick ES** and entrance reconfiguration to improve security at **Thurmont ES**. ★

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 3 most important things you'd like employees to know about the FCPS operating budget?

A: I think it's important that employees know our funding sources, how much we spend on major costs such as salaries and facilities, and what additional funds it takes to provide the same programs/services as we have this year for next year, fiscal year 2007. I also think it's important that employees know where to direct their feedback about the budget.

Q: What portions of the FCPS operating budget come from federal, state and county dollars?

A: The county funded 52% of our \$341 million budget for fiscal year 2005. The state funded 43%, the federal government 4%, and the remaining 1% is from interest income and other sources

Q: How does FCPS use our education dollars?

A: Last year, 82% of our operating budget, \$279 million, went to staff and to operate our schools. Next, at 11% were "physical plant" costs to operate and maintain our buildings/grounds. Student transportation was our next highest expenditure, taking 5% of our budget. Finally, a very lean 2% went to administrative costs such as fiscal services (payroll), human resources (recruitment), communication and technology services, to name a few.

Q: For FCPS to provide the same programs/services next year as this, how much more money do we need?

A: We're projecting our FY '07 base budget will increase about \$20,750,000. We factored in:

- market price increases for items such as fuel, utilities, supplies and health/dental insurance
- computer repairs/maintenance and facilities and fiscal services workload increases
- the cost to staff, supply and maintain the Brunswick Middle expansion and two new schools—Middletown Primary, Urbana Middle—and to provide staffing, materials and transportation for increased enrollment
- mandated expenses such as full-day kindergarten expansion and replacement of buses
- a salary step increase for employees

Q: How can employees follow the budget process and communicate our priorities?

A: During the next two months, the Cabinet and I will work with the BOE to develop a list of improvements to the operating budget—beyond the base budget—that we believe are strategic to our ability to fulfill our Master Plan. We'll publish a proposal in January and make it available on www.fcps.org. I urge employees to review the proposed budget and share your priorities with the BOE at BOE@fcps.org. I also encourage staff to attend and speak at public hearings about our operating budget:

- February 8, 7:30 p.m., BOE hearing at 7630 Hayward Road
- May 2, 7 p.m., Board of County Commissioners/BOE hearing, location not yet determined.

☆☆☆ ACCOLADES ☆☆☆

Good Character It means so much. That's why **Gov. Thomas Johnson HS** and **Middletown ES** are proud to receive Maryland Center for Character Education's 2005 School of the Year awards for excellent character-education programs. Also showing good character: Urbana HS teacher **Colleen Bernard**, this year's Maryland Department of Education's Sherry Unger Student Service Learning Award winner.

Nation's Best Bringing the total to 23 FCPS teachers certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards are recently certified **Deborah Carter** in Latin (added to English), **Alicia Kuchinsky** in English/language arts and **Michael Thompson** in math. Each receives \$1,000 from the MSDE and \$1,000 from FCPS annually for the certificate's 10-year duration. For certification details: Cindy.Stull@fcps.org or www.nbpts.org.

Tech Savvy Our **BOE** placed 3rd nationwide as a result of the Center for Digital Education's survey to identify and recognize school boards for exemplary use of technology to communicate with the public and govern a large school district.

Distinguished Kudos to this year's *Washington Post* Distinguished Educational Leadership Award winner: TJ HS Principal **Marty Tarr**. Middletown HS band director **Matthew Shearer** is a distinguished leader of another sort: He led marching band students to an "outstanding championship performance" in this year's US Scholastic Band Association competition.

Creative Joining an outstanding group of teachers from across the country are an impressive 72 FCPS Disney Teacher Award nominees. You'll find their names online at <http://www.fcps.org/content/news.cfm>. Winners are announced in the spring.

Collaborative The Research for Better Schools fall/winter newsletter featured elementary math curriculum specialist **Nelson Palmer** for fostering beneficial collaboration with elementary math specialists across Maryland's 24 school districts.

Achievement The Maryland Department of Education honored the following schools for their performance on 2005 Maryland School Assessments, achieving AYP and improving performance of special populations of students from 2003-05: Elementary—**Ballenger Creek, Carroll Manor, Deer Crossing, Glade, Green Valley, Kemptown, Liberty, Middletown, Monocacy, Myersville, New Market, North Frederick, Oakdale, Thurmont Primary, Twin Ridge, Urbana, Valley** and **Yellow Springs**; Middle—**Ballenger Creek, Gov. Thomas Johnson, Middletown, New Market, Oakdale, Walkersville** and **Windsor Knolls**.

