

An underwater photograph of a young child in a swimming pool. The child is wearing a purple swimsuit and is surrounded by a large cloud of white bubbles, suggesting they have just jumped or fallen into the water. The pool's tiled floor and walls are visible in the background.

Summer ²⁰¹⁷ Camps

Education & Activities

Springfield
CONNECTION
Franconia ♦ Kingstowne ♦ Newington

Fighting Summer Brain Drain

Academic camps keep minds engaged when school is out.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Summer often evokes images of pool splashing and backyard barbecuing. For some educators though, warm weather months represent a potential loss of skills acquired during an academic year. Known as “brain drain,” this concept refers to research that shows that, on average, students lose one to three months of learning when they are not engaged in academic activities during summer months. Academic camps can address this loss of academic skills while allowing children to enjoy summer fun.

“... Students have the opportunity to explore a topic in depth, without juggling competing scholastic demands or intramural activities,” said Dr. Janine Dewitt, professor of sociology at Marymount University in Arlington.

For example, campers at Summertimes Camp at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria will have an opportunity to choose from a variety of specialized camps ranging from physics and French to zoology and rocket and space science.

“Specialty camps are great ways to try new things, to expand horizons and to challenge yourself,” said Jim Supple, associate dean of students and director of summer programs at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School. “One of the best things about specialty offerings is that there are so many. Children are naturally curious — specialty camps provide a way for children to learn more about their curiosities and interests.”

Campers at 3E (Explore, Enrich, Enjoy) Summer Camp at Marymount University will explore science through nature and electronic gadgets, mathematics through making boats and geodesic domes, language arts through writing stories, and fine arts through creating dramas and cartoons. The camp will be offered during two sessions: July 10-14 and July 17-21 with half and full day options for students ages 6 to 12.

Ana Lado, Ph.D., camp director and a professor at Marymount, says that the goal is to give students a chance to brush up on, gain or maintain academic skills in a relaxed environment. “Campers will be in



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

Academic camps such as this one at Marymount University allow students to maintain academic skills while having fun.

small groups with a low camper to counselor ratio and guided by Marymount University Department of Education faculty, students, and alumni,” she said. “Throughout each week of camp, campers will be able to choose among a variety of projects that pique their interest. Campers will create new social connections, grow academically, and develop physically.

High school students who want an in depth study of globalization can attend Marymount's D.C. Institute from July 9-12. During the camp, named The Global Village, students will live on campus and earn college credit.

“We will talk about how increasing global connections shape our lives today,” said Dewitt. “Students can expect classroom discussions that focus on a series of central questions followed by field trips to area museums and site visits.”

For parents concerned about balancing the need to maintain academic skills with the need for downtime, Dewitt says that, “Parents can prevent academic burn-out by limiting the number of scheduled activities over the course of the summer, and selecting only those that foster their child's natural curiosity. Summer courses that allow students the freedom to select different types of learning activities can be both energizing and fun.”

Community Arts
Acting For Young People

Creative Summer Programs & Camps at Mason

Kids & Teens - Enjoy the university experience at Mason this summer!

ACTING
 MUSIC
 FILM
 ART
 PHOTO

www.PotomacAcademy.org
 Acting: www.AFYP.org
 703-993-9889

NAVY GIRLS SOCCER CAMP

Now in its 16th year – in Annapolis, MD at the U.S. Naval Academy

Overnight Camp & Day Camp

June 24-27 | June 19-23

(ages 10-17) Directed by (ages 6-12)
Carin Gabarra

Navy Women's Soccer Head Coach ... Olympic Gold Medalist
FIFA World Player of the Year ... U.S. Soccer Hall of Fame Inductee

For more information, email gabarra@usna.edu,
call 410-293-5562, fax 410-293-3149, or visit www.NavySports.com.

Registration and Brochure now available online:
www.NavySports.com
Click on "Camps" and then "Soccer - Girls"

Springfield
CONNECTION

Summer●Camps
Education&Activities

IS PRODUCED BY
CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM
LOCAL MEDIA CONNECTION LLC

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
CALL 703-778-9431 OR EMAIL
SALES@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/ADVERTISING

Nursing Camp for HS Students

Campers will get a real-world view of the nursing profession.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

This summer a group of high school students with an interest in health care as a profession will get a chance to experience the real-world work of nurses when they attend a nursing camp at George Mason University.

“Our goal has been to introduce high school students to what nursing is, and what it is not,” said Carol Urban, Ph.D., R.N., associate professor and director, School of Nursing George Mason University. “We find that we have students come to Mason who declare nursing as their major, but have never had any experience with nurses outside of their health care provider’s office or the school nurse. We want to introduce them to nursing as a career, and the many opportunities that exist in nursing beyond working in a hospital.”

The camp will provide small

group projects and hands-on simulation to introduce core concepts of nursing. Nursing faculty hope to expose students to the diverse career paths available to those with a degree in nursing.

Urban says that students will be taught healthcare skills, such as how to take a blood pressure and how to check a pulse. “We will provide ... time in our nursing simulation laboratory where we have our human simulators,” she said. “[Campers] will have observational experiences in a hospital with nurses and will be given an opportunity to talk with nurses we have on our faculty who have been in unique career fields including a forensics nurse, and a researcher who works globally in sub-Saharan Africa.”

