

WEEKLY PTA UPDATE: 31 May – 7 June 2009

LHMS NEWS & EVENTS

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NEW/NOTABLE THIS WEEK *(new announcements highlighted in yellow):*

- *Band concert – June 3*
- *Orchestra concert – June 4*
- *Yearbook pickup – June 5*
- *Deadline for Literary Magazine submissions – June 5*
- *New start time for Hughes next year (see Announcements: Hughes)*
- *Please return library books ASAP!*

CALENDAR:

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SOL TESTING CONTINUES

Mon-Fri, June 1-5

Please continue to ensure that your child sleeps well, eats a good breakfast, and arrives to school by 7:20am every morning throughout the testing window! The SOL testing schedule is available at <http://www.fcps.edu/HughesMS/>

SOUTH LAKES: SPRING ORCHESTRA CONCERT

Tues, June 2, SLHS

SPRING BAND CONCERT

Weds, June 3, 7pm, Hughes gym

SOUTH LAKES: SPRING CHORAL CONCERT

Weds, June 3, 7pm, South Lakes Little Theater

SLHS/LHMS: HISPANIC PARENTS MEETINGS- “HOW TO COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY WITH YOUR CHILDREN”

Weds, Jun 3, 6-8pm, SLHS Lecture Hall

Mr. Mario Prade, a Fairfax County Social Worker, will be talking to Hispanic parents about how to effectively communicate with their students. For more information, contact SLHS parent liaison Martha Martinez at

Martha.Martinez2@fcps.edu or 703-715-4782.

SPRING ORCHESTRA CONCERT + AWARDS CEREMONY

Thurs, June 4, 7pm, Hughes

10 SECRETS TO A STRESS-FREE SUMMER – CELEBRATE CALM

Thurs, 4 June, 7-9pm, West Springfield HS (Spartan Hall)

Are you ready to create a memorable, meaningful summer without the constant cries of, “I’m bored!” and sibling fights? Do you want to enjoy stress-free vacations rather than feeling like they are work? Join us for a transforming workshop with nationally-recognized expert Kirk Martin. This workshop will be helpful for everyone who wants to learn practical tools to transform their home and summer experience. Download the flyer at www.fcps.edu/ccp/prc/documents/CelebrateCalm.pdf and register online.

YEARBOOK PICKUP (1 of 2)

Fri, June 5, during lunch, Hall of Nations

PREPAID yearbooks will be available for pickup today and Monday.

RECEPTION FOR POETRY CONTEST WINNERS

Fri, June 5, 10am (during ATL)

SOUTH LAKES: JAZZ HAWKS CONCERT

Fri, June 5, 7:30pm, Reston Community Center

Jazz Hawks concert & dessert extravaganza. Tickets \$15 adult, \$5 students, under 12 free with adult. Tickets on sale at door.

YEARBOOK PICKUP (2 of 2)

Mon, June 8, during lunch, Hall of Nations

Today will be the last day to pick up PREPAID yearbooks.

NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY (NJHS) INDUCTION CEREMONY

Mon, Jun 8, 7pm, Hughes (date changed from June 4)

SOUTH LAKES: SPORTS PHYSICALS

Mon, June 8, 5-7pm, South Lakes

If you are planning to play a sport at South Lakes over the summer or next year, you will need a current physical dated NO EARLIER than May 15, 2009. To accommodate potential athletes, South Lakes is sponsoring low-cost sports physicals at South Lakes for current and rising South Lakes students. Students MUST register online for an appointment at

www.fcps.edu/supt/activities/atp/ppeoverview.htm

FINAL EXAMS FOR PERIODS 1 & 5

Weds, June 10

FINAL EXAMS FOR PERIODS 2 & 4

Thurs, June 11

VOLUNTEER RECEPTION

Thurs, June 11, 9:30-10:30am

All parents who have volunteered during the course of the year are encouraged to attend this reception in your honor!

SPRING CHORUS CONCERT

Thurs, June 11, 7pm

PTA MEETING + TURNOVER

Thurs, June 11, 7pm, media center

FINAL EXAMS FOR PERIODS 3 & 7

Fri, June 12

8TH GRADE CELEBRATION

Fri, June 12, 7-9pm, Hughes

All eight grade students are invited to attend this event. Students will enjoy an evening of food, dancing, games, giveaways and more. Dress is semi-formal, and must follow FCPS and Hughes Middle School dress code guidelines. Students should avoid very short dresses and skirts, low necklines and clothing that is too tight. Tickets for the 8th grade party will go on sale for \$5 during lunch on Thursday, June 11 and Friday, June 12 and will be available at the door. Families who need assistance with the entrance fee should contact their student's counselor prior to the event.

10 parent volunteers are needed to help with 8th grade party set-up on Friday, June 12th in two shifts: 9 a.m.-noon and noon-5 p.m. Please contact Kelly Kroll at duckyks@gmail.com if you can help.

Please contact the decoration committee chair, Monica Russ, at monica@grthumb.com if you have lights or a fog machine to loan.

