Kyle Downer and the Oakton football team defeated Westfield, 23-16, on Nov. 24 to win the Northern Region championship.

nna IECIHON

and Oakton

Oakton Wins Region Championship

AKTON

Sports, Page 12

Schools Using Diversity for Student Benefits Focus on Immigration, Page 8

Holiday Stroll Kicks Off Vienna Holiday Season

News, Page 3

November 28- December 4, 2012



- ----

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Saturday December 1, 2012 8AM to 2PM

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Senca Hill donates all its proceeds to local charities.

Seneca Hill Animal Hospital, Resort & Spa 11415 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, VA 22066 703-450-6760 www.senecahillvet.com Bulletin Board

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to vienns@ connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.



Donate to the Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce Children's Fund to benefit the Sixth Annual Children's Holiday Party, which hosts up to 60 at-risk, homeless children, providing them with gifts from Santa, "wish list" items, and supplies for crafts for them to use to make gifts for family members. 703-281-1333 or tana@LNF.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 1

Compass Homeschool Classes Registration. Through Dec. 15, at 2705 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Save 10 percent on tuition for third quarter classes starting Jan. 9; home schoolers in first through eighth grade can enroll. The school offers music, voice, drama, art, civics, anthropology, history, trigonometry, chess, Spanish, kumdo, literature, photography, mosaics, sciences, robotics and more. 703-544-5332 or www.compassclasses.com.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 5

McLean Children's Academy Open House. 9:30-11:30 a.m., 6900 Elm Street, McLean. The Kindergarten Enrichment and the morning, afternoon and full-day preschool classes invite families to tour the school and register for fall 2013. 703-734-2353 or www.childrensacademy.com.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 12

Networking Breakfast—The New Downtown Coming to Tysons. 7:30-9 a.m., at J. Gilberts Wood-Fired Steak and Seafood, 6930 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. Michael Caplin, executive director for Tysons Partnership, will be speaking. \$20 in advance for members; \$25 in advance for non-members; \$5 extra at door. Register online. www.mcleanchamber.org.

SATURDAY/JAN. 19

Oratorical Contest. 10 a.m., at the American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street N., Vienna. Students who wish to compete should submit their names by Jan. 11, 2013 to ronp555@yahoo.com. 703-867-1285 or http://legion180.net.forms.htm.

ONGOING:

Essay Contest, for third through 12th Grade. Essays answering the prompt "What freedom do I enjoy the most?" submitted to the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 180 of Vienna before March 1, 2013 will be considered in

 the competition. 703-242-7082.
 Volunteer to serve as a table leader for the Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce Ethics Day for George C. Marshall HS seniors on Friday, Dec. 7. JDLitz@fcpa.edu.

Everest College-Tysons Corner provides a free GED test preparation and credential completion program open to the public called GED Advantage. Call 1-888-201-6547 for more information.

Ongoing Coffee/Tea Poetry Group. Poets and poetry lovers in the McLean, Tyson's Corner, Falls Church and Vienna areas seek to form a group to meet once a month at a local coffee/tea shop to enjoy each other's creations. If interested contact Lily at 703 819-1690.

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

2 VIENNA/OAKTON CONNECTION * NOVEMBER 28 - DECEMBER 4, 2012

News

Vienna/Oakton Connection Editor Kemal Kurspahic 703-778-9414 or vienna@connectionnewspapers.com

You hear the blaring sirens before the antique fire engine comes into view. Santa Claus arrives in style to Vienna during the Church Street Holiday Stroll.



Photos by Donna Manz/ The Connection

Church Street Holiday Stroll Kicks Off Vienna Holiday Season

Santa, petting zoo, open shops, caboose, train station and toasted marshmallows highlight town's annual holiday event.

he Church Street Holiday Stroll is one of Vienna's most-awaited special events. Church Street closes during the evening on the Monday following Thanksgiving and turns into a festive old-fashioned community gettogether. There's holiday music, hot beverages, marshmallow-roasting, baby animals, seasonal decorations, and, of course, Santa Claus.

The temperature on Nov. 26, which nights before had been bone-chilling, turned mild for the Stroll,

See Stroll, Page 5



Hundreds of strollers mill around Freeman Store, the heart of the annual Church Street Holiday Stroll.



Xaviera Schrader, 7, has been coming to the Church Street Holiday Stroll since she was a baby. She asked Santa for Squinkies for Christmas. Elves are on-hand to help out Santa.



A fire pit for marshmallow roasting draws children and grown-ups to dancing flames.



Vienna artist Pauline Lorfano was voted Artist of the Year by members of the Vienna Arts Society.

Vienna Arts Society Hosts Treasury of Art

More than 150 juried pieces went on exhibit at community center.

he Vienna Arts Society's [VAS] 43rd Annual Treasury of Art Juried Show and Sale opened to the public on Friday, Nov. 16, closing on Nov. 18. During those three days, VAS exhibited more than 150 art pieces created by regional artists and hosted an award reception on opening night, all at the Vienna Community Center. Alexandria awardwinning artist and art teacher Peter Ulrich judged the exhibits.

"Each artist sees the world in a different way and all give us a rare insight into their individual worlds," said VAS president Grace Rooney in a written statement.

In a juried show, artists submit their pieces to a "juror," a judge. Pieces judged qualified for showing are exhibited and judged for award placement. All VAS art pieces were available for purchase, and prices ranged from \$35 for unframed "bin" pieces to \$6,000.

First-place went to Ardyth

Jolliff for her watercolor of a boat scene. Jill Banks took second place with her oil painting of a young woman in repose. Third place went to Cathy Lawless with her charcoal portrait. Honorable Mention went to Deborah Conn, Steven Gawarecki, Patricia Porter, Jacqueline Saunders and Florence Setzer. Many browsers said they

Many browsers said they came to the show because they like to see what the local artists do, as Ann Moody of Vienna said. Charlotte Potashnik of McLean said art takes her to "another place."

Vienna artist Pauline Lorfano was voted Artist of the Year by VAS members. Juror Ulrich awarded Steve Myles the Jean Johnston Memorial Award for his oil painting of a red barn standing out in snow. Johnston was a former VAS artist of the year and an active supporter of the Vienna Arts Society.

— Donna Manz



The 43rd Annual Treasury of Art Juried Show and Sale, sponsored by the Vienna Arts Society, exhibited more than 150 juried pieces created by the region's artists.

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

GIFT GUIDE





Vienna Drug Center, owned and operated by father and son Robert Borgatti, sells sweatshirts with a "Vienna" motif, both seasonal and year-round.

Robert Kim, of McLean, bought his father two 1.75L bottles of the Johnnie Walker Blue Label resting in a blue leather attaché case.

Out-of-the-Box Gift Ideas

Vienna gift shopping: libations, food, charity and festive apparel.



Karin's Florist sells electrified handcrafted German Schwibbogen [candle arch].

signed to reflect Alexander Walker's 1867 Scotch whisky.

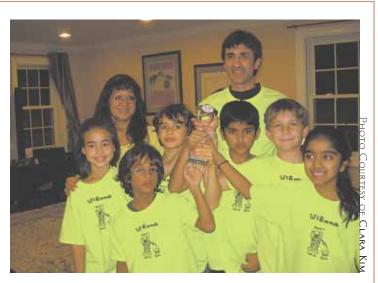
For the more adventuresome, there is a pronounced 31-year-old single malt from Highland Park for sale at the Vienna ABC for \$223.95 for the 750ML bottle. Only 50 bottles were allocated to Virginia and the Vienna store received four of them.