The camp will also expose students to new trends in healthcare. “Healthcare delivery is changing and the camp is exposing the students to the changing healthcare climate,” said Christine M. Coussens, Ph.D., associate dean of Community Engagement in the College of Health and Human Services at George

Mason University. “In the newer healthcare models, nurses will have a significant role in how and when healthcare is delivered and they will continue to be leaders for ensuring the health of patients and communities.”

Nursing Camp for High School Students

JULY 10-14, 2017

Cost: \$275

Time: 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Application deadline: May 8

For more information, visit chhs.gmu.edu/nursing/camp/index.cfm

SEE NURSING, PAGE 4

EXPERIENCE ~ EXPLORE ~ CREATE

CAMP GRIFFIN
at Westminster School

Ages 3-14 | Early Care | Extended Care

GIVE YOUR CHILD FUN & ADVENTURE THIS SUMMER!

REGISTER NOW. SPACE IS LIMITED.

WWW.WESTMINSTERSCHOOL.COM

You can read any of this week’s 15 papers digital editions here:

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/PDFs



Adopt/Donate/Volunteer
www.lostdogandcatrescue.org

COME TO THE TURTLE... WHERE KIDS EAT FREE!

FREE KIDS MEAL EVERY TUESDAY WITH THE PURCHASE OF ANY ADULT ENTREE.

ALL DAY
EVERY TUESDAY
KIDS EAT FREE

ALEXANDRIA
7879 Heneska Loop
Alexandria, VA 22315
703-971-0200

he Greene Turtle
ALEXANDRIA, VA

OTHER TURTLES NEAR YOU

FAIRFAX
3950 University Drive, Suite 209
703-934-5550

CHANTILLY
4301 Chantilly Shopping Center
571-375-1196

LEADERSHIP for LIFE
Preparing Young Men for College and Beyond

Boys Grades 7-12

10:1 Student-Faculty Ratio

JROTC Honor Unit with Distinction

Small, Structured, Supportive

Success Since 1879

SUMMER SESSION - JUNE 24 - JULY 29

FISHBURNE MILITARY SCHOOL

Call today to schedule a visit for your family!

(540) 416-9836

Introduction To Nursing

FROM PAGE 3

DURING A TYPICAL DAY at the camp, students will spend several hours in the nursing skills laboratory learning basic skills and techniques. “Then they may have some time in our nursing simulation lab, working with a [simulated human] patient and using some of those skills to practice caring for the patient,” said Urban. “On another day, they will spend several hours in one of the local hospitals on a nursing unit, observing the nurses in-action, and learning about what nurses do there. They may also spend some time in one of our Mason and Partners clinics, learning how nurses care for patients in a clinic setting and how valuable educating patients about their health is to improving their health.

Students will also have an opportunity to engage in a dialogue with nurses to gain insights into real world experience. “They’ll have conversations with nurses about their careers and learning what education and experiences they needed for that kind of a job. For example, what does a forensics nurse do?” asked Urban.

Coussens hopes that students will leave the camp knowing the diversity of options that a degree in

nursing can offer. “A degree in nursing opens possibilities for students to work in hospitals, healthcare management positions, policy positions ... globally in clinics and with aid organizations, in forensic roles [and] research institutions,” said Coussens. “There are limitless opportunities. A degree in nursing can open doors because of the clinical license and analytical ability.”

Admission to the nursing camp is competitive because of the limited number of available spots.

“We’ve run this camp before and it has been well-received,” said Urban. “Graduates’ of the camp have said that it really opened their eyes to everything a nurse does, and the great career potential that nurses have. They are amazed at the various opportunities a nurse can have. It also makes them aware that nursing is hard, but rewarding — it isn’t just what you see in the media, it’s real work. But more importantly, they see the passion that nurses have for that work, and the reward of seeing a patient and family member helped by the work that nurses do.”

The camp will run from July 10-14. The cost is \$275. For more information, visit chhs.gmu.edu/nursing/camp/index.cfm.

“Our goal has been to introduce high school students to what nursing is, and what it is not.”

— Carol Urban, Ph.D., R.N.

Gary Kramer, D.D.S.
Sara Bunin, D.D.S.
 DIPLOMATES OF THE AMERICAN BOARD OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY
 Dentistry for Children, Adolescents & Special Needs
 703-978-0051 KBPediatricSmiles.com



SUITE F • 5631 BURKE CENTRE PARKWAY • BURKE, VA. 22015
 MET LIFE, DELTA, BCBS/CAREFIRST, & UNITED CONCORDIA PROVIDER
 WEEKDAYS • SATURDAYS • EVENINGS 24 HOUR EMERGENCY CARE




PHOTO GALLERY!
“Me and My Mom”

To honor Mom on Mother’s Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your Mom and The Mount Vernon Gazette 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 e-mail digital photos, send to:

editors@connectionnewspapers.com

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

Looking for
summer fun?

It’s **nature and nurture** all summer long
at **Burgundy Farm Summer Day Camp!**



- Campers will enjoy **25 acres** of beautiful, natural space, just off the Beltway in Alexandria. A pond, barnyard, woods and more await your children!
- Camp runs **June 19 through August 11**. We have options for ages 3 years, 8 months through 12, with a counselor in training program for 13-16.
- Learn more and register today! Call 703.842.0477 or visit www.burgundyfarm.org/summer-programs