

Chantilly CONNECTION

Fair Oaks ♦ Fair Lakes

CONNECTION FAMILIES:
BACK TO SCHOOL

PAGES 8-9

From left are drummer
Mickey Kurahatti and
saxophonist Suhas
Gangadari at Franklin
Middle School's
30th annual Band
and Orchestra Camp.

'You Make Friends And Learn a Lot'

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CONGRESSWOMAN
BARBARA COMSTOCK

Welcome Back to School!

As Our Congresswoman, Barbara is Putting Children First:

Barbara understands the sacrifices and commitments made by educators in Virginia's 10th District and across the nation. She supports policies which empower parents and give states and localities more control over their local schools to ensure the best education for our children.

» The House passed Congresswoman Comstock's *Inspiring the Next Space Pioneers, Innovators, Researchers, and Explorers (INSPIRE) Women Act*, which will help young women in the STEM fields through programs at NASA.

» Congresswoman Comstock has authored the *Student Loan Relief Act*, which would offer students the ability to refinance their education loans to take advantage of lower interest rates. It would also allow employers to use pre-tax dollars to assist qualified employees in paying off student loan debt.

» Congresswoman Comstock is the Co-Chair of the *STARBASE Caucus*, which offers hands-on STEM education to students in elementary school. She has worked in a bipartisan manner to increase resources for this important program.

» Congresswoman Comstock voted for the bipartisan *Every Student Succeeds Act*. This bill, signed into law, represented a significant step toward improving our education system and empowers educators and parents to do what is best for each individual student.

"I come from a family of educators – my mom was a school teacher and librarian and my husband Chip is a retired Fairfax County assistant principal and teacher. My sister is a guidance counselor at a Fairfax County Public School. The education of our children and grandchildren has always been a top priority of mine. It's a privilege to represent you in Virginia's 10th Congressional District. Together, we can make sure our children receive a world class education."

Barbara Comstock

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From left are flute players Tara Sankner, Lees Corner 6th grade, Neha Balaji, Rocky Run 7th grade; Dalton Kidd, Franklin 7th grade; and Emma Brundage, Hunters Woods, 5th grade.



Violinists in the most-advanced orchestra during rehearsal.



Chantilly High freshman Zion Thornton plays the chimes.

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

'You Make Friends and Learn a Lot'

Franklin Middle holds 30th annual Band and Orchestra Camp.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Daniel Starykh has been playing trumpet for a year and came to Franklin Middle School's 30th annual Band and Orchestra Camp so he could improve. Happy with his decision, he said, "My teachers are really nice and they help a lot."

A sixth-grader at Greenbriar West Elementary, Daniel chose the trumpet because he likes its sound and "it's louder than other instruments." At camp, he enjoyed talking with his friends and playing full-length concerts during class." And Daniel would recommend it to others because "the teachers will honestly decide what group to put you in and help you the best they can."

Colin Powell Elementary sixth-grader Isaac Kim also plays trumpet. "My dad played it, so he wanted me to develop his skill, too," said Isaac. "I practice with him and even did a duet with him at his college." The first year Isaac came to the camp, he played cello in an orchestra; but this time, because he changed instruments, he played in a band.

"I learned how to play higher and lower notes and how to play with a bigger band group," he said. He especially liked practicing with Greenbriar West and Rocky Run Middle Band Director Dan Hill. "You get to play challenging music," said Isaac. "And it becomes easy when you learn it."

Some 625 students attended the camp, June 29-July 21. Each day, band students had two rehearsals, one sectional class and one instrument class. Some also took a chamber music class. Orchestra students had two, daily ensemble rehearsals, sectional and instrument classes, plus music



Rocky Run Middle Orchestra Director Stephen Matthie conducts the highest-level orchestra at the camp.

theory. And some of them played in the chamber orchestra.

Suzanne Donnelly, an Oak Hill Elementary sixth-grader, attended camp for the second time. She's been playing the oboe for two years. "My sister used to play it and I thought it would be fun," she said. "It's unique and not a lot of people play it. And camp is really fun; all the band directors are really nice and everyone's happy here. You make a lot of friends and learn a lot."

Lees Corner sixth-grader Tara Sankner was there for the first time. She's played the flute for a year and likes it because "It's an unusual position holding an instrument to the side of your body. I enjoy playing it and came to camp to learn more than what I learned in fifth grade."

And she did. "I learned the chromatic scale and all the sharps, flats and high and low notes," said Tara. "And I also liked meeting new friends."

Like Daniel, Cub Run Elementary sixth-grader Layton Vu has fun playing the trum-

pet because it's loud. He, too, learned the chromatic scale at camp and liked the music he got to play. He'd recommend this camp to others because "it helped me play the trumpet better so I can play in my band at school. And later, I can be the bugler in my Boy Scout Troop, 7369."

