

The Advocate

Mount Daniel Elementary — Grades K-1

MAY 2007

Thomas Jefferson Elementary — Grades 2-4

From the President

For our families, June will bring the close of the school year, but for our PTA, the new academic year begins in May, when our new Executive Committee is elected on May 15th. I hope you will all be able to join us that evening for the Art Show, Ice Cream Social, and the opportunity to elect our new leaders for 2007-08! May and June will be filled with the hustle and bustle of spring and the end of the school year activities ... the dedication of the new wing at Mount Daniel, Teacher Appreciation Week, and the Spring Fling, just to name a few. Further details are available in our calendar section (on page 6).

It has been a tremendous privilege serving as your PTA President this year, and a most gratifying experience. My professional life has always been centered around children and education, and long before I was fortunate enough to become a mother, I recognized the importance of and benefit to children, families, and schools when parents are welcomed as partners in the educational process. Mingling my personal and professional life this year has been a terrific experience.

I continue to be inspired by our elementary school community here in the City of Falls Church ... you are dedicated, caring, committed to our children and our future, and generous with your time, talent, and resources. It has been wonderful getting to know so many of you, and I thank you all for your support and kindness throughout the year.

I would especially like to recognize our outstanding Executive Committee ... Catherine Beddow, our President-Elect; Jill Martin, Treasurer; Chris Cook, Vice President; Laurie Clark, Corresponding Secretary; and Megan Schlitt, Recording Secretary. They are each phenomenal women, mothers and leaders. Throughout the year they have devoted countless hours to planning PTA events that benefit our membership and our children, worked to improve our ability to communicate with families and staff, completely fulfilled their PTA responsibilities, and have constantly sought to enhance and improve our ability to serve our children, families, schools and community. How fortunate I have been to share this year with each of them, to benefit from their good counsel, to be dazzled by their skills and thoughtful commitment to our schools, and to have spent so much time in their great company!

Catherine, Jill, Chris, Laurie, and Megan, many thanks for all of your hard work, and kind and fun-filled spirits ... our community is much the better for your leadership!

In addition to our Executive Committee, we have scores of parents who have stepped forward to serve as Committee Chairs, and dozens of parents who have volunteered on numerous projects throughout the year. I am grateful to each of you for committing to our children and our schools ... you have greatly enhanced the education of our children, and our PTA is a vibrant and wonderful organization because of you.

Of course, parents can only be partners in the educational process when schools welcome their involvement. Many thanks to our amazing principals, Mrs. Kathy Halayko and Mrs. Trudy Taylor, our TJ Assistant Principal, Mr. Bob Palermo, and our teachers and staff at Mount Daniel and TJ. Both of our elementary schools work hard to welcome, educate and involve families; are cognizant of their important role in our close knit community; and are models of warm and welcoming school climates. I am also grateful for our Superintendent, Dr. Lois Berlin, and her thoughtful and responsive leadership throughout the year.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge my children, Daniel and Mary Catherine, for their assistance this year with so many PTA projects ... from helping choose the color of our monthly flyers & sorting and counting backpack mail, to decorating and helping clean up after the Family Party. And, of course, my dear, devoted, and dashing husband, Rob Donovan ...! Although I have held fast all year to my assertion that this PTA position hardly takes any time at all — Rob, thank you for everything you've done to support our PTA and our family.

My fellow PTA members, I leave you in the wonderful hands of Catherine Beddow — who will be a superb PTA President — and the new Executive Committee that we will elect on May 15th. I look forward to seeing you then, and at the Spring Fling at Upton Hills on May 20th.

"Be glad of life, because it gives you the chance to love and to work and to play and to look up at the stars."

— Henry Van Dyke, *American Educator*

Fond wishes for a great spring and a wonderful summer,

Kathleen Donovan

News from TJ

Trudy Taylor, Principal



What a joy to have spring finally arrive! I know we are all enjoying the beauty of this area during this time of year. We hope to be enjoying our new field soon also. We have been given notice that our field will be returned to us on May 14. As this goes to press we are working on how to have a little celebration with the students. They have all been so patient and understanding, so we want to make it a special day for them as well as us!