The Vienna ABC, Store # 231, is at 436 Maple Avenue East, across the street from Anita's. Phone 703-938-2476 to check on availability of products. The store will hold items in your name.

* Vienna Drug Center, owned by the Borgatti family, has been a fixture in Vienna since 1964. The family-friendly drug store sells prescription medicine, of course, but it also sells mementos of Vienna itself... "Vienna" stuffed bears, t-shirts and sweatshirts.

If you know someone who grew up with warm memories of Vienna, or if a Vienna neighbor has moved away, think about giving them a bit of Vienna to wear. The Vienna Drug Center sells Vienna-logo sweatshirts and T-shirts for children and adults,

See Gift Guide, Page 7



First row (left to right): Jacob Consalvi and Vani Subramanian. Second row: Christina Luckett, Max Golub, Shaurya Saran and Christopher Gardner. Third row: Neena Scaria Consalvi (assistant coach) and Jim Consalvi (coach).

Vienna Lego Team Places at Regionals

Fourth grade team, the Rockin' Seniorbots, advance to VA-DC FLL Robotics State Championship Tournament.

he Vienna Rockin' Seniorbots, a group of fourth graders from Vienna, won the Second Place Champions Award at the 2012-13 VA-DC FIRST LEGO League Robotics Regional Tournament held in Haymarket, Va on Saturday, Nov. 17. The team members — who all hail from Louise Archer Elementary School are Jacob Consalvi, Christopher Gardner, Max Golub, Christina Luckett, Shaurya Saran, and Vani Subramanian.

The team of fourth-graders competed in the Haymarket 1 Region, Division 1 (ages 9-14) in which 24 teams participated. throughout the state.

The Champions Award is given to two teams in each regional division with best overall performance in four judging categories: Robot Design; research about this year's theme of Senior Solutions; Core Values, including teamwork; and Robot Performance.

As a result, the Vienna Rockin' Seniorbots were selected to compete at the VA-DC FLL Robotics State Championship Tournament at Harrisonburg, Va. on Dec. 8-9.

There were over 500 teams that participated in FLL robotics regional tournaments

Holy Comforter Episcopal Church **Sponsors Alternative Gift Fair**

On Dec. 1 and 2, Northern Virginians can make their holiday gift buying more meaningful by shopping at Holy Comforter's Alternative Gift Fair at 543 Beulah Rd NE, Vienna. The holiday market is supported by Fair Trade Winds, an exclusively fair trade retail store in Fairfax City. Fair Trade Winds brings a unique look to the fair, with a huge inventory and hard-to-find artisans' handcrafts from countries all over the world. The Alternative Gift Fair will take place on Saturday from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. and Sunday, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Once again, Holy Comforter's St. Nicholas Festival will coincide with the Alternative Gift Fair, offering children the chance to shop for gifts in the "Secret Santa" Shop. Santa's elves will be on hand to assist children with purchases, gift-wrapping and card making, while parents can browse the Alternative Gift Fair. There will be a special appearance by St. Nicholas along with crafts, face painting, caroling and fair trade hot cocoa to round out the festivities. The St. Nicholas Festival will take place from 1:30-4:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1.

For more information, contact Bobby Monacella at 703-598-3498 or bmonacella@verizon.net. Further information can also be found at www.holycomforter.com.

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

By Donna Manz The Connection

ou can still "escape" the shopping malls, if you want... just because we're inching closer to Chanukah and Christmas does not mean panic. The gifts that come from the heart, the ones customized for their recipients, are always welcomed.

The Connection offers out-of-the-ordinary gift ideas that are born of the spirit of giving in this second holiday gift guide.

Vienna's ABC store actually sells some pretty high-end products that are the kind of gifts people love to receive but usually will not spend money on for personal use. Rare Scotch frequently is one of those things. The ABC on Maple Avenue comes to the rescue with an offering of very rare aged Scotch.

Whether it's a "thanks, Honey, for all you do" gift, or "thanks for my college education," or the ultimate corporate gift, nothing says "I spared no expense for you" like a very expensive bottle of Johnnie Walker blended Blue Label or Highland Park 31-year-old single malt.

On sale through the end of November is a 750ML bottle of Johnnie Walker Blue Label—the company's most upscale Scotch—selling for \$199.95. On Dec. 1, the 750ML bottle reverts to its regular price of \$229.95. A better value, not a bargain but a better value, is the 1.75L of the Blue, resting in a blue leather attaché case. You get a half a gallon of the Blue Label for \$299.95, down from \$479.95. These big bottles are selling out. A young man came in for two of the 1.75L bottles one day. The flavor is de-

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News

Jon Vrana, in period dress (mid-19th century), plays the mandolin on Freeman Store's front porch.

Holiday Stroll

From Page 3

inspiring families to linger and socialize. Hundreds and hundreds turned out to stop at all the activities.

At 6 p.m., music began on the Church Street stage across the street from Santa's workshopaka Freeman House-and hundreds of babies, kids and adults began milling about, waiting for the arrival of the man-of-the-season, Santa Claus. Shortly after 6:20 p.m., sirens blared from a distance, and the stage emptied. The Volunteer Vienna Fire Department's new fire engine made its Vienna debut, leading the way for the antique fire truck carrying Santa. From aboard the back of the truck, Santa Claus stood, waving to his legions of friends. Santa and Mayor M. Jane Seeman joined together to throw the switch lighting the Town holiday tree sitting at Church and Mill streets.

On the steps of Freeman Store and Museum, popularly known as Freeman House, Santa sat listening to children recite their Christmas lists. Freeman Store, with its potpouri of nostalgic toys and made-in-Virginia products, opened for sales, the shop decorated in greenery created by the Ayr Hill Garden Club.

The Church Street Holiday Stroll offered a petting zoo, free hot chocolate, and marshmallows for roasting over a bonfire. The caboose, maintained by the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna, opened up for families to walk through.

The Church Street Holiday Stroll is sponsored by Historic Vienna, Inc., Church Street merchants and the Town of Vienna.

—Donna Manz www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Did you know?

60% of adults in families that were homeless were employed



Put the ZIP on Homelessness by wearing jeans December 14 in exchange for a \$5 contribution to the Fairfax-Falls Church Partnership to Prevent & End Homelessness.

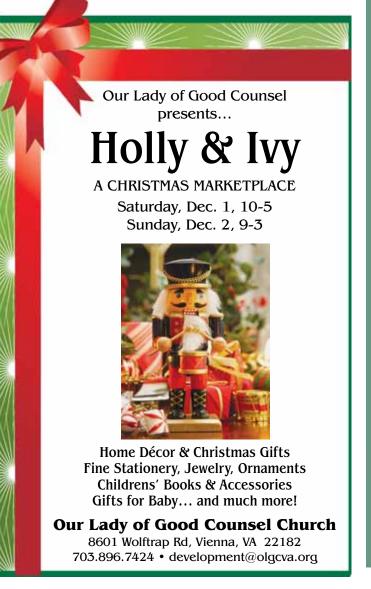
Learn More & Sign Up

http://jeansday2012.eventbrite.com

In 2011, more than 100 employers representing 3,000 employees participated in this community-wide give-back initiative. Help us boost those numbers in 2012!









The Fairfax Choral Society presents...



Vienna/Oakton Connection & November 28 - December 4, 2012 & 5

OPINION Learning in a Global Community

Students in Fairfax County speak 160 languages.

his week our ongoing series about immigration in Fairfax County takes a look at county schools, and some of the joys and challenges of having a diverse student body that speaks as

many as 160 different languages at home. Find the series compiled online at http:// www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/Immigration/.