FINAL EXAMS FOR PERIOD 6

Mon, June 15

END OF YEAR AWARD ASSEMBLIES

Tues, June 16, 8th grade = first block, 7th grade = second block

PANTHER FIELD DAY

Weds, June 17, 11:15-2:10pm, Hughes

This end-of-year school-wide event features games, rides, movies, food and more. PTA is seeking volunteers to help with candy and soda sales during the event: if you can help, contact Sara McAlpine at mcalpine@comcast.net.

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL (EARLY RELEASE)

Thurs, June 18

FOURTH QUARTER REPORTS CARDS MAILED OUT

Tues, June 30

DATE OF INTEREST FOR THE 2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR**HUGHES OPEN HOUSE**

Weds, Sep 2, 3:30-5:30pm

Rising 7th graders and other students who will be new to Hughes next year are strongly encouraged to attend the Hughes Open House for a chance to walk through the school, try out lockers, learn more about after school activities, PTA and more.

SLHS: PARENT VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Weds, Sep 2, 7pm

All new SLHS parents are invited to come to an information session, followed by some Q&A time, on parent volunteer opportunities at South Lakes. Volunteering gives you more exposure to your high schooler's environment, opens up new ways to plug into the parent network, and helps out the student body and the administration. There are parent Booster groups for athletics, academics and the performing arts. Opportunities range from just a couple of hours to a higher level of commitment. Don't have time, but still want to contribute? Fundraising donations are a perfect alternative. Come learn more on September 2cd at 7:00 in the Lecture Hall at SLHS. Questions? Email Kim Shoop at kjshoop@aol.com.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Tues, Sep 8, 7:55am

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

Thurs, Sep 17, 6:30pm

VOLUNTEER & COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES:

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8th GRADE PARTY

10 parent volunteers are needed to help with 8th grade party set-up on Friday, June 12th in two shifts: 9 a.m.-noon and noon-5 p.m. Please contact Kelly Kroll at duckyks@gmail.com if you can help.

Please contact the decoration committee chair, Monica Russ, at monica@grthumb.com if you have lights or a fog machine to loan.

HUGHES FIELD DAY

Volunteers are needed to help sell candy and drinks during Field Day (Weds, June 17), an end-of-year school-wide celebration featuring games, rides, movies, food and more. If you would be available to help, please contact Sara McAlpine at mc Alpine@comcast.net.

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HUGHES ANNOUNCEMENTS

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DEADLINE FOR HUGHES LITERARY MAGAZINE SUBMISSIONS IS JUNE 5

The Hughes creative writing department is seeking poems, stories, and drawings from ALL Hughes students for possible publication in the Langston Hughes Literary Magazine. The Literary Magazine will be published and distributed to students the last week of school. Bring your work to Ms. Beard in room 116 ASAP!

NEW START TIME FOR HUGHES

School hours for the Langston Hughes 2009-2010 school year have been changed to a later start time. The warning bell will ring at 7:55 a.m. and students will be dismissed for the day at 2:50 p.m. Information on the late bus schedule will be forthcoming as it becomes available.

PLEASE TURN IN OVERDUE LIBRARY BOOKS RIGHT AWAY!

Please return those overdue library books to the Hughes media center! There is still time to bring books back. Overdue notices are being given to student on a weekly basis. Please help your student find the items listed on the notice and return them to school. If the books can't be found, send in the payment listed on the notice. Please call Kathy Noble at 703-715-3652 with questions or concerns. Thanks for helping us preserve our resources so that they will be available for our students next year.

YEARBOOK DISTRIBUTION

The Langston Hughes 2008-2009 yearbook, "Panther Tracks" will be distributed Friday June 5 and Monday June 8 to all students, faculty, and staff members who have pre-ordered a copy. See Mrs. Belvin in the Hall of Nations during all three lunch periods on both days. If you have not already ordered a yearbook but would like to purchase one, there will be a few available for purchase during all three lunch periods on June 9. See Mrs. Belvin for your copy.

SPRING SOL TESTING UNDERWAY

This year's testing window extends through June 5. 8th grader will be taking the Reading 8 SOL, a math SOL (Math 8, Algebra 1 or Geometry, depending on current coursework), the Science 8 SOL and the Civics SOL. Meanwhile, 7th grade students will be taking the Reading 7 SOL and a math SOL (Math 7, Algebra 1 or Geometry, depending on current coursework). Parents of 8th grade students are reminded that results of the 2009 Writing 8 SOL, administered earlier this month, will be mailed to students' homes during the summer.

2009 FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED

Day	Date	Period
Wednesday	June 10, 2009	Period 1 & Period 5
Thursday	June 11, 2009	Period 2 & Period 4
Friday	June 12, 2009	Period 3 & Period 7
Monday	June 15, 2009	Period 6

HUGHES TO OFFER V.I.P. SUMMER CAMP

V.I.P. CAMP will be held at Langston Hughes this summer from June 29th through August 6th. The fun filled camp will take place Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and will include weekly fieldtrips, group activities and enriching experiences. Eligibility for V.I.P. Teen Summer Programs: Children who are residents of Fairfax County or Fairfax City, and are between 6th (entering fall of 2009) and 9th grades, are invited to participate. This program is designed for middle school to early high school age students. Individuals may register at any time during the program session, but will be subjected to a waitlist if a program meets its sixty-student maximum program capacity. Please contact Franklin Kyle at 703 715 3600 or email him at Franklin.Kyle@fcps.edu for more information. Registration packets can be found on the Hughes website. <http://www.fcps.edu/HughesMS/>

RIDING HOME ON A FRIEND'S BUS?

