



FANS

News & Notes

August 2007

Kindergarten Open House – Thursday, August 30 at 11 a.m.

If you have registered your child for kindergarten (and hopefully you have!), you and your child will be receiving an invitation to come to Abingdon to meet her teacher and see the classroom where she'll be spending much of the next year. If your child is starting at Abingdon at a higher grade level, you are welcome to visit the school and look around. Most teachers will be there and are usually in their classrooms. The kindergarten open house will last about an hour.

In late August, letters will also be sent out to incoming kindergarteners announcing homeroom teachers, bus schedules, and supply lists. (Returning students received their supply lists at the end of last school year.) The school is aware parents are eager to have this information as soon as possible, but transportation schedules are often still being worked out at this time (due to August registrations).

Abingdon Renovations on Schedule

Principal Joanne Uyeda reports that the school renovations are going well. The carpets in the classrooms and hallways have been replaced, the interior paint has been updated, and tiling has been repaired in the bathrooms. There is still work to be done, but workers should be finishing in the next few weeks, so that teachers can start moving back into their classrooms.

GWEN (Getting Women Elected Now) Off to a Good Start

"During a recent meeting of the political action committee in Arlington, women gathered to swap stories from the campaign trail, encourage potential candidates to throw their hats into the ring and provide practical advice," reports The Arlington Connection last month. Brainchild of Libby Garvey of the Arlington School Board, the group is out to encourage and support women who are considering running for office.

Read the whole article at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?article=83638&paper=60&cat=104> To find out more about GWEN, you can visit her website at www.getwomenelectednow.org or write Libby Garvey at libby73@verizon.net

"Debunking the Middle Class Myth: Why Diverse Schools are Good for All Kids"

FANS has several lending copies of this excellent book. Written by a white, middle-class woman whose children attended one of the most diverse high schools in Fairfax County, the book lists seven myths that often cause parents to shy away from diverse schools. She then takes apart each misunderstanding with evidence from first-hand experience and examples from successful diverse schools across the country.

If you are interested in borrowing this book, come to the August 26 Playdate or contact FANS at fans@fastmail.net.

Want to Read about Schools like Abingdon and Parents Like You?

Check out the Articles page of the FANS website: <http://mysite.verizon.net/vzeq42w6/fans/articles.html> For example, you'll find articles about walkable schools, parent support groups in the District similar to FANS, diversity and immigrants, as well as a simple explanation of No Child Left Behind.

"Last Sundays" Playdate – August 26 from 3 to 5 p.m.

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. Please invite any friends or acquaintances who are considering Abingdon!

Mothers Offering Mothers Support (MOMS) Starts Fairlington Chapter

The South Arlington MOMS Club® is sponsoring the formation of the Fairlington MOMS Club. The International MOMS Club (www.momsclub.org) was started in 1983 as a way of bringing together mothers who were home with their children during the day.

Once the Fairlington MOMS Club gets off the ground, they can add age-specific playgroups, bookclubs, babysitting co-ops, planned outings, walking groups, dinner clubs, writing groups, or any other specialty group desired by the members.

If you are interested in helping start up this chapter, or simply would like to be included on the email list for future information, please contact FairlingtonMOMS@gmail.com.

Walking to School an Old-Fashioned Pleasure

A new study reports that less than half of American children who live within a mile of their school regularly bike or walk to class. (Read the whole article at <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/19750027/%20>) Besides the health benefits of physical exercise and fresh air, walking to school strengthens communities and encourages a love of nature.

If you would like your child to be able to walk or bike to school — even just one day a week — but are not sure how, contact FANS. We can help connect you with kids in your area, or help arrange Walking School Buses where parents and kids pick up children along the way. Parents can take turns walking with children, or can volunteer to take certain sections of the route.

For more information about the benefits of walking to school, visit www.walktoschool.org. To connect your child with others who are walking to Abingdon, contact FANS at fans@fastmail.net.

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

Let's celebrate the end of summer and the start of school. Mark your calendars for the Sunday before Labor Day. This is the last chance for kids and parents to get to know each other before the new school year starts. Bring the whole family and a main dish, side dish, or dessert to the rear Abingdon playground for play and eats. We hope you all can make it!