

# From Colonial History to Future Entrepreneurs

# Campers can explore diverse interests in specialty summer camps.

By Marilyn Campbell
The Connection

his summer dozens of elementary school-aged children will travel back in time to the Colonial Era where, among other things, they'll learn to spin cotton into cloth for garments.

Learning how to run a lemonade stand like a Fortune 500 company and use the profits to invest in the stock market will be on the agenda for other local children. Both activities are offered by local specialty camps aimed at giving children opportunities to explore their interests in a way that they cannot during the school year.

"I think summer camps are a great way to promote thriving if it is done right," said Carolyn Lorente, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology at Northern Virginia Community College in Alexandria and a camp consultant. "During the school year, there is so much emphasis on testing that the creative and collaborative nature of children gets lost. A great camp can create space for our children to flourish."

**SPECIALTY CAMPS** offer young campers a chance to focus on a specific area of interest such as cooking, financial literacy and even gaming.

For example, Spark Business Academy, a Northern Virginia based organization that teaches financial literacy to young students, is offering its Future Millionaires Camp in Arlington. Students learn about money concepts that range from setting up a lemonade stand that makes a profit to understanding the stock market.

"The name is definitely tongue in cheek," said Chuchi Arevalo, the organization's founder. "We teach personal finance, leadership and innovation. We give them life skills that they aren't learning in school and promote financial literacy that is fun even for students in first and second grade."

Rising fifth- and sixth-grade students will get a chance to take a trip back in time this



Photo courtesy of Visit Fairfax

Camp Washington at Mount Vernon gives campers a glimpse of early American life.



Photo courtesy of Mason Game & Technology Academy

Students in the Mason Game & Technology Academy Summer Camp will be offered classes in Game Design, Creation and Entrepreneurship, Minecraft and Cyber Defense.

# For More Information

## Game and Technology Summer Camps

potomacacademy.gmu.edu/mgta/ summer/

### Future Millionaires Bootcamp/ Stock Market Acres

moneynewsforkids.com/
Camp Washington and more at
Mount Vernon

www.mountvernon.org/plan-your-visit/ calendar/events/camp-washingtonsummer-day-camp-at-mount-vernon/

summer at Mount Vernon's Camp Washington. During each of the three one-week sessions, campers explore the history of George Washington's estate.

From farming and spinning fibers into cloth to making ice cream and meeting the estate's heritage breed animals, hands-on activities will give campers a glimpse of many aspects of early American life at Mount Vernon.

"The summer camp is designed to help engage students while having fun," said Melissa Wood, spokeswoman for Mount Vernon. "[It] gives kids the opportunity to go behind the scenes and experience history in their own backyard."

Young game-design aficionados can spend the summer with Mason Game & Technology Academy's (MGTA) camps. Students take classes such as Game Design, Creation and Entrepreneurship, Minecraft and Cyber Defense. "We run our classes at Mason in Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William," said Vera Lichtenberg, Director of the Mason Game & Technology Academy at George Mason University.

"We also do a great deal of community outreach to train teachers, engage underserved students, and generally, help students realize that Game Design is a STEM field that not only engages those who love technology, but also those on the artistic side: writers, music composers [and] designers. MGTA is part of the Mason Computer Game Design Program and the Community Outreach Youth Program for the Virginia Serious Game Institute.



# "Me and My Mom" Photo Gallery!

To honor Mom on Mother's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your Mom and The Connection will publish them in our Mother's Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To send digital photos, go to:

www.connection newspapers.com/ mothersday

Or to mail photo prints, send to: The McLean Connection, "Me and My Mom Photo Gallery," 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314

Photo prints will be returned to you if you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, but please don't send us anything irreplaceable.



# CAPPIES REVIEW

# McLean High Production of 'Cinderella'

By Grace Mattes Chantilly High School

veryone knows the timeless tale of the pauper girl who lost her shoe on the steps of a castle after a night spent dancing with her prince. The story of Cinderella and her fairy tale has been a popular bedtime story for decades. McLean High School brought a modern twist to this classic story in their production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella."