We are also excited about our new lobby entrance at the front door. All visitors are now directed into the office through a new door to the left during the hours that students are in the building. The second set of lobby doors will be kept locked. This is an extra security measure that we felt would assure safety for our children.

Also in the lobby is our new Outdoor Classroom Master Plan. We will soon decide which part of the plan we will begin developing for use by our classrooms next year.

Our second graders have been having a great deal of fun on their swimming trips sponsored by our PE teachers. They are getting in the pool much sooner than most of us and loving every minute of it. Our third graders have had a very creative experience becoming famous figures in the classroom wax museums; I have certainly enjoyed meeting Abraham Lincoln, Jackie Kennedy, and Albert Einstein, among others. Our fourth graders enjoyed a presentation by the Jamestown Players which helped them to review what they have learned about Virginia this year.

We are looking forward to many wonderful events in the month ahead: Native American Day for our second graders on May 18 and Virginia Day for our fourth graders on May 25. The whole school will participate in the Mile Run on May 24 as well as Field Day on June 5. We also ask that parents join us for our beginning band concert on May 30 at 7:00 pm as well as our Volunteer Luncheon that same day from 11:00 to 1:00. We enjoy being able to recognize all of you wonderful parents who have given so much of your time to us over the year. Please come and let us show our appreciation.

Interested In Chairing A Committee?

The PTA is still in need of volunteers to either chair or co-chair the following committees:

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|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Art Show (TJ) | Picture Day |
| Hospitality | Publishing Center (TJ) |
| Info Fair | School Supplies fundraiser |
| Outdoor Classroom (TJ) | Spring Fling |

Please contact any member of the nominating committee (Laura Stricker, Marybeth Connelly and Debbie Schantz-Hiscott) if you would like to help.

Honoring City School Staff

There will be a reception on May 10 at 5:30 pm in the MEH cafetorium for Denise O'Neil, TJ Speech Teacher and winner of the Agnes Meyer Award, and Barbara Mitchell, Superintendent's Secretary and winner of the Support Staff of the Year award. Please join us to honor these two who have given so much to the school community.

Ms. Talbert, TJ Art Teacher, currently has work on exhibit at Falls Church Arts' Park Avenue Gallery (111 Park Ave.) — she is one of 6 artists whose work is part of the *Water, Water Everywhere!* exhibit that will run through May 29. Ms. Talbert and Mr. Abel (a TJ staffer) will also be two of the FIRSTfriday featured artists sponsored by Art and Frame of Falls Church at the May 4 FIRSTfriday. A reception is scheduled for 6:00 to 8:00 pm that evening.

Also on FIRSTfriday, May 4, Falls Church Arts is hosting the awarding of certificates to the winners of the Kokolopori-Falls Church Sister Schools Art Contest. The winners ceremony will be held at 7:00 pm at 111 Park Ave.

Screenings for Preschool Children – Date Change in May

The Child Find Day for May is being held at Mt. Daniel on the **second** Wednesday in May (**May 9th**) from 1:30-3:30 pm. The usual schedule of the screenings being held on the first Wednesday of the month will resume in June. Parents may have their children screened for suspected delays in speech/language, fine and/or gross motor skills, cognitive abilities, and daily living skills. Those children identified as eligible may receive special education services through Falls Church City Public Schools. Child Find is an opportunity for children with special needs to receive early intervention services.

Parents who have concerns regarding the development of their preschool age child (two years old by September 30, 2006) may contact Ann Gordon, Child Find Coordinator, at 703-248-5650 to discuss their concerns and schedule an appointment for the next Child Find Day.

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The Advocate is the newsletter of the Falls Church Elementary PTA, which supports Thomas Jefferson Elementary, 601 S. Oak St., Falls Church, VA 22046, 703-248-5660; and Mount Daniel Elementary, 2328 N. Oak St., Falls Church, VA 22046, 703-248-5640.