Suhas Gangadari, a Rocky Run seventh-grader, has played saxophone since fifth grade. "It's a challenging instrument, and it's satisfying when you get the right style," he said. "And I like how it sounds." It was his second year at camp. "In school, you practice two hours a week; and here, it's four hours a day," said Suhas. "So you get a lot more time. And it's also fun, so you don't feel like it's that much time."

He says young musicians should attend the camp because "It's worth like years of school practice. The teachers are more funny than strict and you play with people at your own [skill] level."

Rocky Run classmate Mickey Kurahatti has played percussion for four or five years.



Trumpet players (from left) Isaac Kim and Daniel Starykh.

"I used to take piano lessons, but I saw drums on display in a store and I was fascinated with them," he said. "So my dad asked if I wanted to take drum lessons. I like sometimes controlling the tempo at my own will, and drummers are called the downbeat of a band and keep it going."

He, too, enjoys camp because "we get more hands-on experience playing. We also get more attention when they're teaching us to make us better. I learned that, when you don't get something at first, slow down and section it out." Mickey also likes performing in a group with people at his own level. "It's easier to play when your peers aren't taking their first steps and you're miles ahead of them," he said. And, he added, "The food at lunch is delicious."

Franklin Middle Band Director Kurt Holscher taught and led the camp's concert band. He said the camp "keeps students playing over the summer so they don't lose all the skills we taught them during the year."

SEE SUMMER FILLED. PAGE 7

ROUNDUPS

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, Sept. 1, from 5-8:30 p.m., at the station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. No appointment is necessary. But residents should install the child safety seats themselves so technicians may properly inspect and adjust them, as needed.

Because of time constraints, only the first 35 vehicles arriving on each date will be inspected. That way, inspectors may have enough time to properly instruct the caregiver on the correct use of the child seat. Call 703-814-7000, ext. 5140, to confirm dates and times.

Help Shape Dulles Suburban Area

The public is invited to the first Dulles Suburban Center Study Advisory Group meeting which will be held on Sept. 7, 7 p.m. at Rocky Run Middle School, 4400 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. At this first meeting, the advisory group will hear from staff about the current Comprehensive Plan and the study schedule.

During the course of the study, the advisory

group will be asked to make recommendations about proposed land use changes and updated recommendations for future land uses and development in the Dulles Suburban Center Area.

To learn more about the study, visit the Dulles Suburban Center Study website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/dullessuburbancenter/.

Join Citizens Fire Academy

Residents can now apply to the Citizens Fire and Rescue Academy, a nine-week program that shows what firefighters and paramedics do every day. Applications will be accepted until Sept. 9 or until the class of 25 is filled.

The academy will begin Sept. 22 and will meet for nine consecutive Thursdays, from 6 - 9 p.m. at various locations in and outside the department.

Each session will cover different aspects of the organization, providing an overview of the department and its uniformed and civilian workforce.

Program topics include: fire suppression, emergency medical services, training, recruitment, special operations, and other topics.

To sign up for the free program, participants must be 18 years of age and apply online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr/cfa.

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From 80 Students to 625

Walker reflects on the camp's strengths.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Lawrence Walker retired in 2012 after being Franklin Middle School's band director for 28 years. But each summer, he returns to direct its Band and Orchestra Camp.

Students attend four hours a day and receive instruction from a group of school band and orchestra directors, private teachers, freelance musicians and retired military-band members. Joining them this year were a college professor and two composers.

"The directors here have some of the finest bands and orchestras around," said Walker. "They do assessments and know what it is to take a band or orchestra to the next level. They love to teach and love to make a difference in the skill these kids bring to the camp."

And Walker leads these 52 instructors and all the students because, he said, "I enjoy kids and I love music, Franklin and this community. I also love to see the embellishment of kids' skills and the strong musicianship from the teachers because they know how



Lawrence Walker

to tap into hidden talents. And I'm excited about seeing kids come back here, year after year, and embrace something they enjoy."

"They may not be as academically strong in school as other kids; but here, they can be successful," he continued. "And for kids with challenges, it builds their self-esteem because — when they play together — you don't hear individual weaknesses; you hear the strength of the group."

As a parent, himself, said Walker, "I know what it means to put your children in a situation where they can have dominion over interpreting music. And the kids here, and their directors, have an opportunity to develop the composers' intentions."

When he started the camp, three decades ago, there were just 80 students — 50, band, and 30, orchestra, plus four teachers — and he was one of them. This year, 625 students attended.