Parents/Guardians: A quick note about students riding home on a friend's bus after school - if you would like for your student to ride home on a friend's bus, we ask that parents/guardians of both students send in a note to school giving her/him permission to do so. We must have written permission from parents or guardians of both students in order to issue a bus pass. All notes should be delivered to the office in during the day of the request. This process ensures that both involved families are aware of the change.

REMINDER RE: DRESS CODE & ELECTRONICS

The warmer weather encourages students to wear lighter clothing to school. Please be reminded that student clothing MUST follow the FCPS dress code guidelines. Tank tops, spaghetti straps, short skirts or short shorts are not allowed. The length of shorts or skirts should reach beyond the end of a student's fingertips. Students who are not dressed appropriately will be asked to change clothing or call their parents for appropriate clothes. Also, students should leave expensive cell phones, MP3 players and IPODs at home. It is unfortunate every time one goes lost or missing. The school has no responsibility to search for or replace these items. Students do not always secure them as they should because they are not used to handling such expensive items.

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NOMINEES FOR 2009-2010 PTA BOARD ANNOUNCED

The following slate of candidates has been proposed for the 2009-2010 Hughes PTA Board of Directors. A vote will be conducted at the PTA meeting on June 11.

- President - Yolanda Maldonado
- VP Communications - Sheryl Cosing
- VP Ways and Means - Maureen Becker
- Treasurer - Susan Brownsword
- Secretary - Jody Wolfe

MAY FAIRFAX COUNTY PTA NEWSLETTER NOW AVAILABLE

The May edition of the FCCPTA newsletter is now available at <http://www.fccpta.org>. Some of the information included in the May newsletter includes:

- Summary of final revisions to Virginia Special Ed regulations + FCCPTA comments
- 2008-09 Fairfax County and Virginia PTA Reflections winners
- FCCPTA statement on proposed 2010 budget
- Handouts from Rich Winfeld's program on "Twice Exceptional Learners"
- FCCPTA comments on Virginia's proposed changes to Gifted & Talented Education regulations

STUDENT DIRECTORIES AVAILABLE FOR SALE

Extra school directories will be on sale now through the end of the year. If you've already lost yours, replace it while you can; or, purchase a 2nd as a cool and very inexpensive souvenir of the school year! Directories cost \$2 and are available for sale from Ms. Pantzer in the front office.

BOXTOPS REMINDER

Please continue to collect your Box Tops 4 Education coupons found on many products at your grocery store - please no expired coupons or soup labels - and drop off in the Media Center. Registering online at Boxtops4education.com is a simple way to help support Langston Hughes. You also save money at the grocery store by printing out coupons for products each week. Other information contained on the site are fun recipes that are easy to prepare for your family. It's a win-win and so easy to do!!

KEEP IN TOUCH (KIT) SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE NOW INCORPORATING NEW FEATURES

Visit www.fcps.edu/kit/index.htm to registering your up-to-date email info and preferences!

The capabilities of the new ConnectED/KIT system adopted by FCPS over the summer have been expanded. In addition to important announcements from the school, you may now:

- Change/update your email information online at the KIT website
 - No longer necessary to update this info via your child's Emergency Health Care form; simply visit www.fcps.edu/kit/index.htm to update information
- Choose to receive information from up to five schools
 - Make sure you are receiving information from *all* the schools your children attend
 - Rising 8th graders may wish to take register to start receiving information from their high school NOW, so that they do not miss any important announcements about rising 9th grade orientations or curriculum events.
- Choose to receive information on specific topics you choose
 - *To continue receiving emails from the Hughes PTA, please check the "PTA" box – if you do not do this, you may stop receiving emails such as this one!*
- Choose to receive community outreach messages from the school division

NOTE: **If you subscribed to KIT last year, you must resubscribe to continue receiving messages.** If you know of other Hughes parents who are not receiving important school info via ConnectED/KIT, PLEASE urge them to visit www.fcps.edu/kit/index.htm and subscribe today!

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FAIRFAX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD WILL MEET TO EXPLORE ADVANCED ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

The Fairfax County School Board plans to hold three meetings over the next two months to examine and discuss the range of programs and services offered to students in the Advanced Academic/Gifted and Talented (GT) Program. The Board is committed to providing Advanced Academic/GT services to all identified students. The first meeting on June 8 will explore the best program practices nationally and research associated with these practices. This presentation, scheduled at 1 p.m. in room 1600 of the Gatehouse Administrative Center, will be part of the Board's regular work session. Subsequent meetings will be held on July 13 and during the board's retreat on July 17-18. To view the press release about exploring advanced academic programs, see <http://commweb.fcps.edu/newsreleases/newsrelease.cfm?newsid=1190>

SUMMER READING LISTS FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 6-12

In order to encourage and support reading achievement, every student who will be entering grades 6 through 12 in the fall must read at least one book over the summer. The follow-up in the fall will be determined by each school.