Laurie S. Clark, Editor (703-237-6637)

Correspondence for The Advocate should be sent to the Editor, c/o Elementary PTA, Thomas Jefferson Elementary School, 601 S. Oak St., Falls Church, VA 22046

Articles for The Advocate should be submitted by e-mail to sclaurie@aol.com

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News from Mount Daniel

Kathy Halayko, Principal



Happy Birthday Danny! A wonderful celebration for **Danny's Birthday** was held on April 27. Room parents provided impressive and creative birthday parties in every classroom with Danny games and treats to honor our favorite hippo. A medley of Danny songs and, of course, Happy Birthday was sung by all students and staff at an assembly in his honor. This is indeed one of our favorite days at Mount Daniel.

On May 2 prospective kindergarten students and their eager parents visited Mount Daniel for the **Annual Kindergarten Registration**. Children and families had an opportunity to visit classrooms, play with a variety of materials, and meet kindergarten teachers and paraprofessionals. Parents were able to give completed registration materials to staff members who were on hand to answer questions, help with Info-Snap on-line registration, and share information about day care and other services offered at Mount Daniel.

The **Mount Daniel New Wing Dedication** was also held on May 2. Many people who helped to make this new addition possible were on hand to celebrate with staff. Self-guided tours of the building and visits with teachers were fun for current families and for many who are Mount Daniel "graduates." All present joined Danny in song.

The **Volunteer Luncheon** will be held on May 23 from 11:00-12:45 p.m. in the Library. The entire staff contributes to this lovely day when we personally thank our many volunteers for their generosity and support throughout

the school year. Every volunteer's contribution is special to us, so please come and let us honor you.

Mrs. Pfaff and her team of dedicated volunteers will be hard at work in May preparing for the **Mount Daniel Art Show** being held this year on Wednesday, May 23, from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Always an evening to delight the eye, Mount Daniel becomes its own Falls Church Gallery of Art with beautiful works on display by all the students at Mount Daniel. A pizza dinner for the whole family can be purchased that evening in the cafeteria. We must know in advance how many pizzas to order, so please complete the order form sent home to you in your child's Danny folder.

Mark your calendars for the **Kindergarten Music Program** which will be held in the Mount Daniel Multipurpose Room on Tuesday, May 15, at 9:15 a.m. for rooms 1, 2, and 3, and 10:15 a.m. for Rooms 4, 5, and 6. The children will sing some favorite songs from their kindergarten year ... a treat not to be missed!

The Mount Daniel **Field Day** will be held on the morning of Wednesday, June 13. Mr. Garrison will be looking for parent volunteers to help the children with a variety of gross motor activities and games both inside and outside the building. This is a fun morning for the students, so we hope you will be able to help us.

Receipts Due

If you have not yet submitted receipts for expenses you incurred for a PTA event, please contact Jill Martin, PTA treasurer, and submit your receipts for reimbursement. To close out the 2006-07 books, all expenses must be reimbursed by the end of the fiscal year in June.



There are a couple groups of parents who commit to helping all year and we would like to thank them for their volunteer efforts throughout the 2006-07 school year.

Surekha Cohen for coming up with the monthly TJ Library schedule and keeping the volunteers organized. The year-long library volunteers for shelving books and straightening up the stacks: Beth Anderson, Catherine Beddow, Joanne Brooks-Lindsay, Carolyn Brown, Ruth Ann Castillo, Laurie Clark, Karen Clinton, Surekha Cohen, Ashleigh Collins, Miri Cordaro, Lisa Ferguson, Sheila Frost, Kimberly Gadsden, Jackie Handly, Charlotte Hyland, Jane Johansen, Christine Jones, Susan Loyd, Anita Menon, Kelly Miceli, Mia Musolino, Sakiko Nakaya, Sue Neuhart, Christine Nowroozi, Beth Reusch, Nancy Romps, Miyong Salarano, Carol Sly, Laura Stricker, Melissa Surette, Christine Swift-Turner, Grace Taylor, Sheri Thomas, and Carver Zullo

