



FANS

News & Notes

April/May 2008

Meet Abingdon Families at "Last Sundays" Playdates

Due to the success of last year's playdate series, FANS will again be hosting a series of casual playground get-togethers for current and prospective Abingdon students. Every last Sunday of the spring and summer months, from 3 to 5 p.m., future and current Abingdon families meet at the front Abingdon playground for chatting, snacking, and playing. The first playdate is scheduled for **this Sunday, March 30**. Families are encouraged to come out and play, even if their children are far from kindergarten age.

The spring and summer playdate schedule is as follows: **March 30, April 27, May 25, June 29, and July 27** (always from 3 to 5 p.m.). Last summer, FANS and the Abingdon PTA also held a back-to-school potluck picnic on the last Sunday before school started. For more information, visit the Events page of the FANS website: <http://mysite.verizon.net/vze2vghs/fans/events.html>

To stay updated on these and other Abingdon-related events, please take a second to **subscribe to the PTA listserv** (which sends out periodic event reminders and announcements) on the PTA page of the FANS website at <http://mysite.verizon.net/vze2vghs/fans/pta.html>

Abingdon's Young Musicians Play in Community Concert

Abingdon students participated in a concert in Schlesinger Concert Hall on March 7 with the Alexandria Band of Northern Virginia Community College under the direction of Dr. Wendy K. Matthews. Fourth and fifth grade string instrumentalists performed in a specially arranged piece with the concert band and other elementary instrumentalists from Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax.

Fourth graders from Mr. Utley's class created a claymation movie during Ms. Abbott's Communications class depicting the founding of Jamestown, which was shown while the Alexandria Band played a piece composed in honor of Jamestown, entitled "1607: The Dream Comes Alive" by James L. Hosay. Over 800 people were in attendance. To see pictures of the event by photographer Alexander Rogge, visit http://www.pbase.com/arshutterbug/alexandria_band_spring_2008

At Abingdon, all fourth grade students learn how to play the violin by the Suzuki method. Fifth graders choose to continue with the violin or begin a wood, brass or percussion instrument. Third graders learn to play the recorder and K-2 students receive music training using the Orff instructional technique.

Sharing Poetry at the Abingdon Library

Abingdon's final Library Night for the school year will be on Tuesday, May 6. The evening will kick off at 6:00 p.m. with a free pizza dinner followed by a poetry sharing session. Performers will be Abingdon's very own poets, who will share their own original poems as well as those of published writers. Every Abingdon family that comes will receive a free poetry book to keep. Please come and participate, even if you don't have kids at the school yet!

New NASA Raised Bed in the Abingdon Garden

Now that spring has arrived, Abingdon's lead science teacher, Anne Sywilok, and her students will be getting to work in the Abingdon Outdoor Classroom. This year Abingdon will have a NASA raised bed of cinnamon basil from seeds that were flown into space on the Space Shuttle Endeavor in August 2007. Ms. Sywilok also has seeds that remained here on Earth to use as a "control" group. Science classes and the Naturalist Club will start the seeds in the science lab and plant them when they're ready to go in the ground. They'll be planting both the space seeds and the Earth seeds to see which grow best.

School Board Member Libby Garvey Speaks about Abingdon

On Sunday, March 9, School Board member, Fairlington resident, and former Abingdon parent, Libby Garvey, spoke to community members about Arlington public schools and Abingdon. The informal coffee was held at the home of Amy and Enrico Suardi in Fairlington. Libby spoke about Abingdon's other resurgence in the late 1980s and related events in the school's recent history. She also answered many questions about Arlington schools in general.

Libby is running for re-election to the School Board. It will be a tight race: to show your support, please vote at the Democratic Caucus on **Thursday, May 1** or **Saturday, May 3**. For more information, see <http://www.libbygarvey.org/>

Fairlington Creative Preschool Says Good-bye and Thank You to Abingdon

The Fairlington Creative Preschoolers Program, its teachers, and its families made and handed out more than 400 cupcakes to Abingdon students and staff on March 14. The preschool wanted to thank Abingdon for sharing its school for the past year and a half. Over Spring Break, the preschool moved from its temporary home in Abingdon's Room 123 to its newly renovated space in the Fairlington Community Center.

Last Kindergarten Orientation - Thursday, April 10 from 9:15 to 10:45 a.m.

Curious about Abingdon? Get a head start in thinking about schools by coming to see the school and meeting some of its staff and students. Orientations are held in the school library and begin with a slide show presentation by Principal Joanne Uyeda about the school and its special programs, followed by a question and answer session. Information about how to register and registration packets will be provided. Parents will also hear from a member of the Abingdon PTA as well as kindergarten teachers, who will wrap the sessions up by leading tours of the school, including the kindergarten classrooms.

To set up an individual appointment with Ms. Uyeda, parents are encouraged to call the school office at 703-228-6650.