The Summer Reading Lists contain suggestions for reading, although a **student may read any other book that is approved by his or her parents, except in cases in which individual schools have issued their own summer reading requirements.** Any school-based requirements supercede the Fairfax County Public Schools requirement.

Some schools and courses, particularly at the high school level, have additional summer assignments. Parents and students should inquire at the time of registration. Most of these assignments are posted at the individual school web sites.

- Grade 6 - <http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/readlist/6.htm>.
- Grades 7-8 - <http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/readlist/78.htm>.

- Grades 9-12 - <http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/readlist/hs.htm>.

Click on the Grades 9-12 link to see the many options available for high school students.

Note: A rising student is one who will be starting that grade in the new school year. For example, a rising tenth grader is one who completed the ninth grade in school year 2008-09 and will be a tenth grader in the 2009-10 school year.

FY2010 SCHOOL BUDGET APPROVED

The Fairfax County School Board has adopted the \$2.2 billion FY 2010 approved budget and, in doing so, restored funding for transportation of students to and from advanced academic centers; restored afternoon transportation to students' neighborhoods from Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST); restored funding for transportation of all high school academy students; increased high school student parking fees from \$150 to \$200 per year; and captured \$4.7 million in transportation efficiencies.

The FY 2010 approved budget eliminates nearly 800 positions prior to accounting for student membership growth, increases class size, and freezes salaries for all employees. Significant reductions to the support staff, including clerical and custodial staff members, have been taken, along with reductions to central offices. Programs including elementary focus, adult English for speakers of other languages (ESOL), college readiness, and Adult and Community Education have been redesigned to improve efficiency and services to students. The school system also combined two departments, eliminating one assistant superintendent position, and is consolidating portions of the Instructional Services and Special Services Departments to strengthen efficiencies. Adjustments to the current school bell schedules will enable the school system to save \$4.7 million by instituting efficiencies in bus runs and eliminating 97 buses from Fairfax County roads.

"The School Board has solicited input from citizens and spent many hours trying to balance this budget fairly and equitably," says Dan Storck, School Board chair. "This has been a particularly challenging budget year, and the fact that we have been forced to increase class size and eliminate all employee salary increases has been a difficult pill to swallow. Federal stimulus funds have enabled us to restore some of the \$200 million in cuts that were identified last summer, but we can't count on these funds after the FY 2011 budget cycle."

An energy volatility reserve of \$1 million was recommended to be set aside in the event of rising fuel costs, but the School Board opted to restore funding for transportation to advanced academic centers, TJHSST, and high school academies at a cost of \$1 million, eliminating that reserve.

The FY 2010 approved budget includes cuts and cost avoidances of more than \$170 million that will affect all departments, schools, students, and employees. "The transfer approved by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors—which is the same amount of funding we received last year—does not address how we will accommodate the approximately 5,000 new students who are projected to enroll for the next school year," adds Storck. "This funding is inadequate to meet the needs of the increasing number of students needing special education and ESOL services."

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) has provided funding to the states; Virginia has allocated the funds to school divisions as State Fiscal Stabilization Funding. FCPS has received \$49.3 million from ARRA, \$18.9 million of which is designated for IDEA (Individuals With Disabilities Education Act) programs, and \$6.7 million of which is designated for Title I schools. The remaining \$23.7 million is designated to help FCPS avoid an additional increase in the size of general education classes.

For additional information, visit <http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2010.htm>.

PARENT RESOURCE CENTER JUNE NEWSLETTER NOW AVAILABLE

Summer Break is Here-- Now What? Check out options in the June edition of the PRC newsletter at www.fcps.edu/ccp/prc/documents/JuneNewsletter-PRC.pdf

SUMMER PROGRAMS AVAILABLE THROUGH FCPS

Parents can find a variety of summer programs for their children, including general education classes, technology and art institutes, services for special students, enrichment programs, and camps and courses through Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS).

- Adult and Community Education offers a wide range of noncredit learning opportunities for elementary and secondary students to strengthen academic skills or pursue personal interests. SEE BELOW
- The Institute for Arts celebrates its 22nd year with performing and visual arts enrichment classes for students in grades 6-11 at Robinson Secondary School. SEE BELOW.

- Students in grades 5-7 can explore careers and technology in the Tech Adventure camp at the Chantilly Academy and Lee High School. SEE BELOW.
- Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology also offers a Summer Tech Institute for rising 8th and 9th graders. SEE BELOW.
- Summer general education classes for FCPS elementary and middle school students provide continuity between summer and regular school year learning goals and activities. These programs run August 3-21 and are free. Principals at each school have additional information about registration. SEE BELOW.
- FCPS students who need high school credit recovery or Standards of Learning (SOL) remediation, or who participate in English Speakers of Other Language (ESOL) can attend summer programs at their high schools. SEE BELOW.
- The FCPS Online Campus is available this summer for county and noncounty high school students who want to earn new course credit. SEE BELOW.
- FCPS also provides extended school year (ESY) services during the summer to identified students with disabilities.

Additional information about these programs and more summer opportunities and camps being held at FCPS schools is available at <http://www.fcps.edu/news/summer.htm>

ADULT AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION (ACE)

Three new full-day camps for children in grades K-8 are being offered through Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Adult and Community Education for summer 2009, along with an assortment of noncredit classes for students of various ages held in a variety of locations in Fairfax County. Registration for summer enrichment classes and camps is currently under way.

