



District PTA Update - May 11, 2009

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Greetings District PTA Members

We would like to thank all who attended our District Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner on April 21 at the Waterford in Springfield, especially our guest speakers, Betsy Landers, National PTA Secretary-Treasurer and President-Elect nominee from Memphis, and Dan Phillips, Virginia PTA Vice President from Fredericksburg. Also, in attendance were National PTA Service Representative Ivelisse Castro, who resides in Vienna, and Keri Haars, National PTA Office of Programs and Public Policy, D.C.

Representing our district school divisions and Virginia House of Delegates were: Dr. Richard Moniuszko, FCPS Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Patrick Murphy, Arlington County incoming Superintendent, FCPS School Board Members Liz Bradsher, Ilryong Moon, and Tina Hone, and Delegates Vivian Watts and Bob Hull. We appreciate everyone's support of our district.

During dinner, we were honored to listen to the musical performances of Pierre Quan, Forestville ES PTA, and Kyle Gatesman, Canterbury Woods ES PTA, who played their musical compositions in honor of being nominated for National PTA Reflections Awards. A special thank you to both young students for sharing their love of music with us during this special event.

An additional surprise was the presentation of **Congressional Record Proclamations** for each student and PTA award recipient by Congressman Gerry Connolly, presented by his District Director Sharon Stark. The two Congressional Records, one for student awards and one for unit awards, can be [viewed on our district web site](#). This award presentation is a great honor for our District members and we would like to thank Congressman Connolly for acknowledging our District Award winners with such a memorable recognition.

NEW PTA

New Charters: Quander Road School PTSA, Alexandria received their PTSA Charter during the 2008 Virginia PTA Convention and was recognized by National PTA at the 2009 Annual Awards Dinner. Congratulations to Kelly Greenwood, PTSA President and William Files, Principal.

New Charters: Congratulations to the newly chartered Laurel Hill ES PTA! On May 6, a PTA Organizational Meeting was held for the Laurel Hill ES in Lorton. The new school will open in the fall lead by Principal Suzie Montgomery and Asst. Principal Baek Chong. The PTA is in full swing with President Michele Fick, 1st VP Peggy Shahin, 2nd VP Tracy Frye, Treasurer Karen DeSpiegelaere, and Secretary Kim Thornburg leading the way. Many Committee Chair positions have been filled and programs are underway to benefit all the students and staff of this brand new school in the fall. Please join us in wishing Laurel Hill ES PTA all the best as they begin this exciting new journey!

SUPER TEACHER AWARD

We would like to announce that the Northern Region VA Lottery Super Teacher Award was presented to **Joel Block, Math Teacher, at George Mason High School, Falls Church City Schools**, in a surprise ceremony this morning held in Mr. Block's classroom with his students. He was nominated by a parent of one of his students for his ability to make math fun for his students and created "*Algebra for Parents*." He encourages his students to complete their assignments on time by recognizing their accomplishments with special rewards. Congratulations, Mr. Block!



District Principals Honored Congratulations to Principal

Brian Hull, Colin Powel ES, for being selected as Virginia's 2009 National Distinguished Principal. The selection was made by the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) and the U. S. Department of Education. Principal Hull was also honored last year as the 2008 Fairfax County Public Schools' Principal of the Year. The Colin Powell ES PTA were very instrumental in his nomination for this position. Principal Hull has always maintained an excellent partnership with his schools' PTAs and we would like to recognize his continued partnership with parents in meeting the educational needs of his students.

Congratulations to Principal Deirdre Lavery, Glasgow Middle School, for being selected as the 2009 Fairfax County Public Schools Principal of the Year. Principal Lavery has had the support of the

Over the next few weeks, the District will be organizing a PTA at the new school Lutie Lewis Coates ES in Herndon, and a new PTSA at Cedar Lane School in Vienna. We look forward to welcoming these communities to our PTA family.

Please join us in congratulating our local units, volunteers, and students on earning District, State, and National PTA recognitions this past year. Our District participation in these PTA programs has been outstanding and we are very pleased to have such a strong membership representing the Northern Virginia District PTA. Again, Congratulations to all our 2008-2009 PTA Award recipients!