Laurie Connole for coming up with the Mount Daniel lunch and playground schedules and organizing the volunteers. The year-long volunteers on the playground and in the cafeteria

for ensuring the children are not getting too rambunctious and staying safe: Rebekah Barrish, Randi Brown, Beatriz Caballero, Amy Casillas, Laurie Clark, Surekha Cohen, Juliet Copeland, Roger Dalseg, Diana Dickson, Ana Dod, Jodi Donley, Gretchen Duffett, Tinneil Dykes, Rachael Elstad, Jill Friend, Laura Gogal, Jill Hartzler-Warner, Julie Heminway, Gwyn Hicks, Pam Hirsch, Heidi Jackson, Leigh Johnson, Aysha Khwaja, Isabelle Kim, Chrisie King, Julie Kosterlitz, Lisa Lacroix, Hildy & Walter Lampella, Pat Leighton, Angelina Lopez, Sharon Lusk, Muliani Lyng, Mary Beth MacKinnon, Ellen McRae, Jill Martin, Mary Mather, Teresa Morris, Kate Nesson, Angela Newburn, Alane O'Neill, Ji Hyuan Park, Beth Parkinson-Wyner, Thu Phan, Rupa Ramkumar, John & April Rollins, Liz Salak, Megan Schlitt, Kimberly Ho Schoelen, Karen Schools, Sheryl Stratton, Melissa Surette, Lizette Torres-Barthel, Michael Trauberman, Kim Trundle, Brian Walston, Susan Wegmueller, Carolyn Wingrove-Thomas, and Alan Wisdom.

Meet the 2007-08 Officer Nominees; Elections To Be Held May 15th

by Gwyn Hicks

Elections for the 2007-08 slate will be held at the May PTA meeting at TJ on May 15 as part of the TJ Art Show and Ice Cream Social in the TJ cafeteria and gymnasium at 6:30 pm. At the March PTA meeting, the Nominating Committee presented a slate of 2007-08 nominees for the Executive Committee. Information about each of these nominees is provided below. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the May meeting. Please join us to elect next year's officers.

President — Catherine Beddow

When it comes to volunteer work, incoming PTA president **Catherine Beddow** remembers her mother volunteering in her elementary school library in Clifton, N.J. Today, Catherine is a familiar face to Falls Church City teachers and parents alike, having already served one year as PTA vice president and currently serving as PTA president-elect. A former vice president of corporate banking for Bank of America, Catherine and her husband Bruce moved to Falls Church from Arlington in 1998. Drawn to the city by its schools as well as its small-town charm, Catherine and Bruce are parents to Thomas, age 8 (grade 3), and Jessie, age 6 (grade 1). As the school year winds to a close, Catherine is looking forward to spending time with family and friends this summer and hopes to sneak in some time for cooking, gardening, and travel.

President-Elect — Vacant

Chris Cook, the president-elect nominee, recently found out that she will be moving out of our school system this summer, so this position does not have a nominee. If you are interested in this position or would like more information about it, please contact any member of the nominating committee: Marybeth Connelly, Debbie Schantz-Hiscott, and/or Laura Stricker. The committee will be soliciting candidates prior to elections on May 15 and will accept nominations from the floor at that time.

Vice President — Laurie Clark

A desktop publisher by trade, **Laurie Clark** wanted to become more engaged in her children's education but needed something that did not conflict with her then full-time work schedule. The vice president nominee found her answer in the PTA, and embraced the opportunity to get involved, signing on as corresponding secretary for the past two years and also serving as webmaster and editor of *The Advocate*. Laurie and her husband Steve settled in Falls Church in 1993, and have since welcomed Austin, age 10 (grade 4), and Aidan, age 6 (grade K). Raised in a tight-knit family in Great Mills, Md. — she and her sisters grew up within walking distance of her grandmother, aunts and uncles, and 11 cousins — Laurie is looking forward to spending time relaxing with the boys this summer and visiting with relatives. She also hopes to find some time to enjoy a few of her favorite pastimes, including reading, needlepoint, and scrapbooking.