Telling Your News The National School Public Relations Association Chesapeake Chapter's 2005 Communications Contest issued FCPS an Award of Excellence for School Report 2004, Awards of Merit for the Graduation Project Brochure, "Inside FCPS" newsletter and Summer Institute 2005 booklet, and Honorable Mention for our Navigating Your Future poster, a training video about blood-borne pathogens and the channel 18 Newsbreak "Jimmy E. Shines at Rock Creek." Contributing: writers **Marita Loose, Dian Nelson**; graphic artists/photographers **Stephen Blickenstaff, José Rosapepe**; script editor **Kelly Gordon**; video production specialists **Susan Constable** and **Bill Watson**; TV manager **Tim Dean**; the **Print Shop team** led by **Ron Alexander**.

Partnerships Our **Earth & Space Science Lab** earned a \$9,700 Alcoa Foundation grant for closed captioning planetarium shows. **Penny Jurchak** garnered support for our **SUCCESS Program's** kitchen renovation with Routzahn's stove range and microwave donations, among others. Target approved **Casey Schuch's** \$1,600 grant proposal to support **Carroll Manor's** Partners in Print Program. CitiMortgage supports **South Frederick ES** with volunteers, funding, supplies and more. **Waverley ES** received a \$500 grant from the Maryland Parent Leadership Institute to increase family and community involvement in education, thanks to **Houry Kerkunian**, Even Start instructional assistant and our county's 1st Institute graduate.

Gifts for Education 8 schools received enrichment grants through funds administered by the Community Foundation of Frederick County: **Emmitsburg ES, Hillcrest ES, Linganore HS, Middletown HS, New Market ES** and **MS, Parkway ES** and **Urbana HS**. 6 received Gladhill agricultural education grants: **Green Valley ES, Kemptown ES, Linganore HS, Oakdale MS, Parkway ES** and **Walkersville HS**. To donate or apply: Dan.Cunningham@fcps.org. The BOE recognized teachers **Paul Hargett** and **James Thuman** and their woodworking students at **TJ** and **Walkersville HS** for crafting and donating a cherry table to them etched with the BOE insignia.



NEWS TO USE



Snow Policies When the snow emergency plan is in effect for Frederick County, after-school, evening and weekend programs and activities are cancelled. When the snow emergency plan is not in effect but school is cancelled or closes early, school and FCPS-sponsored after-school and evening activities are cancelled or postponed unless FCPS announces exceptions. Please plan snow dates for your winter events, and advise participants in advance.

Liberal leave means that most offices are open, and employees on the 12-month calendar are scheduled to work. However, non-essential personnel may use their annual or personal leave after notifying their supervisor or make up time in lieu of using leave, with supervisor's approval. To find out if the liberal leave policy is in effect, call the employee "snow hot line" (supervisors can provide staff the confidential phone number), watch channel 18, subscribe to *Find Out First* email or check www.fcps.org.

Courtesy Please update your voicemail announcement and leave an "out of office" email message when you're away or we're closed for a snow day or holiday. Make a note to change it when you return.

Calendar The 2006-07 FCPS student calendar is online at <http://www.fcps.org/content/calendar.cfm>.

\$\$\$ To save your hard-earned dollars and get low-interest loans and outstanding personal attention, join the FERKO employee credit union. Call 301-662-7266 or visit 7630 Hayward Road, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays or 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Another way to save: Show your FCPS ID at any Frederick County Roy Rogers for 15% off Mondays-Fridays.

Publishing The Maryland Department of Education recently honored *The Gazette* for editorial and business support of education. Did you know *The Gazette* accepts digital photos of special events and awards ceremonies? Send your publishable school photos, at least 1200x800 pixel JPEGs, to Frederick@gazette.net. Remember to check Student Information Cards for parent permission to publish student info.

Nominate Know a group or individual deserving of a 2006 Excellence for Minority Achievement Award? Nomination forms, due January 10, are online: www.msde.state.md.us.

Scholarship The Maryland Retired Teachers Association offers up to \$1,500 to public school employees enrolled in a program leading to teacher certification. Apply by March 1: mdrta@mdrta.org.

Good Health During flu season, it's especially important to eat a balanced diet, exercise and get sufficient rest daily. To stop the spread of germs, cover coughs and sneezes with tissues, wash your hands frequently with soap and water, and stay away from others as much as possible when you are sick.

Have a wonderful
winter break!

Schools closed: December 23-31, January 2, 16, 23-24

FCPS Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration:

January 12, 7 PM at Gov. Thomas Johnson High School



FCPS FACTOID

What does it cost to run a classroom aquarium?

A: Aquariums rank high in appliance operating costs at about \$5.60/month. By comparison, it costs \$4.55/month to run a refrigerator that's more than 10 years old and \$3.15 to run a newer fridge.



Tune to channel 18 for FCPS news:

Student Voice – 4 PM

10 AM & 8 PM weekends

School Talk – 2:30 & 7:30 PM

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

Schedules are subject to change

Inside FCPS is produced by the
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Your news, ideas and suggestions are welcome.
Please fax 301-696-6958. Call 301-696-6900.
Email 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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