"I never thought it would grow into something so large and so successful that it's drawn kids from all over the D.C. Metro

SEE FROM 80 STUDENTS, PAGE 7



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Take One Action to Prevent Suicide

Suicide Prevention Week is Sept. 5-13, #MindsMatter.

As school begins, we are accustomed to safety warnings. Slow down driving, watch for students along the roads, near schools and perhaps behaving unpredictably near intersections. Buckle seat belts. Wear bicycle helmets. Avoid distracted driving.

Suicide is the third leading cause of death for youth between 10 and 24 years old, according to the Centers for Disease Control, with 4,600 deaths a year, and 157,000 youth receiving emergency medical care for self-inflicted injuries. Overall, more than 42,000 Americans die by suicide each year.

Appropriately, Suicide Prevention Week is next week, Sept. 5-13, and the Connection is partnering with PRS CrisisLink to raise awareness about how to prevent suicide.

Risk factors for a suicide attempt include a history of depression or other mental illness, a history of previous suicide attempts, alcohol

Help Available

CrisisLink Regional Hotline: 703-527-4077
CrisisLink Regional Textline: Text CONNECT to 85511
National Hopeline Network: 1-800-SUICIDE
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK

or drug abuse, stressful life event or loss, easy access to lethal methods (firearms are the leading method of youth suicide), exposure to the suicidal behavior of others, and a family history of suicide. Young people who are LGBTQ are at higher risk.

Crisis Link was founded by volunteers in 1969 as the Northern Virginia Hotline, beginning as an evening hotline for Arlington teens. Within a year, hotline services were expanded to 24 hours a day to provide skilled, compassionate listening for people of all ages. The organization began serving individuals in crisis throughout the entire metropolitan Washington, D.C. region in 1970. In August of 2014, CrisisLink merged with PRS, Inc. Now named PRS CrisisLink, the program is able to provide services to more individuals than ever before.

In Fairfax County, where several high schools have mourned the suicide deaths of students, online interactive training is available to everyone about how to talk to a young person

who might be depressed or considering suicide.

Fairfax County's Youth Suicide Prevention Training includes free online simulations that prepare educators and other adults to recognize when a young person is exhibiting signs of psychological distress, and to talk with the young person to be able to connect them with appropriate support. Also available is a free online simulation for high school students to practice how to talk to a friend struggling with depression or psychological distress. Access to these programs is available by visiting www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/at-risk

We also can't let the discussion on gun violence add to the stigma of mental health illness. People with mental health issues are far more likely to be victims of violence that to perpetrate it. When the debate turns to a push and pull between advocating for gun control vs. advocating for broad suspicion of people with mental health concerns, the results are not benign.

We have to bring discussion of depression and other psychological distress into the light, and we must push back against the stigma that keeps many from getting life-saving help.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

International Overdose Awareness Day: Aug. 31

In observance of worldwide Overdose Awareness Day, the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB) reminds all that every drug overdose is a preventable tragedy. CSB partners with recovery groups, prevention partners and the community to share information about substance use and to provide screening, treatment, and recovery programs.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more people in the United States died from drug overdose in 2014 than in any other year on record. Deaths from overdose are up among men and women, all

ages and races. Most of these overdoses were the result of opioids, including heroin and prescription pain medications. Fairfax County residents have not been spared. As of May 2016, Fairfax County's Emergency Medical Services was reporting more than 10 patient contacts per month that were suspected overdoses of heroin or other opioids. Fairfax County police reported that in 2015 there were 77 heroin overdoses in the county, 12 of which were fatal. Help, treatment and recovery options are available. CSB clinicians who specialize in substance use disorders, in conjunction with the

Neighborhood and Community Services Prevention Unit, have created two new informational fliers that are now posted online. One flier describes different types of treatment available for opioid addiction. The other flier explains how to recognize signs of overdose and what to do if someone overdoses.

Anyone can enroll in CSB's free REVIVE! course and learn how to administer naloxone, a life-saving medication that reverses the effects of opioid overdose. CSB staff trained more than 640 people in 2016, and more trainings are scheduled throughout the fall.

BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to chantilly@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

THROUGH SATURDAY/SEPT. 3

Preschool Enrollment. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at The Learning Experience, 4150 Pleasant Valley Road, Chantilly. Visit The Learning Experience in Chantilly/South Riding and learn about classes for ages 2 and older that feature STEM lessons, sign language and a focus on play with Make Believe Boulevard. Take advantage of a week-long open house, Monday, Aug. 22-Friday, Aug. 26. Open house is free. Contact Judy McClimans at chantilly@TLEchildcare.com or 703-378-7391.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 7

Annual SYA Board Meeting. The Southwestern Youth Association will be holding its annual Executive Board of Directors Election Meeting

at the SYA Office at 5950 Centreville Crest Lane, Centreville beginning at 7:30 p.m. The SYA Executive Board of Directors positions are for a one-year term and include the following positions: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Nominations are currently being accepted and may be submitted to the SYA Office at admin@syayouthsports.org. Applicants must be in good standing with SYA and at least 21 years of age. This meeting is open to the community. Any questions please contact the SYA Office at 703-815-3362 or admin@syayouthsports.org.