For the director of language acquisition in Fairfax County Public Schools, the 44 percent of students who speak a foreign language at home present an opportunity to create language immersion classes where half a kindergarten is learning Spanish or Korean while the other half is learning English.

For principals of some elementary schools where more than half of their students are not proficient in English, the need to have students meet benchmarks in a variety of subjects is a relentless process. In addition to limited English, immigrant students come from varied backgrounds, some with good basics in their

his week our ongoing series about immigration in Fairfax County takes a look at county schools, and own languages and some with limited previous education in any language. The parents of these students are similarly varied.

Meanwhile, representation of Latino and African American students in Fairfax County's top instructional centers for gifted students lags dramatically.

EDITORIAL FCPS is conducting two critical sets of public meetings this week and next. The call for pub-

lic input is not specifically about growing diversity in the schools, but related challenges make both the possible expansion of centers for the county's most talented students and the selection of a new superintendent of schools that much more important.

A fast moving proposal to expand the number of centers to provide "advanced academic" services is the topic of meetings this week. The meetings will run from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 27, in the Westfield High School cafeteria; Wednesday, Nov. 28, in the Lee High School cafeteria; and Thursday, Nov. 29, in the Kilmer

Middle School cafeteria.

Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Jack Dale will be retiring in June of 2013. The School Board has hired a search firm, Hazard, Young, Attea and Associates, which will be gathering community input. Many of the challenges facing the new superintendent will revolve around growing diversity, and a track record of open communication and achievement in this will be key to success.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Dec. 3 - 7 p.m., cafeteria, South County HS, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton, VA 22079.

- Dec. 4 7 p.m., cafeteria, Langley HS, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean, VA 22101.
 Dec. 5 - 7 p.m., cafeteria, Robinson SS, 5035
- Dec. 5 7 p.m., careteria, Robinson 33, 3033
 Sideburn Road, Fairfax, VA 22032.
 Dec. 6 10 a.m. Gatehouse Administration Center,
- 8115 Gatehouse Road, Falls Church, VA 22042 Room 1600.
 Dec. 6 - 7 p.m., cafeteria, Annandale HS, 4700
- Medford Drive, Annandale, VA 22003.

Room 1600

 Dec. 6 - 7 p.m., cafeteria, Groveton Elementary School, 6900 Harrison Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306.
 Dec. 7 - 1 p.m., Gatehouse Administration Center, 8115 Gatehouse Road, Falls Church, VA 22042

Focus on Immigration

Immigrants and Today's Faith Response

By John Horejsi, Coordinator Social Action Linking Together (SALT)

he presence of increasing numbers of immigrants is a challenge to the Fairfax County faith community commitments. The challenge is to be a faith community with open arms.

Historically the churches in the United States have been immigrant churches. Who among us cannot trace one's ancestors back to a country outside the U.S.? The church's care and concern for countless European immigrants is well known. Today, we the faith community are called to welcome immigrants with similar hospitality.

The situation of immigrants is often desperate. Entering a culturally strange and different land, and struggling financially is as scary today as it ever was in the past. Perhaps it is even more so because of the quickened pace of American life.

Those who are fortunate to connect with helpers are settled within a few years. Others remain in transition the rest of their lives as families struggle with complex adjustments. All face major problems in housing, employment, health care, legal assistance, and a difficult new language.

Immigrants frequently face the additional obstacle of cruel prejudice and racism. Nonimmigrants often want to exclude them from the benefits of a free country, yet are eager to use cheap and reliable labor of immigrants.

The immigrants and other refugees keep coming, not necessarily because they want to,

Write

Us



but as one, fleeing from war and persecution, put it, because of "the persistent advantage of life over death."

Presently, many Hispanics from Central America are located in Northern Virginia. About 65 percent are Salvadoran, 15 percent Honduran, and 10 percent each are Guatemalan and Nicaraguan. The faith community in Northern Virginia has not been unaware of the presence and plight of these immigrant refugees.

Nationally, for more than 65 years, Catholic Charities agencies have responded to the needs of people who come to this country in search of a better life. Thousands of refugees have been settled. Over 90 percent of Catholic resettlement services are provided through Catholic Charities, which is one of the keys to the future of migration ministry in the U.S.

In Northern Virginia, one of the responses of the faith community has been through Hogar Immigrant Services, a program of Catholic Charities. Hogar assists immigrants in participating more fully in their everyday lives. Information referrals, legal information services, and educational opportunities are just some of the aids. The aim is to help the Northern Virginia immigrant population become knowledgeable, participating individuals in society.

Yet much remains to be done, especially in and by the faith community. What are the elements of this challenge?

Recognizing the contributions of the immigrants to the community;

Providing a greater voice to the immigrant community in decision-making within the community;

Supporting programs designed to improve the quality of life for newcomers;

Serving as advocates to create a favorable public opinion out of which good things can happen; and

Seeking to raise consciousness for solidarity with the poor and the stranger.

Our response must be to acknowledge by word and action that the spirituality of the faith community and the spirituality of the immigrant communities are interdependent. Through love, kindness, service and advocacy for each other both stand to gain.



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The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include

home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

GIFT GUIDE

From Page 4

stuffed bears sporting a "Vienna" T-shirt, and "Seasons Greetings from Vienna" sweatshirts with iconic Vienna graphics.

The irresistible (well, to some of us they are) season's greetings sweatshirts are \$16.99 and the more elaborate—read "glittery" are \$18.99. Kids' T-shirts are \$9.99, and kids' sweatshirts are \$11.99.

The store also has an extensive selection of Virginia Diner peanuts and cashews and almonds. Peanuts come as chocolate-covered, smoked Cajun, Old Bay-seasoned, zesty "tailgate" snack mix, mesquite barbecue, butter toasted and more. Virginia Diner salted and unsalted peanuts are \$6.50 for 10 ounces, what you would pay if you bought direct from Virginia Diner. The nuts also come in larger 18ounce cans. The peanuts, flavored and unadorned, are big sellers at Vienna Drug Center.

Vienna Drug Center, (next to Magruder's),150 Maple Ave. West, Vienna; phone 703-938-7111.

* Culinaria Cooking School

on Pleasant Street offers cooking single-session cooking classes and series classes, either as demonstration or participation. They offer gift cards, too, a great way for moms, couples, friends, teens and kids to master another art. Here's the best part ... maybe, you'll be lucky-enough to be treated to a gourmet dish cooked up by the recipient.

Culinaria, founded four years ago in Vienna, offers regional, international and ethnic cuisine, wine classes, healthful dishes, techniques classes and specialty classes, taught by trained chefs.

A French Provencal winter dinner, a participation class, comes up on Dec. 7, and costs \$75 per person. A holiday brunch, on Dec. 8, is also \$75. Classes run in daytime and evening hours.

The school will host bridal showers, birthday parties and teambuilding exercises.

Culinaria Cooking School is located at 110 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. For class schedule, pricing, chef bios and a most appetizing website, see www.culinariacookingschool.com.

Phone is 703-865-7920.

* Karin's Florist is best known for its floral design and flower selection. It also creates on-site, gourmet gift baskets that can be shipped anywhere in the world.

The pre-made gift baskets usually include chocolate and delicacies. The made-to-order baskets can be customized to the wishes of the purchaser, including the

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

addition of wine or champagne. Prices range from \$40 to \$40,000, incorporating whatever the customer wants, said Director of Operations Jim Tully.

Karin's sells unique holiday ornaments and decorations, as well. Its three-dimensional electrified hand-crafted wood "candle" arches [Schwibbogen] from Germany cost approximately \$95.