2008-2009 Award Winners

District PTA Citizenship Essay Awards

- High School Division
 - Paul Capp, 12th Grade, McLean High School PTSA
 - Lisa Pang, 12th Grade, Thomas Jefferson HSST PTSA
- Middle School Division
 - Cali Willcockson, 7th Grade, Liberty Middle School PTA
 - Ji Soo Song, 8th Grade, Rocky Run Middle School PTA

Virginia PTA Citizenship Essay Awards

- High School Division, 3rd Place: Paul Capp, 12th Grade, McLean HS PTSA
- Middle School Division, 1st Place: Ji Soo Song, 8th Grade, Rocky Run MS PTA

Volunteer of the Year Award Winners

- Sue Bernstein, Hollin Meadows Elementary School PTA, Alexandria
- Robin Harris, George C. Marshall High School PTSA, Falls Church

District Volunteer Achievement Award

- Kristen Arseneau, Terra Centre Elementary School PTA, Burke

District Volunteer of the Year Nominees

- Liz Falcone, Terraset Elementary School PTA, Reston
- Holly Haynes, Fairview Elementary School PTA, Fairfax Station
- Mandy Kittelberger, Fairview Elementary School PTA, Fairfax Station
- Joanne Sweeney, Long Branch Elementary School PTA, Arlington
- Melynda Wilcox, George Mason Elementary School PTA, Alexandria

Take Your Family to School Week Award Winners

- Oakton Elementary School, Oakton VA
- Mantua Elementary School, Fairfax VA

2008-2009 PTA Schools of Excellence

- Lake Anne Elementary School PTA, Reston VA
- Lake Braddock Secondary School PTSA, Burke VA

2008-09 VA PTA Membership Awards

- Chesterbrook Elementary PTA, Fairfax County, 106%
- Falls Church Elementary PTA, Falls Church City, 133%
- Flint Hill Elementary PTA, Fairfax County, 112%
- Haycock Elementary PTA, Fairfax County 101%

Glasgow MS PTA in striving to provide the very best learning environment for students and increasing parental involvement. These efforts have improved the overall academic achievements of all their students. Congratulations, Principal Lavery!

Dates To Remember:

- May 26, 2009, District Monthly Meeting, 7:30pm TJHSST Career Center
- July 17-18, 2009 [VA PTA Leadership Training](#)
- Nov 13-15, 2009 [State PTA Convention](#)

Action Items

- 2009 Local Unit Bylaws Due Report - What is the status of your local unit bylaws? Check to see if your unit's Bylaws are [due in 2009](#) or [past due](#).
- Virginia PTA Preliminary Proposed Legislation Program (PLPs) for 2010 is [now available online](#).
- 2009-2010 Local Unit Officer Elections - To assist local PTA Nominating Committees, officer and committee chair position descriptions are [available on district web site](#).

- Langley High School PTSA, Fairfax County 111%
- Nottingham Elementary PTA, Arlington County 104%
- Wayneswood Elementary PTA, Fairfax County 105%
- Wolftrap Elementary PTA, Fairfax County 102%

VA PTA Membership Achievement Awards at 2008 Convention for period ending June 30, 2008

- Falls Church ES PTA, Superior, 3rd Place, Division 1
- Virginia Run ES PTA, Superior, 1st Place, Division 5
- Langley High School PTSA, Superior, 1st Place, Division 7
- Weyanoke ES PTA, Outstanding, 3rd Place, Division 4

Virginia PTA Reflections Awards

- **LITERATURE:** Senior Division - Alexander Kopenhaver, (9th grade), Washington-Lee High School PTSA
- **MUSIC COMPOSITION:** Primary Division - Pierre Quan, (2nd grade), Forestville Elementary School PTA
- **MUSIC COMPOSITION:** Intermediate Division Kyle Gatesman, (3rd grade), Canterbury Woods Elementary School PTA
- **PHOTOGRAPHY:** Middle/Jr. Division - Courtney E. Brown (6th grade), Bull Run Elementary School PTA
- **VISUAL ART:** Primary Division- Kaitlin Phan, (2nd grade) Colin Powell Elementary School PTA
- **VISUAL ART:** Intermediate Division - Jamie H. Chang, (5th Grade), Union Mill Elementary School PTA
- **VISUAL ART:** Senior - William W. Park, (11th Grade) Langley High School PTSA

2009 National PTA Reflections Winners Announced

Seven students from across Virginia were selected as National PTA Reflections Award recipients. Congratulations to the following students representing the Northern Virginia District earning awards at the national level (works can be viewed on [National PTA web site](#) as well as on the [District web site](#) soon):

- **AWARD OF MERIT - MUSIC COMPOSITION** Primary Division -Pierre Quan, (2ndgrade), Forestville Elementary School PTA, Great Falls, for his musical composition titled " Wow-Nature is Wakening"
- **AWARD OF EXCELLENCE - MUSIC COMPOSITION** Intermediate Division - Kyle Gatesman, (3rd grade), Canterbury Woods Elementary School PTA, Annandale, for his musical composition titled "Sonatina in F"
- **AWARD OF EXCELLENCE - VISUAL ART** Senior Division - William W. Park, (11th Grade), Langley High School, McLean, for his multi faceted vision of "What a Sight"

Best regards,
Debbie

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