THROUGH FRIDAY/SEPT. 9

Public Comment. Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) is soliciting public review and comment on basal resource materials under consideration for use in social studies courses in kindergarten through high school. Hard copies of the resources as well as access information for digital resources will be available in the welcome center at Willow Oaks administrative building located at 8270 Willow Oaks Corporate Drive,

Fairfax. Willow Oaks is open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Extended hours will be provided until 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 23, and Thursday, Sept. 8.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 10

Divorce Workshop. 8:30 a.m. at The Duff Law Firm, Fair Oaks Commerce Center, 11320 Random Hills Road, Suite 630, Fairfax. Join the Second Saturday Divorce Workshop and get information, support and guidance a family law attorney, financial advisor, a wills, trust and estate attorney and a family therapist. Pre-registration is recommended, space is limited. Free. Visit www.secondsaturdaynova.com, email nancy@secondsaturdaynova.com or call 703-591-7475.

English Conversation Program. 7 p.m. at Fairfax Church of Christ, 3901 Rugby Road, Fairfax. Register for an intensive two-week (Sept. 12-23), one-on-one conversational English program. Practice speaking English with native speakers. Meeting times will be arranged with students when they sign-up on Sept. 10. Free. Call 703-631-2100.

SEPT. 10-21

2016 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics. Online registration will open July 5. Registration forms will be mailed to previous participants in late June and will be available at community and senior centers, senior residences and event venues. The registration fee of \$12, which covers multiple events, remains the same. Three events have an added fee, ten pin bowling, golf and orienteering. Deadline for registering is Aug. 27 (by mail), Sept. 3 (online). Call 703-830-5604 or email nvso1982@gmail.com for more. To volunteer, call 703-403-5360.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 13

ESL Class Registration. 7 p.m. at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax or 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, Clifton. Classes are Tuesday and Thursday, 7-9 p.m. and run from Sept. 15-Nov. 22. Beginning, intermediate and advanced levels will be offered. Registration fee is \$15, text book is \$25. Call 703-323-9500 or visit www.lordoflifeva.org for more.

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A Connection Newspaper



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Young violinists are focused on their music.



Rocky Run eighth-grader Jared Hong and his baritone sax.

Summer Filled with Music

FROM PAGE 3

And most of them have a real desire to be here, so they work really hard to improve."

Actually, he said, "I like getting to know the kids before they come to school here. And also, seeing kids from all over the area come together to play music is something really special at the end of the summer."

One of them was Chantilly resident Keith Scroggs, a sixth-grader at Eagle View Elementary. He's played B-flat clarinet about two years and chose it because "it has such a wide range of notes and you can get so many different sounds, feelings and emotions coming from the same instrument. It's like a piano you can blow through."

Glad to be at band camp, he said, "It's a way I can be with people who are like me and take playing their instrument seriously. So it's a fun experience."

Meanwhile, Westfield High sophomore Alan Battison has played the clarinet since fifth grade. "It's difficulty makes it a lot of fun to master," he said. In

his fourth year at camp, he said, "Me and my cousin come here every year and we play in the same band, the symphonic band. We have a lot of fun playing the music and practicing it together. It's a nice place to make a lot of friends, and I like playing in a big band with lots of experienced individuals."

Jared Hong, a Rocky Run eighth-grader, was at camp for the second time. "I played sax through sixth grade and then switched to baritone sax at camp last year and liked it," he said. "It's a little easier to play and the tone is deeper."

At camp, he said, "I've learned how to create better tone with my sax. And I like how it teaches kids to play instruments outside of school and it keeps you busy in the summer, too. I like the different classes and teachers and learning different things." So Jared would advise other students to come to it because "It's a good opportunity and teaches you everything about band [or orchestra]. And if you're new to playing, you can be a little ahead of everybody else when you go back to school."

From 80 Students to 625

FROM PAGE 5

politan area, plus a few from other states and countries," said Walker. "Our teachers promote the camp in their own schools, and kids tell other kids."

For elementary-school students, the camp is equivalent to two years of music instruction. That's because they only have music classes 20 days a year, since they're just once a week and holidays and breaks intrude. By comparison, the camp runs 17 days with four classes daily. "Orchestra students also did chamber music previously; and this year, we added it for the band kids," said Walker. "It's been so wonderful because it's a smaller ensemble, and quartets and quintets can play different parts with no conductor. One of the students within that group starts the rehearsal, and they have to keep the tempo and the music together. It's gone over very well."