Alas, the five-foot tall toy soldier that has stood guard during the holiday season is gone ... A velvet-

Discover the Magic of the Holiday Season

Beautiful Ornaments and Ribbon

Custom Wreaths, Centerpieces and Bows

Live, Fresh Cut and Everlasting Trees and Greens

Holiday Plants · Wonderful Gift Ideas

HOLIDAY DECORATING CLASSES - DEC. 1 AT 10 AM

Fair Oaks: Decorate with Holiday Greens Gainesville: Decorate Your Home for the Holidays

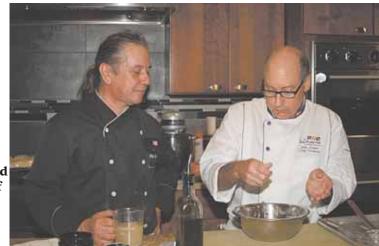
Holiday hours: Mon. - Sat. 8 am - 9 pm, Sun. 9 am - 7 pm

f merrifieldgardencenter.com

clad Kris Kringle [\$1,100] takes his place as well as he can. Tully said the holiday flowers, the reds and greens, are coming in now.

Karin's' Florist is located at 527 Maple Ave East, Vienna; phone is 703-592-0952.

> Pete Snaith, co-founder and executive vice president of Culinaria Cooking School, and Culinaria chef and instructor Mike Selman demonstrate preparation.





703-425-5588 SunDesignInc.com info@SunDesignInc.com



STEINBACH NUTCRACKER EVENT

Gainesville: Nov. 29, 4 - 8 pm

Merrifield: Dec. 5, 12 - 3 pm

Fair Oaks: Dec. 5, 4 - 8 pm

📕 with Karla Steinbach

 $() \square D A Y$ Show love to friends and family with a unique

Visit the "Real"

and Gainesville Santas

ner website for the full schedule

gift they will cherish for years to come. **Check out Pear Tree Cottage's**

Annual Holiday Sale now through Sunday and receive 20% -75% OFF.

Ranked one of the best boutiques in the DC region. (2009-2012).

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Photo by Donna Manz/The Connection

George C. Marshall High School has a student population representing more than 90 nations.

Рното в Donna Manz

Marshall High Is the Face of Fairfax County

Ninety-plus countries represented by student population.

By DONNA MANZ academics-only that define your

Corner United Nations, so to ency. speak. Many of the students come for the prestigious I.B. (In-Vienna. From Italian to Swahili, there is a myriad of languages nations.

world," said principal Jay and the Netherlands. Pearson. "Our kids cross so accustomed to moving between groups of students from everywhere, so, there aren't 'cliques.'

Fairfax County is in 2012."

pressuring than schools outside the U.S. In other countries, it is

8 VIENNA/OAKTON CONNECTION * NOVEMBER 28 - DECEMBER 4, 2012

THE CONNECTION **future**, a selected group of students said in the recent discussion with he schools that feed into Pearson and an interviewer. In the George C. Marshall U.S., the students said, you have High School are the aca- extracurricular programs that endemic home to children from all hance the total person. What the over the world. It's not surpris- U.S. does not have, however, that ing, then, that Marshall is an in- international schools stress, is an ternational community, a Tysons emphasis on foreign language flu-

English is a compulsory curriculum in many school systems the ternational Baccalaureate), but world over. Some students, such as most are in the Marshall district, Kasthury Paramiswaran, a which embraces students from Marshall senior from Malaysia, Tysons to the far-reaches of speak multiple languages, fluent in each. Kasthury's family moved around the world as part of her native to Marshall's students, father's job, and Kasthury mastered who represent more than 90 four languages in her journeys. She said she still works very hard in her "Marshall has an international I.B. subjects, getting "A"s in every student body from all walks of one of her classes. She is applying life, from the four corners of the to colleges in the United Kingdom

Jia Loh, a Malaysian native who many boundaries. We don't re- has been in the U.S. for two years, fer to it as 'diversity," Pearson said the transition to schools here said. "For our students, this is was "hard," even though the acathe norm. These kids are very demic environment is less intense than in Malaysia.

"I had to adjust to different cultures. It was hard to find friends "We are the face of what who share my culture."

Dalila Ferrara's family moved around Italy; her father is in the **FIVE INVITED STUDENTS** military there. In the early 1990s, gathered in a roundtable discus- he was assigned to a U.S. base in sion at Marshall recently. What Texas and his experience there was they agreed on is that American not a good one. "He warned me not schools are less-intense aca- to tell people I'm Italian," Dalila demically, less-academically said. "He told me not to be proud

See Curriculum, Page 10

VIEWPOINTS

What was your biggest concern or fear when moving to U.S. schools?

Kasthury Paramiswaran. senior. Malaysia

"I had a close group of friends there and I didn't

know anybody here," on leaving Malaysia when she had made friends in her native high school. "I still work very hard in my [I.B.] classes."

Dalila Ferrara,

junior, Italy "Actually, I was really happy to move here. My only fear was that I wouldn't be accepted. That didn't happen. My biggest dream is to get an MBA from Harvard."

Millan Mbise, senior, Tanzania

"The cultural aspect. For example, in Tanzania there is little interaction

with teachers. The teachers are strict, classes are very intense. It's more diverse, well-rounded not like that here. I played varsity musicians, not just musisoccer last year and that helped me a lot with the transition to Marshall.

"I figured out what I wanted to do with my life when I moved here. I want to be a pharmacist."



"Marshall has an

student body from

international

all walks of life,

from the four

corners of the

world ... We are

the face of what

in 2012."

Fairfax County is

- George C. Marshall High

School Principal Jay

Pearson

Malaysia "Mv biggest fear was finding friends. Still find it hard

Jia Loh,

senior,

—Donna Manz

to join cliques. Most of my friends are international students. I'm still working on that part of the transition. My dream is to find a high-paying job I like, accounting or law."

> Amber Holder, senior, Panama "My biggest fear was that I wouldn't

have the same friends throughout my academic career. My dream is to establish a music education system that would produce cians who are skilled in just one instrument."

