

July/August 2004
Vol. 7, No. 4

A First-Class Year Begins... Welcome to the 2004-05 School Year!



This fall, nearly 250 teachers are entering FCPS classrooms for the first time. This doesn't mean they are new to the profession; most come to Frederick County with experience in other districts. Those new to teaching can feel proud that they passed a competitive interview process with outstanding results. FCPS also welcomes more than 2,300 teachers returning from our own ranks, ready to provide first-class opportunities for every student.

We begin the year with new leadership at the helm, as **Dr. Linda Burgee** steps up from associate to superintendent for 2004-05, following Dr. Jack Dale's departure to Fairfax County Public Schools. **Steve Martin** is acting associate superintendent, elementary.

In *Ask the Superintendent* on page 2, Dr. Burgee reveals key priorities for FCPS in the months ahead. But first, here's more on the list of "what's new" —

- ★ **Crestwood Middle** and **Tuscarora Elementary** just opened, plus 10 schools have new roofs, flooring, pavement repairs and facilities improvements. We also broke ground at **Centerville Elementary**, opening August 2005.
- ★ **Full-day kindergarten** begins at Lewistown, Monocacy, Orchard Grove, Sabillasville, Thurmont Primary, Tuscarora and Woodsboro
- ★ **Excel schools** extended-day instruction for students performing below grade-level starts at Brunswick, Hillcrest,

North Frederick, South Frederick and Waverley Elementary; Gov. TJ and West Frederick Middle; and Frederick, Gov. TJ and Tuscarora High... South Frederick even starts the school year ahead of the pack on August 17

- ★ Upon Elaine Klein's September retirement, Community Services is restructured: **Marita Loose** will direct **Communication Services** including the Media Arts, Printing and Television departments
- ★ **Student Services** is the name of our former Pupil Personnel and Pupil Accounting department... directed by **Carolyn Kimberlin**. Also under that umbrella: CASS (supervised by **Susan Lindstrom**), Health Services and Home Instruction
- ★ Check out the newly redesigned **www.fcps.org** for easier access to frequently requested info
- ★ **Find Out First** emergency notices replace schools-out.com: Subscribe to Find Out First at **www.fcps.org**
- ★ **Pam Pencola** directs **Special Education and Psychological Services**, now that Sharon West is working at the Maryland Department of Education; supervising Special Education is **Melinda Wright**

For new principal and assistant principal assignments, please see page 2.

New Faces in Key Places

PRINCIPALS

Ballenger Creek ES	Paul Smith
Carroll Manor ES	MaryAnn Frank
Centerville ES	Eileen Tipperman
Deer Crossing ES	Jerry Strum
Lewistown ES	Nancy FitzGerald
Monocacy MS	Everett Warren
New Market MS	Daniel Lippy
Oakdale ES	Elizabeth Little
Oakdale MS	Neal Case
Valley ES	Tess Blumenthal

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

Brunswick ES	Deborah Thackston	Thurmont MS	Jennifer Bingman, Guy Hofer
Brunswick MS	Jamie Aliveto	Thurmont PS	Kate Krietz
Crestwood MS	Martin Rochlin	Tuscarora ES	Tracey Hilliard
Flexible Evening HS	Lana Moore	Walkersville ES	Christine Behrendt
Kemptown ES	Catherine Poling	<i>For other staff changes, please see page 1.</i>	
Middletown MS	Stephen Welty		
Monocacy MS	Pat Cowan		
New Market MS	Denise Flora		
Oakdale MS	Trese Suter		
Orchard Grove ES	Meggie Bowen		
Spring Ridge ES	Cathy Genove		

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: Jack Dale was superintendent for 8 years. How do you feel about following in his footsteps?

A: Jack is certainly a tough act to follow. As a leader, he moved FCPS forward dramatically in a number of ways, especially in the areas of technology and in creating an awareness throughout our county of public education's critical role in building a better community. I think he laid some essential groundwork for the work that lies ahead ... work that I consider the next step toward firmly establishing our system's reputation for excellence. I've been employed with FCPS since 1976 — not counting my career as a student! — and I have never been as excited and challenged by the potential as now.

Q: What do you mean by the 'next step'?

A: The word 'pride' comes to mind. Our goal is to offer a truly 'first class' education to all our students, whether they're enrolled in city schools or schools in the far corners of the county, and no matter what their family income, their skin color or their cultural heritage. We are a collection of schools of all sizes and staff members of tremendous dedication, all of which have the same goal: to provide the finest education possible for every student. I believe we can take enormous pride in what we do. We still have work to do to improve the effectiveness of our teaching and other services, to ensure that we're targeting our resources toward reaching every student and giving each one the chance to do his or her best. But we have a 'first class' story to tell, and we should all share it whenever the opportunity arises.