The camp also received a special treat, this year. "A dear, composer friend of mine, Chris Sharp, wrote a piece called 'Distant Trains' for the symphonic band," said Walker. "We commissioned him to write it, and he dedicated it to this camp. Our name will be written at the top of this music, and people throughout the world will see it whenever they play this song."

Sharp will eventually direct it on a professional stage but, meanwhile, he came to camp this summer



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

The flute section of the camp's cadet band.

as a symphonic band director. "He writes music for Disney and is a music professor at Lynchburg University," said Walker. "Several of the directors at camp have played his music, so we were just excited and blessed to have him here."

Delighted with how well this year's camp went, Walker said, "I love seeing kids progress and parents giving them this opportunity to grow musically. They also meet other kids who have the same interest in music development and improving their skills for the next school year."

SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK

September 5th - 11th, 2016

PRS, Inc. and Connection Newspapers team up for

#MindsMatter

a Social Media Campaign promoting suicide prevention and mental wellness

#MindsMatter gives everyone a chance to raise awareness about suicide prevention. Pledge today at prsinc.org/mindsmatter to:

- Follow PRS Facebook and Twitter pages
- Submit a selfie showing support of National Suicide Prevention Week
- Participate in the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's walk
- #Take5 to learn the signs of suicide prevention
- Make a donation
- Read and share stories about hope

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CONNECTION FAMILIES: BACK TO SCHOOL

Great Beginnings, Greater Expectations

1,200 teachers and instructional staff begin Fairfax County Public Schools orientation.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Growing up with two parents who immigrated to the United States from Egypt, Wala Osman of Springfield faced many challenges as a young student at Glasgow Middle School in Lincolnia.

But Osman remembers having an “awesome seventh grade teacher” at Glasgow.

“My middle school teacher was always there for me,” Osman said. Since that experience, she’s always wanted to be a teacher, “to give back.”

Osman is transitioning from a job in furniture sales to becoming one of Fairfax County Public School’s newest faces in the front of the classroom this year. She joined around 1,200 teachers and instructional staff Monday morning Aug. 22 for the 21st running of FCPS “Great Beginnings” orientation for new teachers and teachers new to the county. The event is based out of South County High School in Lorton.

Teachers are divided into cohort by subject matter to begin forming relationships immediately with other new hires and coach-mentors that will work with and guide them throughout the year.

Osman will be teaching self-contained science classes for students with emotional disabilities at Mark Twain Middle School in Spring-

field. Her cohort for special education teachers was led by Kelley Brown of Mount Vernon High School and Dawn Simpkins of Falls Church High School.

MONDAY AND TUESDAY this week were scheduled to include motivational speeches and instruction, and onboarding for FCPS culture. Wednesday is a visit to the coaches’ schools to see model classrooms. On Thursday teachers return to their base school for localized orientation.

“They work on classroom management, building relationships and establishing processes and routines,” said Richard Culp with the newly formed FCPS Office of Professional Learning and Family Engagement, who’s in his ninth year of organizing the Great Beginnings program.

For beginning teachers, “there’s so much to learn and know right away,” Culp said. “And on the emotional side, they need support too. We know that supported teachers stay in the profession longer. They come here, plan out their first few days and have lots of friends.”

FCPS superintendent Dr. Karen Garza welcomed the new and transitioning teachers to the South County gymnasium, recalling her own roots starting her career as a kindergarten teacher.

Garza emphasized Fairfax County as a great place to work and learn, and promoted some of

SEE GREATER, PAGE 9



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Around 1,200 teachers and instructional staff descended upon South County High School in Lorton on Monday morning Aug. 22 for the 21st running of FCPS “Great Beginnings” orientation.



New teacher Simon Chang (left) of Centreville is already well-versed in relationship building, having worked for a non-profit that does counter-sex trafficking work. On right is new teacher Wela Osman of Springfield.



FCPS Superintendent Dr. Karen Garza welcomed the new and transitioning teachers to the South County gymnasium, recalling her own roots starting her career as a kindergarten teacher.



FCPS School Board Vice Chairman Jane Strauss stressed the vital role of teachers in forming close relationships with students.



Corey Thornblad, the 2016 FCPS Outstanding Teacher from Joyce Kilmer Middle School in Vienna, shared a few points of wisdom from her 12 years in front of the classroom.



The cohort for special education teachers was led by Kelley Brown of Mount Vernon High School (rear left) and Dawn Simpkins of Falls Church High School (rear right).

