



Mount Daniel Elementary  
 Grades K-1  
 2328 N. Oak Street  
 Falls Church, VA 22046  
 703-248-5640

FALLS CHURCH ELEMENTARY PTA

# THE ADVOCATE

[www.fallschurchpta.org](http://www.fallschurchpta.org)



Thomas Jefferson Elementary  
 Grades 2-4  
 601 S. Oak Street  
 Falls Church, VA 22046  
 703-248-5660

JUNE 2006

**FROM THE PRESIDENT**  
**Kathleen Donovan**

Like many of you, our family moved here excited for our children to become part of the Falls Church City Public Schools. We had very high expectations, and we feel incredibly fortunate that our wonderful schools have consistently exceeded those expectations. We also have been delighted to become part of a vibrant, caring and dedicated parent community.

Throughout the years that we have lived here, I have been inspired by the generosity and commitment of the many families here in our town. Whether it be volunteering in classrooms or on the playgrounds, holding the hand of a new kindergartner climbing the steps to Mount Daniel on the first day of school, chairing a PTA committee, applauding a child's school performance, meeting to problem-solve with teachers, or just sharing a joke at the bus stop, our community is filled with parents working hard to support our children and our terrific schools.

I firmly believe that strong parent partnerships with schools contribute directly to the success of students, and it is exciting to be a part of a community so devoted to the education of our children. It is a true privilege to serve as President of such a fantastic PTA.

I look forward to getting to know you better during the upcoming school year, and hope that you will feel free to contact me with your thoughts and ideas (and to volunteer!) at 703.534.4606, or via e-mail at [kathleendonovan@cox.net](mailto:kathleendonovan@cox.net).

As the school year concludes, I'd like to extend our appreciation to our outstanding principals, Mrs. Halayko and Mrs. Taylor, and all of the fabulous staff

members at Mount Daniel and TJ for a job well done! We are grateful for the quality education you provide to our children, and for your willingness to welcome parents as partners in the process.

Families and staff, please begin the summer with my warmest wishes that it be filled with rest, fun, and relaxation, and be a time to create wonderful memories with families and friends. Have a great summer!

*Few children learn to love books themselves. Someone has to lure them into the wonderful world of the written word, someone has to show them the way.*

— Oliver Prescott, *A Father Reads to His Children*

Summer brings to mind lazy days at the pool, road trips, and sleeping late, but it also provides lots of opportunities to read new and exciting books tied into your family's summer activities. Headed to San Francisco for vacation? Check out *Earthquake!: A Story of the San Francisco Earthquake*. Going to a Nationals game? Try the *Baseball Card Adventure* series. And spending time on the Eastern Shore immediately brings to mind *Misty of Chincoteague*. For other great book ideas, check out the lists on <http://www.fallschurchpta.org/resources.html>.

As added incentive, Mary Riley Styles Library is having a Summer Reading program called "Once Upon a Time." There are reading programs for all ages, from preschool to the Xtreme program for ages 12 and up. Special events and activities will be held throughout the summer.

The first day of registration is June 19. Every child that reads at least five books over the summer will receive a paperback book of their choice. For more details, see <http://www.fallschurchpta.org/resources.html> for a copy of the library brochure.



## NEWS FROM TJ

Trudy Taylor, Principal



It is hard to imagine that the year is actually drawing to a close. It has been a fun and exciting year and I hate to see it come to an end. All of the children have grown a great deal and are ready for a summer of relaxation as are all the staff.

It was nice seeing so many of you at several of our end-of-year events. The Native American Day on May 12 could not have happened without the dedicated efforts of Kathy Allan. We saw many educational demonstrations by our second graders and guests and it was certainly a fun day for everyone. Our Mile Run on May 19 had both third graders and fourth graders participating for the first time. Thank you to Julie Huber and Nathan Greiner for making this an enjoyable day for everyone. Seeing all of the students dancing on the blacktop to end the celebration was quite a sight.

