



# Onevoice

A Monthly Update from the Fairfax District PTA

FEBRUARY 10, 2007

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VOLUME 1, NUMBER 3

### ***Upcoming Events/Important Dates***

- February 19 – National PTA Advocacy Week. ([www.pta.org/advocacy](http://www.pta.org/advocacy))
- February 20 – Fairfax District PTA Executive Board Meeting. Ed. Center (1426 N. Quincy St.), Arlington. 7-9pm
- February 24 (snow date, March 3) – District Bylaws Workshop. North Springfield Elementary School
- February 28 – Alexandria PTAC Summer Camp Fair, Hammond MS. 5:30-8pm
- March 5 – FCCPTA Board Mtg. 7:30pm
- March 7 - George Mason HS PTSA "International Dinner" (Falls Church City PTAs)
- March 14 – Alexandria PTAC Mtg. 7pm
- March 19 – Arlington CCPTA Mtg. 7pm
- March 21 – FCCPTA Reflections Award Ceremony. Robinson Secondary School, 7pm
- March 27 – Fairfax District Reflections Award Ceremony. Yorktown HS, Arlington. 7-9pm

***April 24 - Fairfax District Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner.*** *This annual event celebrates the accomplishments of our units, teachers, parents, and students.*

*The evening includes dinner, awards presentations and a business meeting of the District.*

*Honored guests include Dianne Florence, VAPTA President, Chuck Saylor, National PTA Secretary/Treasurer, and U.S. Representative Tom Davis.*

### **Bylaws Workshop**

PTA is an organization of members and its success depends a set of rules and obligations that outlines and provides for mutual cooperation and benefit for this membership. These laws are our bylaws and they govern our organization and keep it structured.

As you may know, bylaws are only valid for five years. At their expiration they must be renewed.

In order to provide units with the necessary tools and materials needed to renew or amend their bylaws, the Fairfax District PTA will be holding a *FREE* bylaws workshop. The workshop will cover everything you need to know about your unit's bylaws and by the end of the two hour session your bylaws can be ready for approval by your general membership. This workshop will be facilitated by Phyllis Ayers, VAPTA Bylaws Chairman and Debi Abadie, VAPTA Bylaws Co-Chair.

There will be two two-hour workshops offered: 9-11am and 12-2pm. They will be held Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup> (Snow date March 3<sup>rd</sup>) at North Springfield Elementary School. The school is located off of Braddock Road (between the Beltway and Backlick Rd) at 7602 Heming Court, Springfield.

If you are able, please bring a laptop computer to the workshop. We will provide CDs with pertinent VA PTA Bylaws information, guidelines and templates.

If you are planning to send someone to this workshop, please let Rob Horvath ([rob.horvath@cox.net](mailto:rob.horvath@cox.net)) know as soon as possible. Space may be limited.

### **Virginia PTA Day**

PTA Day at the Virginia General Assembly was held January 29, 2007. A number of Fairfax District PTA delegates as well as delegates from throughout the state of Virginia attended the program at Richmond City Hall. Governor Tim Kaine welcomed the attendees and thanked the VA PTA for their support and assistance with advocating for all Virginia children. The 2006 Child Advocate of the Year, Senator John H. Chichester, was honored and graciously accepted the VAPTA award.

Fairfax District hosted a reception for our representatives and senators. Thirteen of our elected officials joined us for discussions on issues pertinent to our units.

### District Reflections Awardees

Fairfax District Reflections Ceremony will be held March 27, 2007 at Yorktown HS in Arlington. Congratulations to the following students who advanced to the State level with Outstanding Interpretation awards at the District level:

**Dance:** Gracie Terzian, Oakton HS; Aimee Cho, Forest Edge ES, Kimmy Lewis, Aldrin ES; Camilla Infante, Saratoga ES

**Film:** Deepak Chitnis, Chantilly HS; Gwendolyn O'Brien, Kilmer MS; Amal Ibrahim, Saratoga ES; Mary Monaco, Hayfield ES

**Literature:** Paige Gardner, Robinson SS; Michael Wu, Rachel Carson MS; Kate Hao, Oak Hill ES; Zach Zamoff, Arlington Traditional School

**Music:** David Wheeler, Oakton HS; Ryan Maher, Key MS; Elise Kolle, Waynewood ES; Kyle Gatesman, Canterbury Woods ES

**Photography:** Chantal Cough-Schulze, George Mason HS; Rachel Blumenstein, George Washington MS; Shanna Gerlach, Mt. Vernon Community School; Rohan Suri, Bailey's ES

**Visual Arts:** Susan Cho, W.T. Woodson HS; Melanie Kim, Kilmer MS; Hannah Kang, Hunters Woods ES; Valentina Antinogenova, Falls Church City ES PTA

### Executive Committee

[Lisa Moore](#), District Director  
[Debbie Kilpatrick](#), 1<sup>st</sup> Asst. Director  
[Lisa Lombardozi](#), 2<sup>nd</sup> Asst. Director  
[Jevon Davis](#), Secretary  
[Michelle Davis](#), Treasurer

### Executive Board of Directors

[Lesley Aschenbach](#), Annual Meeting Chairman  
[Denise Bolton](#), Arts in Education  
[Liz Bradsher](#), Legislative  
[David Edelman](#), Education  
[Rob Horvath](#), Communications  
[Sharon Sneed](#), Bylaws/Membership

\*To send an Email, hover over name and click.

### Other news...

- PTA has launched the second annual "Unit Recognition Program" for the 2006-2007 membership year, and local units may be eligible to receive an award. The application process is fast, easy, and free! Go to: [http://www.pta.org/local\\_leadership\\_subprogram\\_1157664409109.html](http://www.pta.org/local_leadership_subprogram_1157664409109.html) and fill out the application, and either fax it to (312) 670-6783 or email it to <mailto:info@pta.org>. The application deadline is March 15, 2007.
- On the third Tuesday of each month during the school year, the Department of Education, in collaboration with WETA, produces *Education News* live at WETA's studio in Arlington. The program offers parents and anyone else with an interest in education vital information about getting involved in children's learning. Contact [Dustin Watson](#) to arrange free roundtrip transportation, a reception, and attendance at these live broadcasts. More information, including a listing of upcoming programs can be found at: <http://www.ed.gov/news/av/video/edtv/index.html>
- The National Middle School Association is sponsoring a "Teams That Make A Difference" Contest. Four (4) Grand prizes will be awarded which will include a \$3,000 cash prize. Deadline for submission of applications is February 23, 2007. More information is available at: <http://www.nmsa.org>
- A Summer Camp Fair sponsored by the PTA Council of Alexandria will be held February 28, 2007. Over 50 camps will be represented. The fair will be held from 5:30-8:00pm at FC Hammond MS. For more information Email: [alexptaccamp@comcast.net](mailto:alexptaccamp@comcast.net)

Photo Op



Virginia Governor Tim Kaine and VAPTA President Dianne Florence meet with school children at the Virginia General Assembly during Virginia PTA Day on January 29, 2007. (photo by Melissa Nehrbass)