BACK TO SCHOOL



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

The team from Fairfax Education Association, the county's largest teachers union, was among numerous vendors meeting and engaging with new and transitioning teachers at the FCPS Great Beginnings orientation program on Aug. 22.

Greater Expectations

FROM PAGE 8

the school system's progressive pedagogy.

She said FCPS is working to "minimize the focus on high stakes testing and maximize the focus on authentic learning, authentic engagement."

This she said is part of the sweeping "Portrait of a Graduate" guiding vision for student development.

"How do we make this a reality for every child in our school system," Garza said.

Of the 1,600 teachers FCPS hired for the 2016-2017 school year, 811 are new to FCPS the superintendent said. Some are new to teaching, others are coming from other school districts. All have different reasons for coming to teaching in Fairfax County.

Sean McCormally of Fairfax will be teaching special education chemistry at South County High School.

McCormally didn't begin medicating for attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder until he was 25 — he then raised his grade point average in undergrad more than a full point in graduate school.

"I didn't receive service in high school," McCormally said. "I appreciate what some of these students are going through. I want to help."

For Candice Tenerelli, she's been a special education instructional assistant in math and Strategies for Success in kindergarten and high school for the last five years. A mother with one student of her own off to college and another getting close, "It was the right time

in life" to upgrade her teaching to full time, she said.

FCPS School Board Vice Chairman Jane Strauss also stressed the vital role of teachers in forming close relationships with students. "For many it will be a pivotal one in their life," Strauss said. "Twenty years from now, you may not know you touched someone."

"The work of FCPS is only as successful as you are successful," said Strauss.

New teacher Simon Chang of Centreville is already well-versed in relationship building, having worked for a non-profit that does counter-sex trafficking work. Chang decided he wanted to transition to teaching, and spent last year as an instructional assistant at Mountain View High School.

Chang said he loves working with students with emotional disabilities, a role he'll be taking at South Lakes High School this fall.

"Maybe they don't have anyone to show them love or affection," Chang said.

"I do my part, and show them that I care about them, that I respect them."

SPEAKER COREY THORNBLAD, the 2016 FCPS Outstanding Teacher from Joyce Kilmer Middle School in Vienna, also shared a few points from her 12 years in front of the classroom.

She encouraged the teachers to "find your people," or personal learning network of people who inspire them, and that "things fall apart, but it's what you do when that happens that matters and show what real learning is all about."

After the teachers' lunch and more time in cohorts, they listened to a keynote speech from Rick Smith, author of "Conscious Classroom Management."



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A Passing Reference

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Recently, a week ago in fact, Stuart Grief, a fellow non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV patient/survivor, died from his disease. Stuart succumbed to his cancer less than two years after his late fall, 2014 diagnosis. My wife, Dina and I first met him — and his wife, Amy, in late April 2015, at LUNgevity's (the nation's largest private foundation dedicated to lung cancer research, outreach, etc.; www.LUNgevity.org) HOPE Summit, a conference for lung cancer survivors, caregivers and medical professionals, held annually in Rosslyn, Va. At that time, six months post diagnosis, Stuart said he was "N.E.D.," which means "no evidence of disease," the first time I had ever heard that acronym. We spent a few hours together for dinner at a local restaurant one night (Old Angler's Inn, actually), enough to exchange pleasantries and email addresses. Other than that one evening, our association went no further. However, Stuart and his wife lived in Needham, Ma., the same town/suburb of Boston where my best friend, Cary, and his wife, Mindy live. Given certain circumstances, I thought there might be a foundation for a friendship between the four of them so I encouraged all parties to make a connection, which they did, and over the next/last 15 months they saw each other socially and spoke regularly on the phone.

Though the Grieffs and Louries were not in touch directly, we did receive Amy's email updates on Stu's treatment/health status, and of course Cary updated me as well. Hardly were we in the inner circle. We were mostly on the outside looking in. Nevertheless, I was involved, emotionally, and certainly could appreciate and understand all that Stuart and Amy were enduring. When you're a member of the club (cancer patient/survivor/caregiver), you, (at least I do), draw strength/gain hope from survivorship stories and unfortunately feel weakened/compromised by deaths and disappointments. When I received Cary's email last Saturday about Stuart's death, including a scanned copy of his obituary from the Boston Globe, immediately, I questioned out loud, rhetorically, its reality and promptly called Cary. After a brief conversation, as I caught him in the middle of something, it was all confirmed. We agreed to speak later in the day at a mutually convenient time and so I hung up the phone. Then I walked from my home office to the den to tell Dina that Stuart had died. I could barely get the words out before I started crying.