Treasurer — Debbie Schantz-Hiscott

Debbie Schantz-Hiscott and her husband Stephen relocated to Falls Church from Chicago in 1996. Having moved around a lot while growing up — including stops in Bakersfield, Calif.; Fairport, N.Y.; and New Lenox, Ill. — Debbie is thrilled that her three daughters have lived their entire lives "in the city." With Hannah, age 8 (grade 2), Claire, age 6 (grade 1), and Maryn, age 4, all becoming increasingly active in school activities, Debbie also wanted to get involved in the school system. After spending two years as chair of the Spring Book Fair at Mount Daniel and this past year on the PTA nominating committee, Debbie is looking forward to the opportunity to lend skills gained as a former senior manager of business development for MCI to the position of PTA treasurer. Debbie is looking forward to taking a break from the normal morning routine rush this summer and enjoying time swimming, playing tennis, and relaxing with her family.

Recording Secretary — Terry Worley

With two daughters in the Falls Church City school system, **Terry Worley** has found plenty of opportunities to volunteer in the classroom — including party parent, room parent, classroom reader, Book Fair organizer, and class basket coordinator. However, when she returned to work one-and-a-half years ago, the Long and Foster real estate agent and mom to Leah, age 11 (grade 5), and Carolyn, age 9 (grade 3), worried she was losing touch with the school. The Long Island, N.Y., native recalled her mom being extremely active in PTA and decided this would also be a great way for her to stay involved. The recording secretary nominee and her husband Craig moved to Falls Church 11 years ago after hearing it was a great place for families. Although they have since set up roots here, Terry is looking forward to returning to New York's Adirondack Mountains for two weeks this summer — as she has each summer since childhood. In addition to spending time with her family, Terry enjoys reading, aerobics, gardening, and traveling.

Corresponding Secretary — Megan Schlitt

As someone who thrives on being involved in the school system, **Megan Schlitt** — who holds a master's degree in education — is excited about the opportunities that the PTA brings to get engaged in planning for the schools while also meeting other parents. The corresponding secretary nominee has previously served two years as recording secretary. A product of Arlington County schools, Megan and her husband Danny moved to Falls Church in 1993 and have since become parents to Daniel, age 9 (grade 3), and Annette, age 7 (grade 1). The instructional designer looks forward to easing up on the family's normally busy schedule this summer and spending some time just hanging out with each other. She's also hoping to sneak in a few trips to the beach to relax and read before the new school year kicks things back into high gear.

Family Party, Class Baskets and Pizza Sales Were A Huge Success

On March 24th, the Elementary PTA hosted the Family Party at the Falls Church Community Center. The evening was very well-attended and everyone had a wonderful time. Glow bracelets were given to the first 400 children, and leis were given to everyone who attended. The children, and their parents, were then treated to music, videos on a 20-foot screen, a laser show, and beach balls.

The evening would not have been possible without Rob and Gretchen Duffett who began planning for this event last fall. They came up with the evening's agenda, found the videos, came to the schools to promote the event, and ran the party from start to finish. It was a great show, and we owe it all to you, Rob and Gretchen!

In addition, there were some other people who made the night extra special. There was wonderful emceeing and conga-line leading by Ms. Huber and Mr. Greiner, PE teachers at TJ. We also had some special student groups that performed that evening:

Cheetah Girls: Megan Butler, Andrea Dilao, Caroline Duffett, and Amelia Handly.

Beatles: Marsden Davis, Jacob Litton, Jonathan Stern, and Zach Talamonti.

Sharpay & Ryan: Emma McGhee and Victor Tran

The Hey Mickey cheerleaders: Lauren Capozzi, Kim Dodson, Lydia Gorman, Maddie Hof, Sarah Lubnow, Rachel Skomra, and Caroline Stricker.

In addition, we would like to say thank you to all the parents who agreed to wear the Party Patrol pins to make sure children did not wander off where they shouldn't and that everyone was having a great time and to Al Washa for helping with set-up.

