

ABINGDON *elementary school news*

Abingdon Gets a Facelift This Summer

Renovations at Abingdon have begun and will continue throughout the summer. In addition to fresh paint inside and out, new carpeting, 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. This year Abingdon will also be outfitted with a modern security system including cameras, buzz-ins, and keyless entries.



Architecture Class Featured in Arlington Connection

Abingdon's unique course was featured in June in local newspaper, The Arlington Connection. The full article can be read at <connectionnewspapers.com> in the Arlington Schools section. The following is an excerpt: "Kids love architecture [class],' said Principal Joanne Uyeda, who believes that creating real things gets children engaged and challenged. Building a tower that can hold 100 pounds, for example, gives students 'immediate positive feedback, which is wonder-

ful,' she said. 'You know that three times four is 12,' explained Uyeda, 'but when you're in a real situation, when do you use multiplication?' Classes that have real-world applications like architecture promote higher-order thinking, or 'being able to pull on all that knowledge to solve a problem, which,' Uyeda says, 'is really what we're trying to teach kids.'"

Abingdon PTA's Colleen Weiser Honored by School Board

Outgoing PTA Co-President **Colleen Weiser of Fairlington** was celebrated, along with 10 other volun-

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In her dual role as PTA Co-President and Treasurer, Colleen Weiser collects ticket money at the Abingdon Fall Festival. Photo courtesy of Dana Andy.



donated to education at Arlington Public Schools.

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 and the next year she became Abingdon

PTA Co-President, as well as chair of many committees. Despite the heavy workload, she remained optimistic and formulated a plan to improve the school's image and increase parent involvement.

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. The Abingdon community applauds Colleen and her passion, dedication, and commitment.

All Are Welcome at FANS Summer Events

As usual, families at Abingdon and considering Abingdon will meet for the "**Last Sundays**" **Playdate** on August 26 from 3 to 5 PM at the school's front playground. Parents interested in the school are invited to a FANS **Back-to-School Potluck Picnic** on September 2 at 4 PM. Bring the whole family (and something edible to share) to the rear Abingdon playground. See you there!

To find out more about FANS (Friends of Abingdon Neighborhood School), visit their website at <friendsof abingdon.org>.

Contributed by Amy Suardi.

teers, as an Arlington Public Schools 2006-07 Honored Citizen. Colleen was chosen for her sustained commitment (five years or more) and for the energy and enthusiasm she

Recycling, continued from page 19

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703-683-2558
www.youreyes.org

Salvation Army
703-642-9270
www1.salvationarmy.org/ihq/www_sa.nsf

St. Clement Thrift Shop
703-998-6166

The Twig, Jr. Auxiliary of Inova Alexandria Hospital
703-683-5544
www.thetwig.org

Upscale Resale
703-698-8100

Call or visit the organization's Web site for additional information on what they will or will not accept. (Note: The City of Alexandria and the Arlington County do not endorse any of these businesses organization listed.)

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