The Art Show the week of May 15 never ceases to amaze us when we see all of the talents the children have demonstrated over the year. A huge thank you to Marc Robarge and all of the parent volunteers who helped to make this happen. The Ice Cream Social on the night of the opening of the Art Show is always one of the most fun events of the year. Thank you to our 4th grade team for being our "servers" for the evening. I would like to personally thank Laura Gogal for being a fantastic PTA President this year. She will be missed. It was also nice to be able to welcome Kathleen Donovan that evening as our new PTA President. We will look forward to a good year for the 06/07 school year! I also saw many of you at our Beginning Band Concert on May 25 when we all witnessed how much our 4th graders have learned since they first picked up their instruments last September. Those who were so brave to perform solos and duets deserve all of our admiration. I hope they all continue to play in the band next year.

To end out the month we had our Volunteer Luncheon on May 31 to thank all of you who have given so much of your time to help make TJ a wonderful place for students to learn. We so appreciate all you do for us!

As the year draws to a close, I hope all of you have a wonderful summer enjoying your children. It has been a pleasure to work with them this year and see them grow and learn. I know with all of the wonderful experiences you provide for your children that they will return to us next September eager to share their adventures and begin a new year of learning.

## NEWS FROM MOUNT DANIEL

Kathy Halayko, Principal



A very productive and happy year at Mount Daniel is coming to a busy conclusion. We are grateful to all of our families for the support and interest you have shown for the school program, your volunteer support in and outside of the classroom, and the kind notes of appreciation you have sent to the staff. We hope you are planning many wonderful summer events with family and friends that will include rest and relaxation for all of you.

The Mount Daniel addition continues to take shape, and we can clearly see how classrooms will look in September. Some construction plans have been ahead of schedule and others slightly behind depending upon a variety of delivery issues, etc. We remain hopeful that four new classrooms and four resource rooms will be ready by the opening of school in the fall. Teachers will be busy packing and sorting many years of school treasures during the summer. The lower playground will be expanded by adding upper playground equipment to what is already there. A large Danny slide will be added thanks to funding by the PTA over several years.

Speaking of treasures ... the Lost and Found Boxes in the foyer and in day care are overflowing with shirts, shoes, jackets, hats, and sweaters. Please take a look through the pile before the end of June to find anything you may be missing. These items will be donated the week of July 1 to a local charity.

Teachers and students are completing end of the year assessments and report cards will be mailed home to Mount Daniel families on June 23. Look for an enclosure about fun things families can do during the summer to keep children actively involved in reading and learning. We will miss all of you. We hope you will have time to enjoy each other during many peaceful summer days.

### BIE Brick Pathway

If you would like to order a brick for the brick pathway at George Mason High School, you can download the order form at <http://www.fallschurchpta.org/BrickPathOrderForm05-06.doc>. For more information, contact MaryBeth Connelly at 703-248-5691 or [connellym@fccps.org](mailto:connellym@fccps.org).

**Falls Church Elementary PTA  
PTA Officers and Committee Chairs 2006-2007**

**Officers**

|                         |                  |              |
|-------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| President               | Kathleen Donovan | 703-534-4606 |
| President Elect         | Catherine Beddow | 703-538-5519 |
| Vice President          | Chris Cook       | 703-237-0113 |
| Treasurer               | Jill Martin      | 703-533-0591 |
| Recording Secretary     | Megan Schlitt    | 703-536-7066 |
| Corresponding Secretary | Laurie Clark     | 703-237-6637 |

