



FANS

News & Notes

June/July/August 2008

With this issue we wish a fond farewell to Amy Suardi and her family who are moving to New York City in June. We'll greatly miss Amy's enthusiasm and hard work as she worked tirelessly to promote Abingdon Elementary's wonderful attributes - its caring teachers and school leaders, creative curriculum, exceptional students and strong PTA.

Upcoming Events at Abingdon

June 11 (Wed) - Wheel Night, 5:45 - 8 p.m.

June 13 (Fri) - Field Day, 8:00-2:30

June 17 (Tues) - Market Day

June 19 (Thurs) - **Early Release at 12:26 p.m.**

June 20 (Fri) - **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL** - School-wide Awards Ceremony. **Early Release at 12:26 p.m.**

How do Abingdon Parents Rate Abingdon?

Check out the glowing reports from current Abingdon families on the Testimonials page of the FANS website: <http://mysite.verizon.net/vze2vqhs/fans/testimonials.html>

We are always looking for more input from parents. Your candid responses help people considering Abingdon make decisions on where to send their children. Please send your comments to fans@fastmail.net.

Bonus: check out more reviews of Abingdon on the Great Schools website - <http://www.greatschools.net/school/parentReviews.page?id=110&state=VA>

Volunteer Opportunities Abound

Looking for a way to continue to support Abingdon? Here are some great opportunities:

- **Field Day on June 13.** Abingdon is looking for volunteers to help with Field Day on June 13. If you can help, please contact Dana Andy at theandyfamily@comcast.net. Any help you can provide is greatly appreciated.

- **Afterschool activities for the Fall.**

Due to popular demand, we plan to bring Tae Kwon Do and Mad Science back to Abingdon in the Fall. Want to earn free tuition for your child? Then sign up to be the class parent volunteer. Volunteers attend each class and help instructors by, for example, taking attendance, getting the children ready for class, and making sure the children get to their next stop safely. Mad Science also offers a parent coordinator position that lets you earn free tuition for 1 child, as long as we register the minimum number of children. (Last year, we scheduled a 2nd class because it was so popular.) The coordinator's responsibilities can be done on your own time and include distributing flyers and registering the children. If you have a special interest, talent, or hobby that you would like to share with the children, then we may be able to schedule a special class(es). Abingdon students are anxious to learn so please consider any interests you would be willing to share.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Cheryl Goodman at goodman_cheryl@hotmail.com or 703-778-1824 in the evening.

Abingdon Parent Recognized by County Council of PTAs

Former Abingdon parent, Ellen Clore-Patron, was nominated by the County Council of PTAs for the PTA Northern Virginia Volunteer of the Year.

Ellen's son Alexander attended Abingdon until 2007, when he entered middle school at Gunston. At Abingdon, Ellen served as PTA president, Little Bird editor and designer for 2 years, Back-to-School festival coordinator, Fall Festival co-coordinator, grant writer, Tuesday folder stuffer, photocopy-maker, fundraiser leader, Campbell's label collector, bulletin board decorator, and tutor.

Former Abingdon PTA President, Colleen Weiser, says, "I have had the pleasure of working with Ellen on several large fundraisers and one school picnic. Each event was well organized, classy and raised lots of money!"

Kindergartners Triumphant; Abingdon Will Collect "Box Tops for Education" but not Campbells' Labels

Congratulations to the kindergartners who are the repeat champions in the "Box Tops for Education" competition. They collected the most box tops and will celebrate with a party. Please keep collecting the "Box Tops for Education" over the summer because they help to fund books on tape for the library. The YES Club will begin tallying the results in the Fall. Abingdon will no longer collect the Campbells' labels.

Abingdon Outdoor Classroom Gets Compost Area

On May 22nd, Abingdon's own Queen of Science, Anne Sywilok, and Nelson Iglesias, a representative from Lowe's, constructed a compost area for the garden with 90 cinder blocks, wooden planks, and sealer. They worked all day and finally finished at 6 p.m. The project was made possible by Lowe's Outdoor Classroom grant. Ms. Sywilok said "We wouldn't have been able to successfully complete the project without the help of Mr. Iglesias who was very generous with his time as he donated the day to help me with the project." Abingdon students will be able to discard their apple cores, orange peels, and other leftover food from breakfast and lunch as they observe the decomposition of food turning into soil full of nutrients for our garden. This is just one of the many ways the teachers at Abingdon use real "hands on" activities to teach science as it is in the real world.

Arlington High Schools Tops in Nation

Newsweek magazine has ranked all four APS high schools in the top two percent of high schools in the nation according to this year's rankings published in the May 18 issue. Rankings were determined by using The Washington Post Challenge Index, which rates each school by dividing the total number of Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate and/or Cambridge tests taken by all students at a school in 2007 divided by the number of graduating seniors. *Newsweek* ranked H-B Woodlawn, Washington-Lee and Yorktown in the top 100. Wakefield was ranked in the top 2% in the nation. The May 18 *Newsweek* article and the complete list are available online at www.newsweek.com/id/39380/?q=2008/rank/1/.

Last Sunday Playdates to Continue During the Summer

Due to the success of previous playdates, casual playground get-togethers for current and prospective Abingdon students continue. On Sunday **June 29** and **July 27** from 3 to 5 p.m., future and current Abingdon families can meet at the front Abingdon playground for chatting, snacking, and playing. Families are encouraged to come out and play, even if their children are far from kindergarten age.

Looking for Fun Family Activities this Summer?

- Visit the Shirlington Library (Approximately 5 minutes away from Abingdon)? Located at 4200 Campbell Ave in Arlington. Library events include author talks and movies on select dates. To view details go to the library blog at: <http://shirlingtonlibrary.wordpress.com/> Arlington's Summer Reading Program for preschoolers, kids, and teens begins Saturday June 7. The Web site is under construction at: <http://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/Libraries/kids/LibrariesKidsKidsCorner.aspx>
 - Visit the Local Water Park (Approximately 10 minutes away from Abingdon)

Catch a wave in the wave pool, twist and turn down four-story water slides, take a plunge down speed slides, play with friends in the shallow waters of the play pool at Cameron Run Regional Park. The park also features a deluxe miniature golf course, a nine-station batting cage, picnic shelters, and a special events pavilion. For more details go to: <http://www.nvrpa.org/parks/cameronrun/index.php>
 - Explore a New Playground (Approximately 15-20 minutes away from Abingdon)

Clemjontri park in McLean was created for children of all abilities and is worth the short drive. The park also features a carousel, picnic pavillion and a padded bike path that circles the park. It can get quite busy at peak times, but there is satellite parking. For more information go to: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/clemjontri/playground.htm>
 - Explore Nature & Much More (Approximately 25 minutes away from Abingdon)

Burke Lake Park in Fairfax Station, a [218-acre lake with fishing, boating, rowboat rental, camping](#), a [miniature train, a carousel, outdoor volleyball courts](#), open fields, an [18-hole par 3 golf course](#), clubhouse with snack bar and driving range, disk golf, horse shoe pits, an [ice cream parlor, picnic areas with grills](#), 3 playgrounds, [trails, amphitheater](#), and a brand new [miniature golf course](#) is great for all ages.
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**THANK YOU FANS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!
HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!**