Focus on Immigration Schools Using Diversity for Student Benefits

Immersion, ESOL programs aim to take "We highly value the diversity advantage of area cultures. of our population, because Janet Funk, principal of Gunston Elementary School in Lorton, it's advantageous for our where approximately 300 students GREAT FALLS BY ALEX MCVEIGH population. The Korean students come from a home where another students to grow up here, as FORESTVILL language is spoken, says everyday THE CONNECTION who are in the program all could interaction with new cultures is an speak a little English global citizens." "The program is a niche that fits s Fairfax County has eximportant part of early education. very well in our community. For the perienced massive "Interesting conversations can be — Teddi Predaris, director of the county's ARMSTRONG native English speakers, it helps heard in the lunchroom, especially growth in its interna-**Office of Language Acquisition** tional population, its efthem understand more about the when students from other coun-COLVIN RUN fects have spread to its educational culture of the people they share FOREST EDGE tries bring their food from home. TCHISON HERNDON institutions. Forty-four percent of the community with every Children are very interested in LAKE ANNE the Fairfax County Public Schools bringing their favorite foods, which day. It gives everyone more CHURCHILL ROAD SPRNG HILL naturally flows to a discussion of students come from homes that understanding of the MCNAR DOGWOOD speak a language other than Enpeople that walk traditions and celebrations," she glish, which includes 160 different through our doors said. "With these informal discus-WOLFTRAP every day," said FOX MILL sions, the students learn the imporlanguages. UNTERS WOODS KENT GARDENS WESTBRIAR In 2006, the county came up tance of accepting classmates for 38,760 Fairfax who they are. This supports our CROSSFIELD FREEDOM HILL FUNT HILL EMON ROAD **County elementary** goal of cultural acceptance an col-FLINT HILL HAYCOCK VENNA school students (44 laborative interaction among our LEES CORNER percent) speak a school community." CUNNINGHAM PA NAVY POPLAR TREE language other than But with such diversity comes HALL ROAD ROOKFIELD TIMBERLANE "We highly value the diversity of English at home. challenges, especially when it WAPLES MIL PINE SPRINGBEECH our population, because it's advancomes to Standards of Learning GREENBRIAR WEST PINE SE VIRGINIA RUN CUB RUN tests. WESTLAWN SLEEPY HOLLOW GLEN ! "Classroom teachers and ESOL DEER PARK DEER PARKOREENBRIAR WEST EAGLE VIEW teachers work diligently to help the MANTUA CAMELOTWOODBURNBEECH TREE LONDON TOWNE students learn the English lan-BELVEDER guage. Many of our students from FAIRFAX VILLA NOODBURN OLDE CREEK other countries are still learning OLDE CREEK LITTLE RUNWAKEFIELD FORESTANNANDALE TERRACE CENTRE RIDGE English and are reading below OAK VIEW UREL RIDGE CANTERBURY WOODS Approximately 28 percent of the BRADDOCK grade level expectations," Funk CENTREVILLE BULL RUN said. "These students receive reading instruction in the classroom FARVEW BONNIE BRAE CAMER setting and the ESOL class-OAKVIEW HINGS GLEA LYNBROOK BUS BUSH HILL CLERMONT room. They are receiving a MOUNTEAGLE 'double' dose of reading on common languages spoken in the Principal Linda KEENE MILL ROSEHILL BELLE VIEW KEENE MILL Clifford. "Walking into a a regularly scheduled bahomes of elementary school stu-WEST SPRINGFIELDGARFIELD classroom the other day, I was GROVETONBUCKNELL sis. However, when it CHERRY RUN CLIFTON The county's kindergarten twoamazed at how many non-Korean comes time to take the DRANGE HUNT FORESTDALE HYBLA VALLEY way immersion program is one students were able to understand HUNT VALLEY SOL tests, they are remethod used by schools to take Korean very well." quired to take the test on MOUNT VERNON WOODS SARATOGA ISLAND CREE Clifford said she hopes in future advantage of increasing diversity. grade level in a lan-WAYNEWOOD The program consists of half Enyears that the school can expand guage in which they are NEWINGTON FOREST RIVERSIDESTRATFORD LAN SILVERBROOK glish speakers and half who speak the program beyond kindergarten, not proficient." WOODLEY HILLS In Virginia, SOL tests the immersion language. eventually to every grade at the LAUREL HILL "In this program, the teachers school. The school also offers an must be taken in English, WASHINGTON MILL LORTON STATIO FORT BELVOIR after school program to all students but in Texas, for example, HALLEY who are interested in learning Kowhere they have little to standardized tests can be taken in rean, and they even have a preno schooling. There's al-Spanish ways a silent period in school program to teach immigrant the beginning, but periing these programs is having a families about school programs **CHANGES** to the state's licensure 21 - 162 and other information they might ods like lunch and recess requirements this year have also caused some difficulties. This year, non-English speaking group to not otherwise be familiar with beallow the Spanish speak-GUNSTON 163 - 261 make a 50-50 mix possible. This is fore their children start school. ers to talk among themthe state required teachers in elementary school programs to not Students in the program at selves, which helps open 262 - 368 only be licensed in their language, Bailey's Elementary take health, them up. Children learn math and science in their native most of their language but also for elementary education. The county has five Spanish kin-369 - 502 dergarten two-way immersion pro- language. As a magnet school, stu-"We've struggled this year due to from each other, so havgrams, at Bailey's, Braddock, Lake dents from across the county can ing native speakers of the new requirement," Charlton 503 - 719 Anne, London Towne and Rose Hill apply, which the school uses mainly both languages helps said. "We've had to use some long-Elementary Schools. New this year to fill its English-speaking require- both groups immensely. Another area of growth has been term subs until as recently as two ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

with the goal to eventually have all graduates be able to communicate in two languages. The county currently offers 11 different languages

tageous for our students to grow up here, as global citizens," said Teddi Predaris, director of the county's Office of Language Acquisition. "We believe it's a huge asset for our students in their future endeavors."

county's current population are foreign born, with Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese, Arabic, Urdu and Chinese/Mandarin being the most dents.

and students are language models for each other, and they spend half the day working at each language," Predaris said. "Our criteria for addlarge enough population of the one of the models we hope to expand in coming years."

is a Korean two-way immersion ment. School in Centreville.

POWELL was designed to take ad- sistant Principal Rachel Charlton. vantage of the area's large Korean

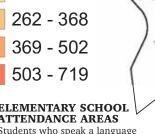
www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



Each group of native speakers ATTENDANCE AREAS school at Colin Powell Elementary "The native Spanish speakers" gets to be the language role Students who speak a language other than English at home come to Bailey's with a wide range model for half a day, with the of English skills, depending on other students learning from them. **THE PROGRAM AT COLIN** where they come from," said As- It really boosts their confidence." immersion programs in Japanese, German and French at elementary "Some come from very rural areas **COUNTY SCHOOLS** also feature and middle schools.



cult to find people."



the county's English for Speakers or three weeks ago before we had of Other Languages program, enough full time teachers that met which started 35 years ago with qualifications. Now I think the uni-300 students. Since then it has seen versities are aware of the change, a steady increase, with 15,000 in so it might be better in future years, fiscal year 2001 and 31,000 this but it can definitely make it diffivear.

Vienna/Oakton Connection * November 28 - December 4, 2012 * 9

We Are the World, at Garfield

Teachers discuss challenges of teaching English as a Second Language.

By Michelle Kain The Connection

arfield Elementary School in Springfield, like all of Fairfax County, has a population that reflects a wide range of backgrounds. With 33 languages spoken, the school's ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) program has had to expand. The school has a first grade class of 60 students, 58 of whom are ESOL students ranging from levels one through four.

Jane Cofie-Raczko, who has been a teacher for the past 13 years, teaches one of three first grade classes in which all 20 of th English as a second language.

The majority of these students are from Hispanic or Middle Eastern backgrounds and common languages include Spanish, Arabic, Urdu, Farsi, Korean, Chinese and Vietnamese. The challenges involved with teaching these students depend on their proficiency with the English language.

"For students who speak almost no English, it can be difficult to communicate to the students that you want them to succeed and that you are there to help them. It can also be difficult to get the students to ask for help, mostly due to their lack of confidence in their speaking ability. For students with a better knowledge of the social language, it can be tough to give them a similarly strong academic language. Add the already difficult material to learning English for the first time and it can be very challenging," said Cofie-Raczko.

"The success of the students with the curriculum and their preparedness for middle and high school depends on the schooling they received in their home country as well as when they enrolled



Jane Cofie-Raczko gives her first grade class the details regarding their upcoming test.

grade classes in which all 20 of the students have English as a second language. at Garfield," said Rozi Khakpour, an ESOL teacher at Garfield Elementary.

Students who have attended Garfield from the start get the opportunity to develop oral language at an early age through programs such as Lunch and Bunch in which kindergartners with English as a second language meet twice a week to have lunch and practice this important skill.

The program, along with others, have proven to be successful as "students who have been at Garfield since kindergarten often exceed in high school and earn positions on the honor roll," Khakpour said.