The class basket and staff fun raffle brought in over \$7,000 for the PTA. This would not have been possible without the leadership of Christina Goodwin and Kathy Washa who organized the event and came up with the great idea of getting tickets that did not overlap and writing down the numbers in the log so that families did not have to write their number on the back of the tickets! In addition, Meg Breeden, Phyllis Kravinsky, Maria Markus, Teresa Matz, Kate Nesson, Aline Orfali, Jane

Rasmussen, and Kimberly Ho Schoelen sold raffle tickets; and Marybeth Connelly, Chris Cook, Teresa Michals, and Kate Nesson were responsible for drawing tickets and recording the winners.

The fourth graders netted \$850 from the sale of pizza, chips, drinks, and home-baked goodies. These funds will be used for their Moving Up party at the end of the school year. Many parents and fourth graders helped with this event. An enormous thanks goes to Linda Garlet for coordinating and running the pizza sales. Parent supervisors included Bruce Batten, Jane Cashin, Tom Corlett, Nancy DeLew, Sarah Flanagan, Annette and Jim Hennessey, Evelyne and Bruce Horovitz, Isabelle Kim, Sharon Lewis, Peter Leibold, Kim Maller, Ron Rakowski, Olga Tislina, and Claudia Williams.

In addition, many parents donated snacks, drinks and home-baked goods — thanks to Beth Anderson, DeeAnn Batten, Sharon Carter, Jane Cashin, Laurie Clark, Surekha Cohen, Mary Lee and Tom Corlett, Nancy DeLew, Anne Devereaux, Kathleen Donovan, Sonja Ellis, Sarah Flanagan, Linda Garlet, Beckie Geren, Annette Hennessey, Christopher Johns, Isabelle Kim, Sandra Lewis, Sharon Lewis, Peter Leibold, Susan Loyd, Kim Maller, Liz McCloskey, Beth Reusch, Kathy Rice, Giovanni Sanchez, Kristen Terry, Olga Tislina, Hillary Valley, and Claudia Williams.

4th-grade student volunteers who helped set up, sell, and clean up after the pizza sales included Zoe Allen-Lewis, Michael Anderson, Katie Batten, Beth Cashin, Nic Casillas, Nikki Cordaro, Victoria Corlett, Alicia Devereaux, Daniel Donovan, Kit Garlet, Mary Geren, Emma Graig, Anna Hennessey, Rachel Horovitz, Angelika Johns, Nora Leibold, Chris Loyd, Alexandra Maller, Sarah Miller, Anna Rice, Claire Schmidt, Sam Selby, Dima Tislina, Mikey Winters, and Zachary Witzel.

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Assemblies

The last assembly for the 2006-07 school year will be held on May 23th and May 30th. The Falls Church Elementary PTA invites you to join us when we host Dixie Power Trio, a fun performance that discusses different musical styles originating in Louisiana — including zydeco, blues, Dixieland, jazz, and Cajun. Showtimes are May 23 at 9:30 at Mount Daniel and May 30 at 9:00 and 10:00 at TJ. As always, parents and siblings are welcome.

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It's Not Too Late!

It's not too late for your aspiring artist or writer to submit their contributions to the Cookbook Committee! Flyers were distributed in mid-April inviting students to submit artwork and commentary to be included in the upcoming cookbook. Please encourage your children to participate in this quick, easy project — drawings should be completed in black ink or black marker on white paper and should not exceed 4" x 7". Suggested subjects are any foods, your child eating their favorite foods or family mealtimes. Selected answers to the questions posed in the flyer will be included in a special section of the cookbook. Illustrations will be used throughout the cookbook, as organized by the publisher. As many selections will be included as possible. AND it's also not too late for recipes — any last-minute favorites may be forwarded to Gisella Schneider.