Q: What are some of your priorities for the year ahead?

A: We've outlined a number of strategic objectives for the months ahead. Many of our plans involve building on our successes so far. Among them: significant improvement on Maryland's school assessments, excellent SAT scores, high participation in Advanced Placement classes, and the lowest dropout rate in the state. We've launched some new endeavors, too, such as creating "Excel Schools" where students who need extra help will get that help, thanks to extended time to learn and more individualized instruction. We're also giving all 10th grade students the chance to take the Preliminary SAT at no cost, as a way to open the door to higher education for more students. Then there's the new graduation project requirement, designed to encourage students to stretch themselves academically, and a renewed emphasis on family and community involvement in our schools.

Q: FCPS has 2,500 teachers. But another 2,000 staff members are employed in 'support' or other non-educator positions. What's their role?

A: As a teacher, an assistant principal and a principal with FCPS, I've seen first-hand the contributions all employees make to the overall smooth operation of a school. More importantly, I recognize the powerful influence that every adult can have on a child. Whether we're serving lunch in the cafeteria, mopping the floor, answering the phone or driving the bus, our students see us and hear us. We're all role models. If we hear questions or concerns about our schools out in the community, what we say will make a difference in how we're perceived. We're all ambassadors for FCPS.

Q: What are your thoughts about the No Child Left Behind Act?

A: I think we've always measured our achievements by many of the same yardsticks outlined in this law. We believe it is our responsibility to ensure that every child is successful. The difference is that we are now held accountable to standards set by and judged by the state and federal governments. As a community, we have to ask the question, "Which students are we willing to leave behind?" We know the answer is "none" before we even ask the question!



Congratulations Dr. Burgee!

☆☆☆ ACCOLADES ☆☆☆

National Merit The “What Makes a Snow Day?” television clip designed by **Bill Watson** with voiceover by **Kelly Gordon** and FCPS Martin Luther King Celebration poster designed by **Steve Blickenstaff** and **José Rosapepe** won national awards of merit in the 2004 Publications and Electronic Media Contest sponsored by the National School Public Relations Association.



\$\$\$ In its final year, the FCPS **Food Service Association** disbursed the group’s remaining funds by presenting three Class of ‘04 graduates each with \$1,000 college scholarships. The winning students hail from Frederick, Middletown and Walkersville high schools.



Culture Walkersville High Spanish and Latin teacher **Kymm Shern** was 1 of 12 teachers selected for a summer Spanish Cultural and Language Fellowship in Madrid, Spain. Linganore High French teacher **Dragona Blonder** earned a fellowship to attend a 3-day immersion workshop at the French Embassy.



Superior The Operations Department commends staff in 15 buildings for achieving exceptional custodial cleaning ratings in the 2003-04 school year. Earning Awards of Excellence for perfect scores: **Oakdale ES, Sabillasville ES and Wolfsville ES**. Achieving outstanding scores and superior custodial cleaning ratings: **Career & Technology Center, Church Street, Glade ES, Heather Ridge, Lewistown ES, Monocacy ES, New Midway ES, South Frederick “A” Building, Thurmont ES & PS, Woodsboro ES and Waverley ES**. Earning the Extra Mile Award for “most improved” school: **Gov. TJ Middle**. If you’re in one of these buildings, please thank the staff who keeps it clean.



Character Ceramic arts teacher **Karen Swope** was honored at the Character Education Institute in Carroll County for exceptional work as Walkersville High’s *Character Counts!* coordinator.



Dedication The Maintenance Department named Hayward Complex plumber **Gene Fogle**, industrial arts repairman **Mike Rusk** and secretary **Heather Mentzer** Employees of the Month for June, July and August, respectively.