"Another thing that has proven to be helpful," said Kirsten Howard, another first grade teacher, "is Garfield's social curriculum." This social curriculum, which concentrates on teaching students cooperation, assertion, responsibility, empathy, and self-control, has given students a greater awareness outside themselves and has helped them in middle in high school as demonstrated by their willingness to take on leadership positions.



Mariana Del Cid-Quintanilla, Spanish, Parents from El Salvador



Yusuf Ouanina, Arabic, Morocco



Anmul Jan, Pashtu, Born in Pakistan



Tracy Huynh, Vietnamese, Vietnam



Michael Opuni, Akah, Parents from Ghana (Michael born in US)



Mohammed (Jafar) Abdulridna, Arabic, Iraq

Focus on Immigration 'Hidden Curriculum'

From Page 8

of being Italian." Dalila carried that warning with her when she entered Marshall. The dire warning turned out to have no basis at her new school. "When I tell people here I'm Italian, they say, 'oh, I love Italy' and then, I'm so relieved. Yes, I am proud to say I'm Italian here."

In Italy, it was always school and studying through late evening, Dalila said. She had no social life there.

"When I came here, it was such a relief," she said. "I was so happy I finally had time for myself."

Millan Mbise, from Tanzania, was pleasantly surprised by the degree of interaction between students and teachers. Teachers are less approachable than in the U.S. Millan, whose native language is Swahili, grew up speaking English, up their native language. "Studies show that bilingual stu-

dents do better academically."

Bloom said the school helps newly-immigrated students to transition by embracing the families as they enter the school. Relationship-building is how he refers to the partnership. "When you establish that relationship with new families from other countries, you get rid of a lot of hurdles. When you do that, the families feel valued and a part of the Freedom Hill family. We have students learning from one another simply from their exposure to each other."

The children of Freedom Hill Elementary School are so accustomed to establishing relationships within the classroom, they don't recognize barriers, Bloom said. "It's a representation of the world."

Bloom refers to the school's di-

"There's so much value in having a school where children from all over the world can come together."

- Scott Bloom, Freedom Hill principal

as well. English is compulsory in the schools, and, Millan calls it the "unofficial" language of Tanzania.

Millan is bused from Marshall daily to Falls Church High School for a class in "pharmacy technology." He learned what he wanted to do with his life while living here and attending an American school. He wants to be a pharmacist some day.

FREEDOM HILL ELEMEN-TARY SCHOOL feeds into the Marshall pyramid. Like Marshall, Freedom Hill is the world in microcosm. There are more than 42 languages spoken in the students' homes and the children of Freedom Hill represent more than 53 countries. Some Freedom Hill students are from diplomatic families, already bilingual or multilingual with English exposure. Others are new to English. The school, through its many ESOL levels, works with these students to help them adapt to English.

"Within the realm of school, the kids are held accountable to communicate in the English language," said first-year Freedom Hill principal Scott Bloom. As the kids interact with their peers, they pick up English. totd, 'if you're not the best, you'll never succeed." Amber Holder has found a multitude of extracurricular activities to engage in. In Panama, there was only a single option. Here, she said, she's involved with the

"I like to think we also recognize the importance of kids having that dual-language skill," Bloom said. "We want them to learn English, but, we don't want them to give versity as a "hidden curriculum."

"There's so much value in having a school where children from all over the world can come together," Bloom said. "You set the stage for the children to share their history, backgrounds, culture, and experiences. "There's so much power in bringing all these different cultures together that I think it's justified to call it a hidden curriculum.

"The kids don't even know they're learning from this diversity."

Marshall's roundtable students eager to discuss their new lives all said that school life is more pressured in their native countries with little opportunities within the school system to learn nonacademic things. Schools do not promote extracurricular activities as they do here.

"Students are pushed by their parents to excel academically in Malaysia," Kasthury said. "Many of these kids commit suicide. They're told, 'if you're not the best, you'll never succeed."

Amber Holder has found a multitude of extracurricular activities to engage in. In Panama, there was only a single option. Here, she said, she's involved with the marching band, the literary magazine and other programs. "In Panama, you have to find one place to fit in. But, here, you can fit in in many places."

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

ENTERTAINMENT

Send announcements to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 28

Dialogue & Friendship Dinner: Education for Peace. 6:30 p.m., Tysons Corner Marriott, 8028 Leesburg Pike, Tysons Corner. The American Turkish Friendship Association and the Rumi Forum Fairfax bring officials, leaders and representatives from faith communities, businesses, media and academia together for dinner and speakers on education for peace. 703-267-5751 or rsvp@atfa.us.

THURSDAY/NOV. 29

Tysons Regional Annual Holiday Mixer. 5:30-7:30 p.m., at the Bank of Georgetown, 1850 Towers Crescent Plaza, Suite 100, Vienna. New member of the Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce, Bank of Georgetown, kicks off the holiday season at their new location in Tysons Corner; food from Dutch Mill Catering, networking and holiday cheer included. \$15, members; \$20, non-members.

FRIDAY/NOV. 30

- Altar Boyz. 8 p.m., at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A cheeky, pop-rock musical comedy about a boy band of singing dancing heartthrobs from Ohio on the last night of their national tour. \$30; \$15, students. 703-854-1856 or
- www.lststagetysons.org. **Eileen Ivers & Immigrant Soul.** 8 p.m., at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Irish fiddle prodigy Eileen Ivers joins bandmates playing world music and traditional and contemporary music. www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/DEC.

- Gingerbread House Decorating Class. 10 a.m., 1 p.m., at the Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. Children ages 3-12 can explore the life-size gingerbread house at the hotel, then make their own sugary homes in a decorating class taught by the pastry chefs; includes all ingredients as well as a souvenir. \$70 per child. www.ritzcarlton.com/tysons.
- The Nutracker Tea. 10 a.m., 1 p.m., at the the Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. Enjoy the Nutracker Ballet with afternoon tea and treats while members of the Creative Dance Center put a contemporary twist on the beloved classic and the pastry team tantalizes palates with tea sandwiches, pastries and sweets. \$75 (includes nutcracker doll for all children). www.ritzcarlton.com/ tysons.
- Altar Boyz. 2 p.m., 8 p.m., at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A cheeky, pop-rock musical comedy about a boy band of singing dancing heartthrobs from Ohio on the last night of their national tour. \$30; \$15, students. 703-854-1856 or www.1ststagetysons.org.
- The 44th Annual Wolf Trap Holiday Sing-Along. 4-5:30 p.m., at the Filene Center, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Bring your brightest candle, your shiniest bell, a Toys for Tots gift and a grand holiday spirit. www.wolftrap.org.
- **Great Falls Celebration of Lights.** 6-8 p.m., at the Great Falls Village Centre Hill, off State Route 681/ Walker Road, Great Falls. The 22nd annual tree lighting ceremony has not only a host of lights, but also a

petting zoo, pony rides, Santa Claus with his old-fashioned sleigh bell, a live nativity, music from the Langley Madrigal Singers, hot cider and an open house featuring shops with treats, cookies, hot chocolate and coupons.

- **Big Sam's Funky Nation.** 7:30 p.m., at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. A general admission dance with "Big Sam" Williams and his troupe of urban jazz musicians. \$22. www.wolftrap.org.
- Ballroom Dance at Colvin Run Community Hall. 9-11:30 p.m., Colvin Run Community Hall, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. DJ Bill Powers and TJ play ballroom dance music from the 1930s to today; includes light refreshments. \$4. www.colvinrun.org.