**Committees**

|                      |                       |              |
|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Advocate             | Laurie Clark          | 703-237-6637 |
| Art Show (TJ)        | Sandy Lewis           | 703-237-6931 |
|                      | OPEN                  |              |
| Art Show (MD)        | OPEN                  |              |
| Bilingual Outreach   | Nora Pischner         | 703-534-3758 |
|                      | OPEN                  |              |
| MD Book Fair         | Chris Cook            | 703-237-0113 |
|                      | Debbie Shantz-Hiscott | 703-534-3374 |
| TJ Book Fair         | Charlotte Hyland      | 703-237-6993 |
|                      | Tammy Gorman          | 703-536-4672 |
|                      | OPEN                  |              |
| Box Tops             | Lynette Kemp          | 703-533-3122 |
| Budget Watch         | OPEN                  |              |
| CFC                  | Executive Committee   | n/a          |
| Class Baskets/Raffle | Kathy Washa           | 703-536-8698 |
|                      | Christina Goodwin     | 703-536-2471 |
| Family Dance         | Rob & Gretchen Duffet | 703-534-2669 |
| Fine Arts            | Terri Tornell         | 703-536-0902 |
|                      | Sylvia Malm           | 703-532-6181 |
|                      | Eileen Zaenger        | 703-534-0086 |
|                      | Beckie Geren          | 703-538-1691 |
|                      | Lisa Ferguson         | 703-237-3433 |
| Grocery Bonus Bucks  | Katharine McGuire     | 703-533-3461 |
| Health Screening     | Melissa Dana          | 703-536-4493 |
| Hospitality          | Annette Hennessy      | 703-532-0240 |
|                      | Gabriella Abruzzi     | 703-538-1018 |
|                      | Mechelle Coppock      | 703-533-3942 |
| Ice Cream Social     | Elizabeth Friel       | 703-534-1666 |
| Info Fair            | Sarah Flanagan        | 703-237-0234 |
|                      | Jennifer Short        | 703-532-2799 |
| Library              | Surekha Cohen         | 703-532-1650 |
| Membership/Directory | Kate Nesson           | 703-533-0552 |
|                      | Carol Sly             | 703-538-6272 |
| Movie Nights         | Nancy DeLew           | 703-241-0033 |
|                      | Judy Lubnow           | 703-536-6713 |
|                      | Meg Haensel           | 703-241-9505 |
| Original Art Magnets | Lisa DeHart (MD)      | 703-531-1801 |
|                      | Nancy Romps (TJ)      | 703-241-7964 |
|                      | Laura Stricker (TJ)   | 703-534-1460 |

|                           |   |              |
|---------------------------|---|--------------|
| Outdoor Classroom MD      | Jackie Handly   | 703-533-2348 |
|                           | Raphael Pelaez  | 703-538-6612 |
|                           | Lisa Ferguson   | 703-237-3433 |
| Outdoor Classroom TJ      | Ann Divecha   | 703-532-4921 |
|                           | Mia Musolino  | 703-533-3423 |
|                           | Christine Nowroozi  | 703-532-7498 |
|                           | Kathy Allan   | 703-534-7772 |
| Picture Day Help          | Kelly Marple  | 703-534-5198 |
| Publishing Center         | Margaret Ward   | 703-533-0143 |
|                           | Melissa Surette   | 571-216-3434 |
| Recycling Coordinator     | OPEN  |              |
| Reflections               | Jen Cipriano  | 703-532-7609 |
|                           | Kathleen McCleary   | 703-532-7066 |
| Room Parent               | Ann Anderson  | 703-534-9826 |
| School Supplies           | Jackie Bossart  | 703-533-0529 |
| Spiritwear                | Sue Earman  | 703-538-5528 |
|                           | Raphael Pelaez  | 703-538-6612 |
| Spring Fling              | Beth West   | 703-536-1037 |
| Spring Plant Sale         | Jane & Kurt Rasmussen   | 703-533-2842 |
| Teacher/Parent Committee. | Reva Litton, Laurie Connole, Shey Wakeley Phyllis Kravinsky, Nan Hof, Debra Newman, Margaret Ward |              |
| Turn Off TV Week          | Kate Nesson   | 703-533-0552 |
|                           | Julie Hemingway   | 703-536-3049 |
|                           | Surbhi Ashton   | 703-533-3860 |
| Volunteer Coordinator     | Executive Committee   | n/a          |
| Website                   | Laurie Clark  | 703-237-6637 |
| Wrapping Paper            | Laurie Clark  | 703-237-6637 |
|                           | Laura Gogal   | 703-536-0471 |

### Get a Jump on Reflections!

The 2006-2007 theme for the Reflections Program is "My Favorite Place." Summer vacations, travel and leisure activities provide a great opportunity for your child to begin considering this theme for participation in the Reflections Program this fall. Look for more information in September or visit [reflections@vapta.org](mailto:reflections@vapta.org) for details.



The Reflections Program is an arts recognition and achievement program established by the National PTA in 1969. Students in preschool through grade 12 participate in the arts areas of literature, musical composition, photography, visual arts and two new categories — dance choreography and film/video production. The Reflections Program provides a venue for students to create and be recognized for original works of art based on the pre-selected theme, while increasing community awareness on the importance of the arts in education.