Lifelong Learners As we go to press, **Elaine Klein** and the 6th annual *Accent on Achievement: Summer Institute* steering committee are preparing to host 1,200 participants at Mount Saint Mary’s University. Kudos to all staff who attended and all who help to provide this excellent opportunity for learning. Watch for a list of vendors who donated door prizes and the winners in our next *Inside FCPS!*

Recently Retired

Helen E Allnutt	Margaret L Dowell	Pamela I Martin	Gail W Sadler
Steven R Arlen	Joseph P Feehan	Brenda B Martz	Donald H Saucier
Irene Z Bailey	Louis A Finneyfrock	Martha J Mason	James H Schofield III
Rosemary T Baker	Rose M Frushour	David L Miller	Judith M Sherman
Frederick W Barnette	Mary E Groff	Patricia E Moore	Gladys M Sigler
Paul H Bauer	Joyce E Harris	Bertha P Morgan	Clyde T Smith
Marvin R Birely Jr	Richard W Hawker Jr.	Nancy L Mulcahey	Stuart P Stein
Gary E Bowers	Jay H Heidel	Martin T Munday	Carol A Stitely
Linda L Bowers	Joseph J Heidel	Jean E Myers	Maureen C Taylor
Thomas W Brown	David L Hoover	Veronica D Nehemias	Judy I Thompson
Donna H Carr	James S Huy	Shirley A Nyswaner	Peggy S Van Bibber
Larry W Cassell	Mary A Jones	Joy M Peet	Donna D Warner
Nelda C Cassell	Paul J Krogh	Katharine J Powell	Erminie R Wars
Janice L Cessna	George R Kuhn	Min Ricard	Delores J Whiten
Rose D Chaney	Judith E Lybrand-Kuhn	Sarah F Richards	Edward E Wiebel Jr
Patricia E Charuhas	Patsy L Main	Vance T Rohr	Janet W Wiles
Bonita Currey	Nancy K Manthey	Rosalind Y Rollins	



NEWS TO USE

The Written Word

Capitalization in titles confuses many writers. The rule is to capitalize the first and last words and all nouns, pronouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs and subordinating conjunctions (If, Because, As, That, etc).

Unless they are the first or last word of the title, do not capitalize:

- articles (a, an, the)
- coordinating conjunctions (and, but, or, for, nor)
- prepositions (above, across, after, against, along, among, at, before, behind, below, beneath, beside, between, by, from, in, into, of, on, over, through, upon, with, without)

New # Crestwood Middle School's new numbers are working: 240-566-9000 phone; 240-566-9001 fax. Please note that the exchange is 566, not 236.

More Numbers FCPS offers many sources of directory info. The 2004-05 Calendar Handbook pages 48-51 are a great resource. From any FCPS-networked computer, type insidefcps in the address line to access a comprehensive, searchable staff directory. Print lists of school addresses, principals, AP's and secretaries as well as central office staff and their assistants from the shared FCPS K or S drives. Need help? Contact your school or department's key communicator, or for the name of your key communicator, call 301-696-6900 or email Ann.Eyler@fcps.org.

Partners Enterprise Rent-a-Car offers FCPS employees a 10% discount off the retail rate for personal use of automobile rentals: visit www.enterprise.com, and enter the passwords FRE and then 16XFCPS. Enterprise also leases autos at the corporate rate to FCPS employees on official business. Local offices are at 5728 Buckeystown Pike and 45 Waverley Drive in Frederick.

Membership Join the FERKO employee credit union for terrific interest and loan rates plus outstanding personal attention. Call 301-662-7266 or visit 7630 Hayward Road, Frederick, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

New Bargaining Unit As of July 1, there is a new association that represents FCPS administrators and supervisors: the Frederick County Administrators and Supervisors Association. FCASA joins FCTA and FASSE in representing BOE employees in negotiating salary and working conditions for unit members. For information, contact President **Max White**, 301-696-6925.

Courier Save postage by using interoffice envelopes for mail going to Frederick Community College, county government offices at Winchester Hall, FCTA, FASSE & FCASA offices, the Frederick County Developmental and Scott Key centers.

Reporting Leave All employees on the FASSE support employee salary scale may take annual, sick and personal leave in increments of 1-hour, half and whole days. When reporting leave, please be sure to use updated leave forms that provide all three options for reporting. Q? Call 301-644-5088 or email Rachel.Whitaker@fcps.org.



FCPS FACTOID

How many people subscribe to get FCPS Find Out First email?

Over 6,500 subscribers signed up at www.fcps.org to get news about emergency school closings, delays and more. Visit the FCPS home page to add your email address and receive FCPS news bulletins.



Tune to channel 18 for FCPS news:

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

See our program guide at
www.fcps.org/cable18.htm

Schedules are subject to change

Inside FCPS is produced by the FCPS Communications, Graphic Arts and Printing departments.

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

The Frederick County Public Schools does not discriminate in admissions, access, treatment, or employment in its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation or disability. For more information, call 301-696-6851.

September 6, 16 & 24: Schools Closed

October 11-13: Parent-Teacher Conferences

**October 14: Professional Development,
Schools Closed for Students**

October 15: MSTA Conference; Schools Closed