In 1957, Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II were tasked with writing a musical version of "Cinderella" for television. With Julie Andrews as Cinderella, the broadcast pulled in more than 100 million viewers; this number made the program the most viewed television broadcast of its time. After the 1957 success, the musical was revised for television in 1965 and in 1997. The musical was also adapted for stage and premiered on the West End and in the New York City Opera. Most recently, the musical was adapted with a new book by Douglas Carter Beane and opened on Broadway in 2013. This version starred Laura Osnes in the title role and Santino Fontana as her prince. Though the story is based on the well-known fairy tale, it has some modern twists like a revolutionary as one of Cinderella's not-so-evil stepsister's love interest.

The cast of McLean's production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella" brought the magic of the beloved fable to life with their fabulous energy and engagement onstage. The wonderful tech bolstered the cast's effort. The crew's hard work was obvious in all the different facets of technical elements.

Syd Kirk's performance as the title character blew the audience away. Her impressive vocals and embodiment of Cinderella exuded the kindness of the classic character. Kirk's ability to carry the show on her shoulders as a freshman was astounding. Christophe Jelinski portrayed the lovable Prince Topher. His enthusiasm and witty line deliveries brought a unique sense to the character. Both Kirk and Jelinski had excellent chemistry onstage. Their roman-

SEE CINDERELLA, CAMPS PAGE 4





# Camps and Classes! FENCING SPORTS ACADEMY ACADEMY ACADEMY In the Washington DC Ness ACADEMY IN the Washingt



On-Site and On-Line Computer Game Design & Programming
Courses for Ages 6 to Adult

FencingSports.net

Facebook

10310-A Main Street, Fairfax, VA 22030

SUMMER 2016 PROGRAM REGISTRATION OPEN NOW!



of eneingSports

Intro and 3D Game Design (w/ Unity and Unreal4) = Multi Platform Mobile App
Development = iOS App Development (Swift and Xcode) = Art & Animation = Concept Art to 3D

= Digital Art = Sound & Music for Games = Minecraft Modding = Writing for Games = Programming (Java, C++, C#, Python, Javascript XML) = Cyber Security

Plus pre-college Residential option!

One of the fastest growing and most transformational community programs in the region today, the Mason Game & Technology Academy integrates all of the STEM core competencies in a challenging, fun, and engaging way. This program combines both the sciences and the arts, with creative & critical thinking and problem solving skills.

Experience On-Site courses in the Computer Game Design Labs at Mason in Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William, and/or take On-Line classes from anywhere with our revolutionary new cloud-based mobile education platform SCRiYB - engaging in real-time learning and peer-to-peer interaction.

Questions? Contact Director Vera Lichtenberg at vlichten@gmu.edu or call 703-993-9889.

Registration & admin support powered by Mason's Potomac Arts Academy: www.PotomacAcademy.org (Summer Programs)







# CAPPIES REVIEW

# McLean High Production of 'Cinderella'

FROM CAMPS PAGE 3

tic kisses and dances gave the love story credulity.

Without the excellent supporting cast, the show could not have succeeded. Tori Garcia's absolutely flawless vocals as Pinkleton, a lady of the court, stunned audience members. Though she had less stage time than some of her other

among the crowd. Abby Comey played the stepsister, Gabrielle. Comey's consistency in the character's very distinct physical and vocal attributes highlighted Gabrielle's adorable goofiness. Jeffrey Nolan portrayed the revolutionary, Jean-Michel. Nolan brought variety to Jean-Michel's personality with moments of seri-

and humor made her stand out of lighthearted humor. Comey and Nolan had fantastic chemistry. Their clumsy attempts at romance built up to a pinnacle: their kiss, which can only be described as aggressively awkward. Heidi Deger played Marie, a crazy woman turned fairy godmother. Her performance of the song, "There's Music in You" showcased her beautiful voice.

established the setting and mood throughout the show. The portable set was suitable for the fairy tale setting. Although it had moments of precarious wobbling, the charming cottage, palace, and forest transported the audience all over the mythical kingdom. The show's costumes were also impressive. The costumes were hand-crafted and most of them were well tailored. Cinderella's costumes be-

progressed, culminating in her gorgeous wedding dress. The production requires two difficult onstage costume changes; these changes went smoothly as Cinderella transformed from pauper to princess.

McLean High School's magical performance of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella" brought audience members back to the beloved fairy tale kingdom