Designed for students in grades K-6, Kids' Campus provides language, art, and dance and fitness combined with three additional activities such as theater, culinary arts, and video production. The camp runs for five days from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with an extended 15-day option offered at Hunters Woods Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences.

For sixth through eighth grade students, the Get an Edge camp focuses on skill-building in writing, foreign language study, creative self-expression, and keyboarding. Campers rotate through three two-hour classes for five days from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with an extended 10-day option available at Fairfax High School.

Like Magic! is another new weeklong camp, which will be held at Lake Braddock Secondary School for sixth through eighth grade students July 13-17 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and for children in grades 2-5 July 20-24 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Students learn sleight of hand techniques and, through teamwork, stage a magic performance at week's end for family and friends.

Many other skill-focused noncredit classes are also available. Visit www.fcps.edu/aceclasses/KidsandTeens.htm for more information and to register.

INSTITUTE FOR THE ARTS

Institute for the Arts (IFTA) provides an opportunity for students to hone their skills within one discipline or experience a variety of fine arts offerings. Select four 70-minute courses each day and create a summer to remember. Institute for the Arts will be held at Robinson Secondary School July 6 through July 30 from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. IFTA offers visual and performing arts enrichment programs for rising 7th through rising 12th grade students. Tuition is \$750 for Fairfax County residents and includes transportation. The tuition for non-Fairfax County residents is \$950 and does not include transportation. Reduced fee and tuition waivers are not available for this elective program. Registration for the Institute for the Arts has been extended until **June 18**. For more information and to register, visit www.fcps.edu/DIS/OHSICS/FineArts/IFTA/index.htm.

TECH ADVENTURE CAMP

Programming a video game, filming a short movie, and creating the car of the future are just some of the activities available to Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) students who are currently in fifth, sixth, or seventh grade at the summer Tech Adventure Camp, a two-week program to be held at Chantilly Academy and Lee High School from July 6 to 17.

Students rotate through six areas during the two-week camp, including:

- Making the Game—Students can program their own video games and compete with others for champion status.

- Design Studio—Using graphics, text, color, and illustrations, students will design and create their own web pages.
- Creating the Shot—Combining artistic creativity with technology via multimedia applications, campers will learn to digitally edit and manipulate their own photographs.
- Hollywood, Here We Come—Aspiring moviemakers will write, produce, and film their own short scripts, creating storyboards, capturing action on video, and editing their movies.
- Well Fit...Well Fed—Preparing healthful foods and learning fun ways to stay fit are the goals of this class. Campers will use sports, dance, and workouts to get in shape and stay active.
- Invent the Future—Using an interactive software program, students will produce two-dimensional drawings that they will ultimately turn into three-dimensional objects. Possible projects include cars of the future, spacecraft, and cartoon characters.

Camp runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day, and students are encouraged to bring their own lunches. Transportation will be provided by FCPS, or students can arrange their own transportation. The cost for Tech Adventure Camp is \$400, which includes all materials and supplies. For additional information or to register, visit www.fcps.edu/DIS/OCTE/events/TechCamp.htm or call 703-208-7789.

TJHSST SUMMER TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) will offer a 2009 Summer Technology Institute in July featuring enrichment courses that focus on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics—using hands-on approaches and research-based methods—as well as on art, English, or other disciplines while integrating technology. TJHSST is a Fairfax County public school.

The Summer Technology Institute is for students completing the seventh or eighth grade during the 2008-09 school year (rising eighth and ninth grade students) regardless of where they are enrolled for the 2009-10 school year. Complete information and updated course lists regarding all course offerings, dates, and descriptions are available on the web at <http://information.tjhsst.edu/sumtechins.html>.

All courses, which run for five days, will be held at TJHSST from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Students must bring their own lunches and provide their own transportation. The cost for each course is \$200; several courses require an additional lab or field trip fee that must be paid at registration time. Registration for courses will begin on Tuesday, May 12, and must be completed through the FCPS Office of Adult and Community Education web site at www.fcps.edu/aceclasses. For registration or enrollment status, visit the FCPS Office of Adult and Community Education web site at www.fcps.edu/aceclasses.

SUMMER SCHOOL – WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

This summer, the FCPS high school general education program will differ significantly from last year, while elementary and middle school academic programs again will offer school-based intervention programs tailored for each location to meet students' academic needs. Each high school will offer summer programs to support students who need credit recovery or Standards of Learning (SOL) remediation, or who participate in the English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) program. FCPS will offer acceleration (new) courses through its Online Campus. Course dates will vary depending on the program and are available at

<http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/index.htm>. The elementary and middle school programs will be open only to FCPS students and will provide continuity between summer and regular school year learning goals and activities.

School-based teams at each school will identify participating students who will benefit most from the summer programs. These students will be invited to attend by their school principal. General education elementary and middle school summer programs will run **August 3-21**. Individual school administrators will have complete information about their summer program plans, and parents will complete the paperwork for the summer classes at their child's school. FCPS will offer the elementary and middle school programs at no charge. **Note:** The summer academic programs are contingent upon final approval of the FCPS budget by the School Board on May 21.