It was a blow to be sure. It was as if part of me had also died. I felt sad and oddly enough, somewhat at greater risk than before I had received the news. I hardly knew Stuart, and other than the lung cancer connection, there was no other substance to our relationship. However, as cancer patients, we are all connected; we are living the same life, fearing the same uncontrollable outcomes and juggling the same emotions; and what effects one of us, good or bad, effects all of us. Hearing about another cancer's patient's death is the worst possible news — other than our own discouraging news, that we can imagine.

But when you actually see it, hear it — and ultimately believe it ('it' being a cancer death), the reality of your own mortality/health circumstances come crashing down; at least it did for me. I got my bearings soon enough and thankfully, for me, life has gone on. Still, I feel as if something is missing from my life. And even though Stuart and I never spoke after our initial time together, I felt as if he was part of my support system and I his. Not a key part, but in the conversation nonetheless — and most definitely in the club. Stuart will be missed, but never forgotten.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

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PHOTOS BY WILL PALENSCAR

Chris Haddock, CVHS

Season Begins

The 2016 football season has begun. College football's first game was on Aug. 26, the NFL first weeks matchup is Sept. 11, and Fairfax County Schools will play their first regular season game on Sept. 1.

Three local schools — Chantilly, Centreville and Westfield separated my no more than 7.5 miles — hope to be in the mix when the playoffs start in mid-November after the 10-week regular season.

Westfield is coming off the school's third Virginia State Championship. Centreville has won two state championships, most recently in 2013, and Chantilly won its lone championship in 1996.



Kyle Simmons, WHS

Some of the area's most successful athletes played for these three schools: Chantilly's Bhawoh Jue, Keith Gary and Scott Secules; Centreville's Taylor Boose, AJ Turner, Will Montgomery; and Westfield's Eddie Royal, Mike and Sean Glennon the Royster brothers Evan and Brandon, and Tyler Scanlon.

For the upcoming season, CVHS Head Coach Chris Haddock looks for leadership from his QB Jameel Siler and RB Julian Garrett and defensively Caleb Brooks. Westfield Head Coach Kyle Simmons said kicker Brian Delaney should be a major asset, as well as Rehman Johnson, Ivory Frimpong and Sean Eckert, Christian Karl, Jean Marc Tsetou while defensively Kevin Petrillo and Zach Jewell will lead the way.

Asked what game they looked forward to, Haddock replied, "Love them all. The Westfield game is always a biggie."

Simmons replied, "I'm excited for all of them. South County will be looking for payback, along with Centreville, Stone Bridge and Robinson." Simmons believes that Robinson, Centreville and Lake Braddock will compete for the 6A Regional Championship.

Haddock responded, "Westfield is a favorite and so is South County."

Chantilly, with Head Coach Mike Lalli, hosts W.T. Woodson on Sept. 1, Centreville hosts Annandale on Sept. 2, and Westfield hosts Washington-Lee on Sept. 1. All games are scheduled at 7 p.m.

— WILL PALENSCAR

ENTERTAINMENT

Email announcements to chantilly@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

ONGOING

Government Center Farmers Market. Thursdays through Oct. 27, 3-7 p.m. at Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov for more.

Art Guild of Clifton Exhibit. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. at Clifton Wine Shop, 7145 Main St., Clifton. Includes oil paintings of European settings; doors, windows, and flower shops. Free. Call 703-409-0919 for more.

Carolina Shag Dance. Wednesdays, 6:30-10 p.m. at Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Free lessons at 7:30 p.m.; no partners needed; dinner menu at 6:45 p.m. Tickets are \$8. Visit www.nvshag.org for more.

Open Rehearsal. Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. at Lord of Life church, 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, Centreville. The Fairfax Jubil-Aires barbershop chorus invites men of all ages who enjoy singing. Free. Visit www.fairfaxjubilaire.org for more.

Toddlin' Twos. Tuesdays, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Early literacy storytime with songs and activities included. Age 2 with caregiver, free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

Storytime for Three to Fives. Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road.

Stories and activities for children age 3-5 with caregiver. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

English Conversation Group. Thursdays, 7 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Practice English with a group of students and adults. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a space.

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Plant Clinic. Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. A neighborhood plant clinic with horticultural tips, information, techniques, and advice. Free. Call 703-502-3883.

ESL Book Club. Mondays, 7 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Meet and discuss a book chosen by group. Free. Call 703-830-2223 with questions and to reserve a spot.

ESL Book Club. Every other Saturday, 11 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Adults learning English are welcome to meet and discuss a book chosen by the group. To find out book title, call 703-502-3883.

Lego Block Party. Every other Tuesday, 3 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Legos will be provided for an afternoon of building. Grades 3-6. Free. Call 703-502-3883.

PET ADOPTIONS

Adopt a Cat or Dog. Fridays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at PetSmart, 12971 Fair Lakes Center, Fairfax. Visit www.lostdogrescue.org for more.