SUNDAY/DEC. 2

- Gingerbread House Decorating Class. 10 a.m., 1 p.m., at the Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. Children ages 3-12 can explore the life-size gingerbread house at the hotel, then make their own sugary homes in a decorating class taught by the pastry chefs; includes all ingredients as well as a souvenir. \$70 per child. www.ritzcarlton.com/tysons.
- 30th Annual McLean Holiday Crafts Show. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. The show features fiber arts, wood, ceramics and pottery, jewelry, glass, holiday decor, items for children, gourmet foods, paper art, photography, soft sculpture, paintings and drawings. \$2, adults; \$1, ages 13 and under. http://www.pimmithills.org/pimmithills-events.

- The Princess Tea. 11 a.m., 2 p.m., at the the Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. Disney princesses, treats and a special teatime make it a magical day; holiday gift bag and photo with princesses included. \$75. www.ritzcarlton.com/tysons.
- Alternative Gift Market and Secret Angel Shoppe for Children. Noon-3 p.m., at McLean Baptist Church, 1367 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Hosted by the Women's Ministry of McLean Baptist Church, gifts from around the world and a light lunch will be available with all proceeds benefitting various causes. Lunch \$5. www.mcleanbaptist.org or 703-356-8080.
- Santa at the Freeman Store. 1-3 p.m., 131 Church St., N.E., Vienna. Assisted by his elves, Santa sits upstairs in his traditional chair beside the Christmas tree, happy to talk to children and smile with them for a photo. The Ayr Hill Garden Club provides fresh greens and decorative arrangements. 703-938-5187 or www.historicviennainc.org.
- Altar Boyz. 2 p.m., 7 p.m., at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A cheeky, pop-rock musical comedy about a boy band of singing dancing heartthrobs from Ohio on the last night of their national tour. \$30; \$15, students. 703-854-1856 or www.lststagetysons.org.
- Messiah Sing-A-Long. 4 p.m., at Saint Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The sopranos, mezzo-sopranos, tenors and baritones of Music in McLean invite you to sing along in Handel's reflection on nativity, passion, resurrection and ascension at their 20th anniversary celebration concert. \$15; students 18-and-under, free. 703-356-0670.



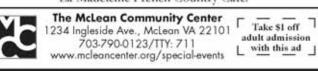
80 fine American artisans

Friday-Sunday

convene from across the country convene for this highly-regarded and much-anticipated juried show. This show features fiber arts, wood, ceramics and pottery, silhouette portraits, jewelry, glass, holiday decor, items for children, gourmet foods, paper art, photography, soft sculpture, paintings and drawings and more! Call for silhouette appointments now!

Admission: \$2 adults \$1 age 13 and younger Good all three days!

Nov. 30–Dec. 2 Friday: 11 a.m.–7 p.m.; Saturday: 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; Sunday: 11 a.m.–4 p.m. Fresh Food Service Provided by La Madeleine French Country Cafe.





Here's What's Happening at MCC

Holiday House Tour St. Michaels, Md.

Saturday, Dec. 8, 7:15 a.m.-6 p.m. \$138 per person \$133 MCC district residents



Theatreworks USA's production of **"Skippyjon Jones"** Saturday, Dec. 8, 2 p.m. \$15/\$10 MCC district residents



Ball in the House Saturday, Dec. 15, 8 p.m. \$20/\$15 MCC district residents

Morning Movies **"Some Like it Hot"** Wednesday, Dec. 19, 10 a.m. Free admission

Old Firehouse Teen Center Winter Break Trips Wed-Fri, Dec. 26-28



SPORTS

Oakton quarterback Kyle Downer threw two touchdown passes and ran for a score against Westfield in the Division 6 Northern Region football final on Nov. 24.

> Рното ві CRAIG STERBUTZEL THE CONNECTIO



Oakton Football Wins Northern Region Championship

Cougars beat Westfield for first region title since 2008.

> By Jon Roetman The Connection

fter a 6-0 start, the Oakton football team's 2012 season nearly derailed during a four-game losing streak.

Doubt started to creep in after a 49-28 defeat against Centreville in the regular season finale on Nov. 2. The Cougars finished fifth in the six-team Concorde District and went a month without tasting victory. Oakton managed to qualify for the playoffs, but how long would the Cougars last?

"To be honest, we did lose the faith," Oakton senior Andy Boone said. "I think we lost the faith when we lost to Centreville, because that was such a heart-wrenching loss.... They just ran all over us [and] we couldn't do anything in the second half on offense. It felt like some of the guys were down and we just didn't know what to do. Some of the kids were getting ready to go back to basketball season."

Oakton would enter regionals as a low seed, meaning the Cougars would face a tough opponent in the quarterfinals.

"First, we thought we were going to play Westfield and all the kids on the team were bummed," Boone said. "We thought we were going to be out of the playoffs."

Instead, No. 7 Oakton was matched against No. 2 Lake Braddock, the team which knocked the Cougars out of the 2011 playoffs. With a chance for revenge as motivation, Oakton won, 20-13, on Nov. 9 the Cougars' first win in 35 days. The following week, Oakton edged No. 3 Centreville, 14-13, in the semifinals on Nov. 16.

On Nov. 24, Oakton traveled to face topseed Westfield with the region title on the 53 yards and two touchdowns. He also had

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line. While the Cougars might have been intimidated by the undefeated Bulldogs at the start of the postseason, a confident Oakton team took the field on Saturday and brought home a banner.

OAKTON DEFEATED WESTFIELD, 23-16, in the Division 6 Northern Region football final at Westfield High School, continuing a considerable turnaround for the Cougars. Oakton rebounded from a four-game losing streak to beat the top three seeds en route to the Cougars' first region championship since 2008.

"Just looking back on our season," quarterback Kyle Downer said Saturday, "it's amazing how we got here."

Downer had another big game for Oakton, carrying 18 times for 119 yards and a touchdown, and completing 4 of 10 passes for 53 yards and two scores. He also intercepted a pass on defense. Downer's 3-yard touchdown run with 37 seconds remaining in the second quarter gave the Cougars a lead they would not relinquish.

Oakton led 13-7 at halftime and, after a scoreless third quarter, took a two-possession lead on Brian Burns' 31-yard field goal with 9:08 remaining in the fourth. Burns missed an extra-point attempt earlier in the game, but head coach Jason Rowley didn't lose faith in his kicker, saying the missed PAT was a result of the wind.

"I've got all the confidence in the world in Brian," Rowley said. "He did a great job today.'

Burns' field goal gave Oakton a 16-7 lead. Westfield fumbled on its next offensive play and Oakton's Daniel Mansfield scooped up the ball and returned it to the Bulldogs 10yard line. Four plays later, Downer connected with Boone for a 4-yard touchdown on fourth-and-goal, helping give the Cougars a 23-7 advantage with 6:31 remaining. Westfield would score a touchdown and add a late field goal, but it wasn't enough.

Boone finished with four receptions for

22 rushing yards on three carries.

"It feels like a relief," Boone said of winning the region title. "I've been in probably nine championships in my life and I've never won one before, so just to win a championship feels amazing - just that weight lifted off your shoulder.'

Westfield defeated Oakton during the regular season, 28-14, on Oct. 19. The Cougars totaled 401 yards of offense, but had trouble finishing drives. Oakton ran 19 plays after reaching the Westfield 30-yard line, but managed just one touchdown. The Cougars' other score came on a 35-yard run.

ON SATURDAY, Oakton scored four of the five times it had the ball inside the Westfield 30, including three touchdowns.

"It was all about finishing drives," Rowley said. "It felt like in the first time we played them that we could get the ball to the 30 and then we'd get stifled and couldn't put the ball in the end zone. Since that game, we've really talked about finishing drives on offense."