Details for Middle School Students:

- Middle schools will focus on acquiring literacy, practicing numeracy, and preparing students for the next academic school year.
- FCPS will provide transportation to **most** middle school summer programs only within the assigned summer school attendance areas. Summer bus stops will differ from school year bus stop

Each day of summer school is equivalent to eight days of regular school. With a 22-day term, students often devote up to 35 hours per week to online school work. Mandatory face-to-face midterm, final, and Standards of Learning (SOL) exams are required of students taking online classes.

Online courses include Algebra 1 and 2; Biology; Chemistry; English 10, 11, and 12; Geometry; Geosystems, Physics, Trigonometry; Virginia and United States Government; Virginia and United States History; World History and Geography 1; and World History and Geography 2 for grades 9-12. Tuition for county residents is \$800, with a sliding scale for students eligible for free and reduced-price meals, and \$1,600 for out-of-county students.

For more information, including requirements and registration forms, visit www.fcps.edu/DIS/Summer/hsonlinecampus.html or call 703-503-7781.

FCPS HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER SCHOOL ONLINE CAMPUS

Registration for the FCPS high school summer online campus program **begins Monday, May 11, and continues through Tuesday, June 23**. Online courses for new or first-time credit are open to rising and current high school students who meet prerequisites and technical requirements. Online campus classes run from Monday, July 6, through Tuesday, August 4. The courses are written specifically for the Internet using multimedia components, animated tutorials, and interactive exercises and provide for online communication between the teacher and students.

SUMMER PROGRAM INFORMATION FROM THE FCPS PARENT RESOURCE CENTER

The June edition of the Parent Resource Center newsletter recommends the following resources for summer programming information. Click on the attached link to learn more about each program:

- FCPS Summer Programs, www.fcps.edu/news/summer.htm
- PRC Summer Resources, www.fcps.edu/cco/prc/documents/SummerofSuccess.pdf50109.pdf
- Summer Camp List, www.fcps.edu/cco/prc/PRCSpecialNeedsSummerCamps.htm
- Therapeutic Rec Programs for Children, Teens & Young Adults, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rec/trs/ctva.htm
- 2009 Rec-PAC Summer Camp Program, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/reepac/
- City of Fairfax-Parks and Recreation, www.fairfaxva.gov/ParksRec/ParksRec.asp
- City of Fairfax Children and Families, www.ffxfamilies.com/
- Cyber Field Trips, <http://geocities.com/~perkinshome/fieldtrip.html>
- 101 Things to Do When There's Nothing to Do: <http://specialchildren.about.com/od/behaviorstrategies/a/timewasters.htm>
- Summer Reading Tips for Parents, www.ldonline.org/article/36
- Use Summer Fun to Build Background Knowledge, www.ldonline.org/content/edextras/summerfun_en.pdf

SUMMER OF SUCCESS

Keep your children actively engaged for a Summer of Success! This 19pg packet includes information on academic resources, summer camps, museums, travel guides, community centers, computer clubhouses, and more. Visit www.fcps.edu/cco/prc/documents/SummerofSuccess.pdf50109.pdf to download the packet.

FCPS NOW ON TWITTER, FACEBOOK

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) is now on Twitter, where news and information, emergency messages, and information about current issues are posted for those who choose to become followers of the school system.

To follow FCPS on Twitter, visit www.twitter.com/fcpsnews and click on Follow.

FCPS also has a Facebook page; to follow FCPS on Facebook, visit www.facebook.com/pages/Falls-Church-VA/Fairfax-County-Public-Schools/74125402499 and select Become a Fan at the top of the page. The FCPS Facebook page currently includes a link to summer reading lists for students who will enter grades 6-12 in the fall, and will also include up-to-date information about the school system.

Citizens can also receive FCPS news and information by subscribing to the school system's Keep in Touch e-mail messaging system, or by subscribing to RSS (Really Simple Syndication). To learn more about RSS, visit www.fcps.edu and go to the News Releases banner on the right side of the page, then click on the orange RSS logo.

H1N1 SWINE FLU UPDATE

[Open letter from Jack Dale, Superintendent, FCPS]

It is our goal to promote quality health for students in our schools system and to manage communicable diseases. We have been working with the Fairfax County Health Department to monitor the progression of 2009 H1N1 Influenza (swine flu). At this time there is widespread influenza activity in the United States, including Virginia, and it is expected that the virus will continue to spread. The severity of the current H1N1 virus does not appear to be any more severe than seasonal influenza. Therefore the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Fairfax County Health Department (FCHD) do not recommend closing schools or notifying school communities for individual cases of H1N1 flu. Staff and students will continue to be proactive by using standard disease prevention measures, including washing hands frequently and covering coughs.