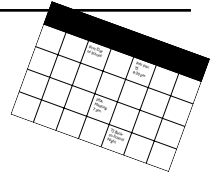
Budgets and Staying Competitive Kieran Sharpe, School Board Liaison

In years when revenues stagnate, school budgets often have a hard time staying on a progressive pace. However, with a firm sense of how to keep our schools competitive and prepare our students for success amidst the 21st century's global demands, the Board's budget for 2007-08 makes significant strategic progress. It brings Chinese and Arabic language studies to our high school students and it strengthens Spanish language instruction begun earlier in elementary grades. It places our teacher pay scales on a much more competitive footing with our neighboring school districts, particularly at levels where new teachers are hired.

New hires will be particularly important for our next school year in light of a wave of retirements among some of our most experienced teachers. Please extend thanks to our retirees by coming to a reception being held at Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School on May 29, beginning at 5:00 pm.

While having a competitive staff remains very important, this is only the means to an end. The real focus is on helping our students to meet their competitive challenges. This truth was reinforced for me by two recent experiences. First, our 2007 graduates are among some of the most outstanding in our history. More than a dozen achieved National Merit Finalist status and our scholastic bowl team won a state championship by a wide margin. Nevertheless, in their applications for college entry, most of these standouts still met with some very significant hurdles, such as smaller-than-expected scholarship offers and longer-than-expected delays in acceptance decisions. Competition for entry to college has become very intense and knowledgeable observers say this will tighten more as the demands of an information-based economy place greater

Mark Your Calendars



- May 7-11 — Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 15 — Kindergarten Musical, 9:15 am and 10:15 am
PTA Meeting/TJ Art Show/Ice Cream Social, TJ gym and cafeteria, 6:30 pm
- May 16-17 — TJ Art Show, TJ gymnasium
- May 20 — Spring Fling
- May 24 — Rising 2nd Grade Parent Information Night at TJ, 7:00 pm
- May 23 — "Dixie Power Trio," MD, 9:30 am
MD Art Show, 5:00 - 8:00 pm
- May 28 — Memorial Day, schools closed
- May 30 — "Dixie Power Trio," TJ, 9:00 am and 10:00 am
- June 15 — Last day of school

For a full 2006-07 PTA calendar, go to <http://www.fallschurchpta.org/pta-calendar.html>

and greater emphasis on skills acquired in higher education.

Second, at the 2007 National School Boards Association (NSBA) conference in San Francisco, I saw abundant signs that the drive for high achievement is reaching every school. Even before the federal No Child Left Behind Law was adopted, the NSBA had launched its achievement-focused campaign called the "Key Work of School Boards." That campaign is now in its seventh year and numerous conference workshops showed how schools in all parts of America are implementing the campaign in detail.

In spite of difficult budget challenges this year, I'm glad to say our school board showed a strong commitment to achieving success in an increasingly competitive environment.

Thank You!

TV Turnoff Week was a tremendous success and numerous people who helped deserve thanks. The Concert in the Park was coordinated by Kate Nesson (getting the band) and Surbhi Ashton (arranging for Ledo's pizza catering). The Book Swap was organized by Laura Nunley and Surbhi Ashton; the Pizza Sale that night was organized by April Rollins and Sue Neuhart with assistance from Heidi Jackson and Robin Tucker, and Alane O'Neill helped out with set up. Others involved with making TV Turnoff Week a success include Dave Goodwin, who ran the soccer clinic, and Julie Heminway and Kate Nesson, who rounded up prizes that will be given to those who participate.

Thanks to Kelly Marple for organizing the spring pictures and finding volunteers to help make sure the students were at their most pretty/handsome. TJ volunteers were Sylvia Malm and Kelly Miceli, and Mount Daniel volunteers were Mary Beth MacKinnon, Alane O'Neill, Jen Sausville, Megan Schlitt, and Kimberly Ho Schoelen.

A special thank you to the anonymous donor of the mascot costumes to the schools. The costumes were first used at the Family Party and will now reside at TJ and Mount Daniel to be used for future events.

Thank you to Gwyn Hicks for interviewing all of the 2007-08 Executive Committee nominees and writing up their bios for this issue.