After a scoreless first quarter, Oakton took the lead when Downer hit Boone with a 21yard touchdown pass with 7:30 remaining in the second. Trailing 7-0, it didn't take Westfield long to respond. Devon Burns returned the ensuing kickoff to the Oakton 30-yard line and running back Dalaun Richardson carried the ball into the end zone on Westfield's next play from scrimmage.

Oakton countered with an 11-play, 80yard drive, capped by Downer's 3-yard touchdown run. Westfield wouldn't score again until quarterback Chris Mullins crossed the goal line on a 1-yard sneak with 1:31 remaining in the fourth quarter.

Richardson rushed for 117 yards and a touchdown for Westfield.

With the victory, Oakton advanced to the state playoffs. The Cougars will host L.C. Bird at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 1 in the semifinals. L.C. Bird, the Central Region champion, is undefeated.



Oakton sophomore Allie Klimkiewicz, seen after the VHSL state meet on Nov. 10, qualified for nationals with a ninth-place finish at the Foot $\overline{9}$ Locker Cross Country Championships South Regional meet on Nov. 24 in Charlotte, N.C.

Oakton's Klimkiewicz Advances to **XC** Nationals

Oakton sophomore Allie Klimkiewicz placed ninth at the Foot Locker Cross Country Championships South Regional on Nov. 24 in Charlotte, N.C., earning a trip to the national meet on Dec. 8 in San Diego.

Klimkiewicz finished with a time of 17 minutes, 29 seconds at McAlpine Greenway Park. She was one of three Northern Virginia harriers to qualify for nationals with a top-10 finish. Lake Braddock senior Sophie Chase won the regional meet with a time of 17:05. West Springfield junior Caroline Alcorta placed eighth with a time of 17:19.

Chantilly senior Sean McGorty won the boys' seeded meet with courserecord time of 14:28.

Athletes from Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia competed in the meet.

Flint Hill to Host Basketball Tournament

Flint Hill will host the 9th Annual Tip-Off Classic basketball tournament on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 30 and Dec. 1.

The boys' bracket consists of Flint Hill, Liberty Christian, Trinity Christian and Williamsburg Christian. The girls' bracket consists of Flint Hill, Liberty Christian, Bishop O'Connell and Middleburg Academy.

Action will begin at 3 p.m. Friday, with a girls' matchup between O'Connell and Liberty Christian. The Liberty Christian boys' team will face Williamsburg Christian at 4:45, the Flint Hill girls' team will play Middleburg Academy at 6:30 p.m., and the Flint Hill boys' team will face Trinity Christian at 8:15 p.m.

Consolation and championship games will be held Saturday, starting at 1 p.m.

Sports

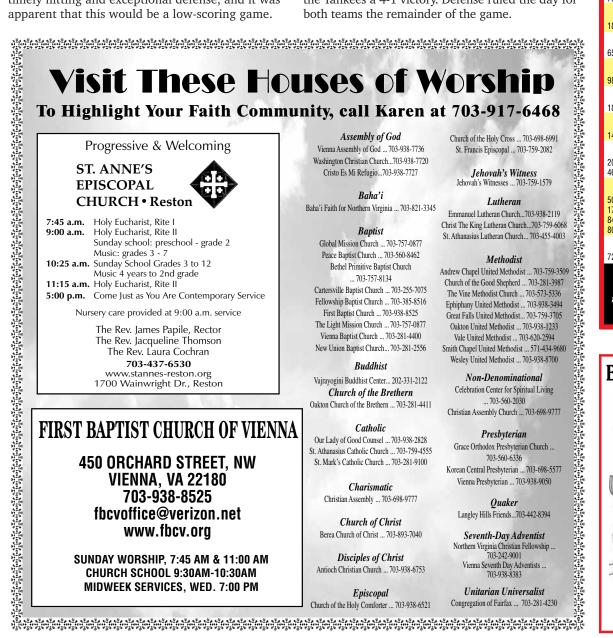
Front row: Ethan Lipp, Brendan Sweeney, L.A. **Rice**, Cade Kettner, Aiden Soule; Middle **Row: Korey** Sharpe, Henry Freck, Dylan Ford, Jacob Kohls, Luke Williams, Mark Prillaman, Brad **Tunks: Back Row: Coach John Freck**, **Coach Darren** Sharpe, Coach Chris Lipp, Coach **Roger Williams.**



Yankees Win Vienna Little League Fall Majors Championship

On a cold, raw Nov. 1 evening, Vienna Little League's Fall Majors-level baseball championship was played on Black Field in Nottoway Park. The No. 1-seed Nationals brought a dominant 13-1 record onto the turf while the No. 2-seed Yankees took the field with an impressive 11-3 record for the fall.

Both teams were built on outstanding pitching, timely hitting and exceptional defense, and it was apparent that this would be a low-scoring game. However, the Yankees got going in the top of the first inning with a smash single by Luke Williams followed by a rocketed home run by Ethan Lipp into the chilly November air for a 2-0 lead. That turned out to be all the offense the Yankees would need as they rode the stellar pitching arms of both Lipp and Brendan Sweeney. The two combined pitchers only gave up one infield hit for the entire game, giving the Yankees a 4-1 victory. Defense ruled the day for both teams the remainder of the game.





OPEN HOUSES SATURDAY/SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 & 2

When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in this Connection Newspaper. For more real estate listings and open houses, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com and click on the "This Week in Real Estate" link. Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times

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6100 Eagle Landing Rd\$635.000Sun 1-4Carol HermandorferLong & Foster703-503-1812
9417 Ulysses Ct
Clifton
14018 Marleigh Ln\$595,000Sun1-4Ed DugganCentury 21703-989-7735
6324 Deepwood Farm Dr\$589,000Sun 1-4Ed DugganCentury 21703-989-7735
Fairfax Station
7513 South Reach Dr\$849,950Sun 1-4Kathleen QuintarelliWeichert703-862-8808
Falls Church
7937 Freehollow Dr\$571,000Sun 1-4Christine Shevock
Gainesville
18197 Camdenhurst Dr\$450,000Sun 1-4Willie ArmstrongSamson Props703-822-3903
Great Falls
650 Keithley Dr\$1,395,000 Sun 1-4
Manassas
9800 Grant Ave\$159,000
McLean
1825 Westmoreland St\$619,900
Reston
1401 Greenmont Ct\$399,000
Sterling
20504 Brandywine Ct\$564,900 Sun 1-4
46569 Riverwood Terr\$359,000Sun 1-4Cathy & John McCambridgeSamson Props703-906-7067
Vienna
502 Valley Dr. SE\$1,325,000Sun 1-4Patrick OhlhorstSolutions703-853-9300
1711 Dove Point Ct\$1,195,000Sun 1-4Ellen Moyer
8449 Amanda Pl
Woodbridge
727 Harbor Side St\$416,000Sun 1-4
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to these weekly listings, please contact Don Park at 703-778-9420, or donpark@connectionnewspapers.com All listings are due by Monday at 3 P.M.

Be a Part of CHILDREN'S (& TEENS') CONNECTION



Every year between Christmas and New Year's, The Vienna/Oakton Connection turns its pages over to the contributions of local students. We are seeking artwork, photography, poetry, opinions, short stories and reflections. We welcome contributions from public schools, private schools and students who are home schooled.

E-mail to: ChildrensNorth@connection newspapers.com, or mail (.jpg and text files on disc only) by Dec. 5, to 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Please be sure to include the student's name, age, grade, school and town of residence along with each submission. For information, call 703-778-9410.

CONFECTION NEWSPAPERS

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