Please practice these flu prevention measures to help protect your child and others:

- Monitor children for influenza-like symptoms (fever plus a cough or sore throat) and keep them at home if they exhibit these symptoms. Students with the flu should stay at home and out of school for at least seven days, even if symptoms go away sooner. If children are still sick after the seven-day period, keep them at home until at least 24 hours after the symptoms have ceased. If children have flu-like symptoms, they should not participate in any school activities, including school age child care (SACC), or be out in the community except to seek medical care.
- If your child appears to have an influenza-like illness when he or she arrives at school, a parent or guardian will be notified and asked to pick up the child. Please ensure that your school has your contact information and that you pick up your child if you are called.
- Help your child understand the importance of covering his or her nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing. Also, emphasize washing hands with soap and water, especially after a cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based sanitizers are also effective when soap and water are not available. Avoid contact with those who have flu symptoms. Please model these behaviors for your child.

I greatly appreciate your help as we work together to reduce the spread of influenza in our school community. If you have additional questions, please contact your school.

FAIRFAX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES NEW GRADING SCALE

The Fairfax County School Board has voted to approve a new grading scale for all Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) students that will go into effect beginning with the 2009-10 school year. The new grading scale is as follows:

A	(93-100) = 4.0
A-	(90-92) = 3.7
B+	(87-89) = 3.3
B	(83-86) = 3.0
B-	(80-82) = 2.7
C+	(77-79) = 2.3
C	(73-76) = 2.0
C-	(70-72) = 1.7
D+	(67-69) = 1.3
D	(64-66) = 1.0
F	(below 64) = 0.0

“After extensive research and discussions—internally as well as with community groups, parents, and students—the Board has adopted a slightly modified version of the College Board grading scale. We believe this new scale benefits the students in the competitive world of academics as well as maintaining Fairfax County Public Schools’ nationally recognized high academic standards,” said Dan Storck, School Board chair.

In January, the School Board voted to increase the grade point weight for Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), designated dual enrollment college, and honors courses. A student enrolled in an AP or IB course was granted an additional .5 weight—for a total of 1.0—added to his or her grade point average (GPA) for each course. The transcripts for current seniors, which were sent to colleges in early February, included the additional weights for all applicable courses.

Beginning with the 2009-10 school year, a student who takes an honors course will receive an extra .5 weight to his or her GPA for each honors course taken. A task force has been formed to review all higher level courses and corresponding curriculum and, by the end of the summer, the group will forward a recommended list of honors courses to Superintendent Jack D. Dale and the School Board. No decision has yet been made as to whether or not the .5 weight for each honors course will be retroactive for all current high school students.

High school students and their parents can view student GPAs in Family Connection through FCPS 24-7 Learning. A parent must have a Parent View account; students already have their own FCPS 24-7 Learning accounts.

For complete information about changes to the grading scale, visit <http://www.fcps.edu/news/grading.htm>.

SURVEY FOR PARENTS OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES NOW OPEN

Parents who have children with disabilities are asked to complete the 2008-09 Parent Survey for Indicator 8 (Parental Involvement) of the State Performance Plan (SPP). This survey will allow you to give your input to the Virginia Department of Education/Special Education and Student Services (VDOE/SESS) and Fairfax County Public Schools about Parental Involvement as a means of improving services and results for children with disabilities.

The Survey will be available online on the VDOE/SESS web page from 5/11/09 until 6/30/09. The survey will be posted in English and Spanish to allow parents of children with disabilities to provide their input about Parental Involvement.

For additional information, a paper copy of the survey, or alternate locations to complete the survey, call the Parent Resource Center at 703-204-3941. To complete the survey online, visit <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/sess>. Download the flyer <http://www.fcps.edu/ccp/prc/documents/Indicator8ParentSurvey.pdf>.

If you know other families who would like to receive e-mails about Special Education programs and opportunities, please let them know they can subscribe at: <https://signup.blackboardconnect.com/fcps/Default.aspx>

HISPANIC PARENTS MEETINGS- “HOW TO COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY WITH YOUR CHILDREN”

Mr. Mario Prade, a Fairfax County Social Worker, will be talking to Hispanic parents about how to effectively communicate with their students. Meetings have been scheduled for Mar 30 (8-10am), Apr 1 (6-8pm), Apr 27 (8-10am), May 6 (6-8pm), June 3 (6-8pm) at South Lakes High School. For more information, contact SLHS parent liaison Martha Martinez at Martha.Martinez2@fcps.edu or 703-715-4782.

2009-2010 SCHOOL CALENDAR NOW AVAILABLE

The calendars for the 2009-10 school year have been posted and are available online at www.fcps.edu/cal.htm.

FCPS ACCEPTING DONATIONS OF COMPUTERS, FURNITURE, FORMAL WEAR

The FCPS web page at which online visitors can donate goods such as computers, formal wear, or furniture has been revamped to provide users with a more efficient way to donate. The donations web site, found at <http://commweb.fcps.edu/donateofcps>, allows users who want to donate goods to FCPS to easily provide their contact information and relevant information about the item(s) that they are donating. FCPS does not accept every donation offered, so the site also offers clear explanations about what items are accepted and includes minimum standards for many items—older model computers for instance. For more information, contact Jay Garant in the Office of Business and Community Partnerships, Department of Communications and Community Outreach, at 571-423-1225 or jay.garant@fcps.edu.

