



FANS

News & Notes

January 2007

Award-Winning Illustrator Visits Abingdon Children

Last night, Jan. 18, Abingdon students met a real storybook author and illustrator: **Janet Morgan Stoeke**, creator of the Minerva Louise series. After a light meal of pizza and juice, Ms. Stoeke talked about her writing process, read some of her stories, and guided the children in their creation of a new character (a flying lion named Emmett). Participation (and the giggle factor) was high. In the question and answer portion, students asked about her career, the kind of paint she uses, and how books are made.

Afterwards, children won the author's books in a raffle and were allowed to check out extra library books. Ms. Stoeke personally signed copies of *A Hat for Minerva Louise* for each child.

The very popular Library Nights are organized by Abingdon staff and paid for by federal grants. The next event, February 9, features a mystery theme and also includes pizza, a book raffle and bonus library check-outs. See you there!

Girl Scout Ceremony and Cookies

As you may know, Abingdon is home to three girl scout troupes: Daisies (kindergarten), Brownies (1st-3rd grade), and Juniors (4th-5th grade). On Tuesday, Jan. 16, new Girl Scouts were invested and returning Girl Scouts rededicated themselves as Scouts. Girl Scouts meet twice a month at Abingdon where they learn important values and skills, make new friends, and have fun together.

Brownies and Junior Girl Scouts are selling Girl Scout cookies in January and February. The sale of cookies funds activities like camping, arts projects, and nature trips. See the **attached** for more on the delicious kinds of cookies for sale.

To join the Girl Scouts or to buy cookies, contact Brownie Troop Leader Cheryl Goodman at 703-409-4147 or goodman_cheryl@hotmail.com.

Orientations at Abingdon

The official kindergarten orientation season is upon us. Mark your calendars to see Abingdon in action: Principal Joanne Uyeda will present highlights of the school, answer questions, and introduce a few teachers. Tours will follow. All are welcome.

Orientations (beginning in the school library):

Tuesday, February 27: 9:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Thursday, March 8: 12:45 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.

Thursday, April 12: 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

To set up a private appointment with Ms. Uyeda, please call the school office at 703-228-6650.

Kindergarten Information Night – Monday, Jan. 29

Kenmore Middle School auditorium, 7 p.m. (Snow Date: Feb. 5)

If you have a preschooler entering kindergarten this September, this overview is for you. The presentation will cover information on Arlington Public Schools kindergarten, options available, the application process, deadlines, the Extended Day childcare program and more.

Following the overview presentation, parents will have an opportunity to visit school-specific presentations (including Abingdon). Limited child care with pre-registration is available. To register, call Extended Day at 703-228-6069 by Jan. 19.

Wheel Night at Abingdon – also Monday, Jan. 29

6:30-8:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria and also the wheel classrooms (look for signs)

"Wheel" classes are architecture, instrumental music, 21st century communications/and science lab. Each quarter Abingdon students rotate through "wheel" classes.

Ms. Napoleone's Kindergarten and Ms. Donaghue's 1st Grade classes will present a play to show what they are learning about communicating through pantomime, tableaux, art, music, poetry and drama.

Ms. Le Rosen's 2nd grade and Ms. Schwanbeck's 3rd grade classes will present the public service announcements and special feature reports they made for Abingdon's morning TV show "Cardinal News Network" (CNN).

Ms. Shaw's 4th grade and Ms. Hunter's 5th grade classes will present 15 original claymation movies they made in the stop-action lab.

Architecture Teacher Featured at next PTA Meeting

Come to Mr. McDavvit's classroom (Room 132) on **Tuesday, Jan. 23** at 6:30 p.m. for a peek at one of the most popular classes at Abingdon. David will talk from 6:45-7:30 about his class and show examples of students' architecture projects from present and past years. Then from 7:30-8:00 a light agenda will be discussed at the general PTA meeting. As always, free child care will be provided by PTA.