## Spring Fling: Around the World in an Afternoon

How was your trip to Indonesia last month? Did you visit Switzerland, too? Hopefully you made it to Greece, Madagascar and Korea. The mobs of Falls Church families who attended *Spring Fling: Around the World in an Afternoon* on May 21, were treated to all of those countries, and more.

Thank you to the hundreds of volunteers who made the day such great fun. Several deserve special thanks: Jen Goeman who coordinated all the volunteers, Muliani Lyng who organized all of the tables, tents and prizes; Carol Adcock, who ran the International Fashion Show; Tom Clinton, the jack-of-all-trades volunteer with the most tables and coolers in the City; Deepti Narain for organizing the Indian Dancers; Jane Cashin who kept the Cakewalkers hopping; and Tori McKinney for filling the dunk tank with willing dunkees.

Many thanks to these families who set up booths, and taught us about their countries:

The Randrianasolos and Andrianaivos: Madagascar; The De Souza family: France and Trinidad & Tobago; Jeanette Walters: Puerto Rico; The Horowitz family: Switzerland; Muliani Lyng: Indonesia; Deepti Narain, Anita Menon, Sarita Gopal, Nisha Sensharma, Meenu & Suman Bala, Suman Shukla, Aarti Nath, Shobha Dayal: India; Niki Wisemiller and her children: Greece; Mi Young Park and Duk Kim: Korea; Wojciech Zorniak: Poland; and Jane Cashin: Australia.

Attendees also enjoyed wonderful dancers from India: Abhijit Narain, Karan Bala, Sagar Dayal, Sapna Dayal, Shobha

Negi and Natasha Sukla; The Thistle Dancers from Scotland, including Sarah Alverson; performers from the Indonesian Embassy, courtesy of Muliani Lyng; and a Malagasy Rap performed by the Randrianasolo and Andrianaivo teens.

And, the Hurricane Relief Task Force raised several hundred dollars to donate to St. Bernard Parish schools through the willing dunk tank participants. Many thanks to the very soggy Timothy O'Connell, Kyle Evans, Jacob Steelman, Bill Abel, and Adam Moir for their willingness to be dunked.

— Marybeth Connelly

### Mark Your Calendars

Summer is a busy time for all of us, but there are several important Back-to-School dates to keep in mind:

Aug. 18 — Mount Daniel mails home Class Packets

Aug. 21 — TJ Class Packets can be picked up at TJ (all week)

Aug. 31 — Meet the Teacher

TJ: 1:00

MD — Preschool: 1:30, K: 2:00, 1st grade: 3:00

Sept. 5 — First day of school

Sept. 7 — Info Fair/Ice Cream Social in TJ gym and cafeteria

For a complete, official school calendar, check the district web site: <http://www.fccps.k12.va.us/> and click on Calendars on the right.

## This Month We Are Thankful To:

Gabby Abruzzi and Mechelle Coppock for organizing Teacher Appreciation activities.

Ann Anderson and all the room parents, for their dedication and support throughout the year.

Jackie Bossart for organizing the school supplies sale.

Marybeth Connelly, Jennifer Goeman, Carol Adcock, the Rasmussens, Muliani Lyng, and all of the volunteers that helped make our Spring Fling such a terrific day.

Debbie Coupard, Dottie Salvatierra, Carolyn Brown, Nisha Sensharma, Melissa Surette, Margaret Ward, and Steven Knight for their outstanding work on the 4th Grade Memory Books and other TJ Publishing Center projects.

Sandy Lewis and Mary Anne Carlson for the TJ art show

Muliani Lyng, the 4th grade team, and all of the volunteers at the Ice Cream Social.

Millie Sjoberg for coordinating the PTA volunteers for the Mount Daniel Art Show.

Laura Stricker for leading the excellent 4th grade moving-up celebration efforts.

The Executive Board — Laura Gogal, Catherine Beddow, Jill Martin, Megan Schlitt, and Laurie Clark and for their dedication and work on behalf of the PTA all year.

Parent volunteers at the Mile/Run Walk for directing students along the route, cheering and handing out water.

Parent volunteers for making the Mount Daniel cafeteria and playground safe for our children.

*The Advocate* is the newsletter of the Falls Church Elementary PTA

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](mailto:sclaurie@aol.com)