PARENTS: GET YOUR OWN BLACKBOARD LOGIN & PASSWORD

All parents, legal guardians, and foster parents of FCPS students are eligible to receive their own user accounts for FCPS 24-7 Learning (Blackboard). Registration provides several benefits, one of which is the ability to access your child's Blackboard account(s) using your own logon and password. To sign up, visit <http://fcps.blackboard.com> and enter **parentreg** as the username and **newuser** as the password. This login provides access to step-by-step instructions, a tollfree number for assistance, and the online registration form. After completing the online registration, which requires school directory-type information and a valid e-mail address, parents receive a validation code that must be taken to one of their children's schools in order to validate and enable the account.

FCPS ESTABLISHES ANONYMOUS TIP LINE

As part of Fairfax County Public Schools' continuing efforts to maintain safe schools, an **anonymous** telephone tip line is available. The tip line phone number is **703-658-3636**. Please call if you have information about *anything* that may present a threat to the safety of any FCPS student, staff member or school.

PYRAMID ANNOUNCEMENTS [\[back to top\]](#)

SOUTH LAKES HIGH SCHOOL "LAPTOPS FOR SUCCESS"

The Laptops for Success program has already equipped 17 SLHS graduates with laptops for college. If you would like to learn more about this worthy cause or make a donation, visit www.goodpursuits.com/LaptopsForSuccess/Introduction.html

SOUTH LAKES SPORTS PHYSICALS

If you are planning to play a sport at South Lakes over the summer or next year, you will need a current physical dated NO EARLIER than May 15, 2009. To accommodate potential athletes, South Lakes is sponsoring low-cost sports physicals at South Lakes for current and rising South Lakes students. **Physicals will be offered Mon, June 8, 5-7pm.** Students MUST register online for an appointment at www.fcps.edu/supt/activities/atp/ppeoverview.htm

INFO FOR RISING 9TH GRADERS WHO WILL ATTEND SOUTH LAKES

The South Lakes Academic Boosters have created a "Frequently Asked Questions" booklet for students who will be attending South Lakes HS. Visit www.southlakesptsa.org/faq/SLHS%20FAQ_102908f.html to download a copy of this extremely helpful booklet!

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS [\[back to top\]](#)

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR RYA FALL FOOTBALL & CHEERLEADING

Registration is open for the Reston Youth Association (RYA) Fall 2009 Football and Cheerleading programs. The RYA programs are open to youth ages 6-16 in Reston and the surrounding areas. The fee is \$110 (\$80 for Cheer) for those registered by June 30. Financial assistance is available. No experience is needed and Fairfax County Youth Football League rules of which RYA is a member, require full player participation regardless of ability or experience. There are three levels of play in each weight-class based on age, weight, and experience. Games will be played on the turf fields at Lake Fairfax Park. Practice begins August 10 at the Langston Hughes fields and the first games are after labor day. Obtain information on the RYA programs and register online at www.restonseahawks.org. For questions call the RYA Hotline at (703)-620-2019 or send an email to vp@restonseahawks.org.

SUMMER INTERNSHIPS FOR ALL AGES

Visit www.enrichmentalley.com for summer internship opportunities appropriate for students of all ages.

SUMMER DEBATE CLUB

Champion Debate Camp is a one week day camp that teaches the basics of high school policy debate. Campers will have the opportunity to enhance skills such as public speaking, logical thinking, argument construction, and persuasion. Champion Debate Camp is a completely student (high school to college) run organization, the majority of whom are volunteers and all profits are donated buildOn, an organization dedicated to "partnering after-school service programs in the U.S. with communities in developing countries to build schools." For more information, contact championdebate@gmail.com or Franklin Zheng (co-director) at zheng.franklin@gmail.com or visit championdebate.com.

OTHER INFORMATION:

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LHMS PTA WEBSITE

<http://www.lhmspta.com/>

Visit the PTA website for an updated calendar of events, PTA news, PTA forms & more.

FCPS STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR DISCOUNTS ON CERTAIN MICROSOFT PRODUCTS

Through a special agreement with Microsoft, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) students and staff members can now purchase select Microsoft products for home and personal use at great discounts. In addition, Fairfax County Public Schools adult education students are also eligible to purchase through this program. Student Select is part of Fairfax County Public Schools technology@home program. This program seeks to help students, faculty, and staff members with their

home technology needs by enabling them to purchase directly from vendors at educational discount rates. With the latest technology, students, faculty, and staff members can make the best use of instructional and administrative resources from home.

For more information on available products, pricing, and how to order, go to <http://www.fcps.edu/DIT/techathome/studentselect.html>.

PARENT RESOURCE CENTER TUTOR AND SPEECH CLINICIAN LIST

The FCPS tutor list, at http://www.fcps.edu/ss/prc/tutors_spclinicians.htm contains names of individuals who have contacted the Parent Resource Center (PRC) to offer services. The PRC in no way recommends or guarantees certification or costs of individual tutors. Parents are responsible for contacting and working with the tutors. The PRC cannot make specific recommendations or guarantee certification, licensure, or costs. If you have questions, call 703-204-3941 or visit the PRC at 2334 Gallows Road, room 224. Hours are Mon-Fri 8am-4:30pm. Satellite locations are open part-time at Aldrin and Hayfield Elementary Schools. For more information about the Parent Resource Center, visit <http://www.fcps.edu/ss/prc/aboutprc.htm>.