



FANS

News & Notes

July 2007

Abingdon PTA's Colleen Weiser Honored by School Board

At the June 19 School Board meeting, Colleen Weiser and 10 other volunteers were celebrated as Arlington Public Schools 2006-07 Honored Citizens. These volunteers were chosen for their sustained commitment (five years or more) and for the energy and enthusiasm they donated to education at Arlington Public Schools. Colleen was nominated by outgoing PTA Co-President, Tina Masciangioli, and lauded by teachers, administrators, and community leaders.

Perhaps Colleen's greatest achievement was rebuilding the Abingdon PTA, which had diminished in the years since her first son attended Abingdon. In 2004, Colleen took over the Treasurer position. Known for clipping coupons and washing plastic tablecloths, she diligently brought the PTA books from a state of disarray and debt to organization and surplus.

In the 2005/06 school year, Colleen became one of two Abingdon PTA Co-Presidents. She also held the position of PTA Treasurer, Fall Fundraiser Chairperson, and CCPTA Representative, as well as chair of almost every committee. Despite the heavy workload, she remained optimistic and formulated a plan to rebuild the Abingdon PTA and to partner with Principal Joanne Uyeda, who was taking on the task of increasing academic performance.

Colleen paved the way for a new era for Abingdon of respect and integration in its community. She arranged for Joanne to speak at local preschools and a Fairlington Citizens' Association meeting. Together with Co-President Tina Masciangioli, she compiled a nomination package to the Washington Post which resulted in Joanne being named 2006 Principal of the Year. Not surprisingly, Colleen was an early and ardent supporter of FANS, unflagging in her encouragement and real help in improving the school's image and getting the word out.

Even though Colleen holds down a full-time job outside the home, she was often mistaken for a teacher because she was so often at the school early in the morning and late in the evening. Colleen's efforts demonstrate how one person really can make a difference. We applaud Colleen and her passion, dedication, and commitment to Abingdon Elementary School. She is truly one-of-a-kind and we will miss her.

Study Discusses Benefits of Family Involvement in Elementary School

Speaking of parent involvement, many of us instinctively know that getting involved in our children's education is important. If you've ever wondered exactly why and how your involvement matters, a Harvard Family Research Project discusses the benefits for children's learning and socio-emotional development. To review the article, visit <http://www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/projects/fine/resources/research/elementary.html>

Abingdon Gets Climbing Wall and New Library Furniture

Renovations at Abingdon have begun and will continue throughout the summer. In addition to fresh paint inside and out, a solar-lighted marquee, and a new heating and air conditioning unit, Abingdon's gym will be outfitted with a climbing wall and the library will be enhanced by glass display units and all new tables and chairs.

Stumped for Summer Activities?

If you're looking for activities to do with your children this summer, ReadWriteThink has a wealth of ideas in "Learning Beyond the Classroom" at <http://www.readwritethink.org/beyondtheclassroom/summer/>. The site includes fun learning activities, recommendations for children's websites and books, and resources for parents. Themes in the K-2 section include: Watching a Garden Grow, Writing Notes, Online Learning Games, Photo Stories, and Taking a Sound Hike.

"Last Sundays" Playdate – July 29 from 3 to 5

As usual, we'll be meeting at the front Abingdon playground on the last Sunday of the month from 3 to 5 for snacks, play, and chatting. If you can't make it on July 29, we have one more left – August 26. Please invite any friends or acquaintances who are considering Abingdon!

Have You Registered your Child at Abingdon?

If you know your child will be attending Abingdon in the fall — for kindergarten or another grade — congratulations and welcome! Please stop by the school office as soon as possible to register, as plans are being made now for teachers and classrooms in the fall. Simply visit the school office (no need for an appointment) anytime from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. with the documents listed below. The whole process should take 15 minutes or less. (The office number is 703-228-6650.)

Registration Checklist (All documents must be presented at the same time)
(Docs downloadable at <http://www.arlington.k12.va.us/options/register/index.shtml>)

- Request for Entrance and Health Information Form
- Statement of Affirmation
- School Health Entrance Form (VA state blue form)
- Copy of birth certificate
- Copy of lease or home sale documents, as proof of residence (the school will make a copy of the first and last page)
- Copy of child's social security card (not necessary for registration, but needed eventually)

After you present your documents, the school nurse will review your child's blue health form to make sure she has all the required check-ups and immunizations. (The back of the form indicates the requirements for school entrance and your pediatrician should also be able to tell you what your child needs).

Back-to-School Potluck Picnic – Sunday, Sept. 2 at 4

Mark your calendars for the Sunday before Labor Day. This is a last chance for kids and parents to get to know each other before the new school year starts. Bring the whole family (and something edible to share) to the rear Abingdon playground for play and eats. We hope you all can make it!

Abingdon Featured in Arlington Connection Newspaper

Abingdon's Architecture class and unique curriculum were featured in an article in last week's Arlington Connection. To read the online version, visit the Press page of the FANS website and click on "Arlington Connection": <http://mysite.verizon.net/vzeq42w6/fans/press.html>

Mom's Night Out – Monday, July 9 at 7

Abingdon parents — future and current — will be meeting for Middle Eastern food and conversation at Alladin's in Shirlington on Monday, July 9 at 7 p.m. Please R.S.V.P. to Amy at amy@mac.com or 703-820-0656 so we can reserve a spot for you!