Adopt a Dog. Saturdays, 12-3 p.m. at

Petco, 13053 Lee Jackson Highway. Visit hart90.org for more.

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SUNDAY/SEPT. 4

Preserving Sully. 11 a.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Built in 1794 and saved from demolition in 1959, Sully's walls have many stories to tell. On this specialized walking tour, see select archival photos and hear fascinating stories about past and continued efforts to preserve Sully Historic Site. Tickets are \$8 for Fairfax County residents, \$10 for non-residents. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site.

SUNDAY-MONDAY/SEPT. 4-5

LEGO Model Train Show. 12-5 p.m. Sunday, 12-4 p.m. Monday at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Potomac Module Crew (PMC) members will have a two day HO scale modular train display. They will be joined by Monty with a custom built LEGO train display. Museum members and children 4 and under, free; children 5-15, \$2; adults 16 and older, \$4. Visit www.fairfax-station.org.

WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY/SEPT. 7, 9
Call for Auditions: "James and

the Giant Peach Jr." 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Mountain View High school, 5775 Spindle Court, Centreville. Alliance Theatre is looking for young actors in grades 3-12 for a November production of "James and the Giant Peach." Free to audition. Visit www.thealliancetheatre.org.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 11

Bichon Bash. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Bull Run Regional Park, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville. The 2016 Bichon Bash is sponsored by the Bichon Frise Club of America Charitable Trust, a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit. Tickets are \$15, \$5 for children. Visit www.bichonbash.org for more.

St. Veronica Farm, Food, and Faith Dinner. 5-8:30 p.m. at Clyde's Willow Creek Farm, 42920 Broadlands Blvd., Ashburn. St. Veronica Catholic Church of Chantilly is hosting the Fourth Annual Catholic Farm, Food and Faith Dinner. At the event, guests will enjoy strolling the grounds of Clyde's organic garden before dinner. Pre-dinner cocktails and appetizers, a three-course dinner with locally grown ingredients, paired with wines from Rappahannock Cellars. Tickets are \$65, \$125 for couples. Visit www.stveronica.net.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 17

Dulles Day Family Festival and Plane Pull. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Dulles International Airport, 1 Saarinen Circle, Dulles. The Dulles Day Festival & Plane Pull is Special Olympics Virginia's "heaviest" fundraiser, pitting teams of 25 against one another to see who can pull a 164,000+ pound Airplane 12

feet the fastest. Teams must raise a minimum of \$1,500 to participate and all proceeds help Special Olympics Virginia provide year-round training and athletic competition to more than 11,000 athletes of all ages. Visit www.planepull.com for more.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 17-18

D.C. Big Flea Market. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday at Dulles EXPO & Conference Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Find period and modern furniture, housewares, and more. Tickets are \$8, good for both days. Visit www.dullesexpo.com or call 703-378-0910.

Virginia Wine Festival. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at Bull Run Regional Park, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville. The Virginia Wine Festival offers a unique array of both free and ticketed tasting and learning opportunities. General admission tickets are \$29 in advance, \$40 day of; VIP tickets are \$59. Visit www.virginiawinefest.com.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 18

N-TRAK Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. at The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Museum members and children 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, \$2; ages 16 and older, \$4. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

"Josiah Wedgwood & Egyptology." 2 p.m. at 13055-C Lee Jackson Highway, Chantilly. Lecture hosted by the Wedgwood Society of Washington, D.C. by Joseph Bothwell, art historian and former IRS director of art appraisals. Free. Visit www.wedgewoodcapital.org.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 21

History for Small Fries. 10 a.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Bring toddlers for a story and craft to discover how things were in the olden days. Children can see how different things smelled, looked or worked. Tickets are \$5 for Fairfax County residents, \$7 for non-residents. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 22

Erin Peterson Fund Golf Tournament. 7 a.m. at Westfields Golf Club, 13940 Balmoral Greens Ave., Clifton. Raise funds for the scholarship fund founded in honor of Virginia Tech massacre victim Erin Peterson. Registration is \$200. Visit www.erinpeterson.org/golf for more.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 23-25

Capital Home Show. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday at Dulles EXPO & Conference Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. This event offers a one-stop shopping experience for the latest remodeling and decorating products and services. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$3 for children, 6-12, and free for children 5 and under. Visit www.dullesexpo.com or call 703-378-0910.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 24

Hot Potatoes in the Kitchen. 10 a.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Aspiring chefs learn about cooking in the open hearth. Using sights, sounds, smells and touch they will learn very basic cooking skills to help launch their culinary career. Children will learn fire safety. Tickets are \$10 for Fairfax County residents, \$12 for non-residents. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site.

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