Welcome to the sixteenth edition of the Dulles Schools Newsletter. In this edition we address the following topics: next year’s operating budget; overcrowding and upcoming school boundary changes; policy updates; and, as always, successes in the Dulles Schools.

To be added to the electronic distribution list, please contact me via email: Jeff.Morse@lcps.org

**Important Dates:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jun 11th</td>
<td>2:00</td>
<td>GMU</td>
<td>Freedom Graduation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun 11th</td>
<td>5:00</td>
<td>Rock Ridge HS</td>
<td>Rock Ridge Graduation</td>
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<td>June 12th</td>
<td>9:30</td>
<td>GMU</td>
<td>Briar Woods Graduation</td>
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<td>June 13th</td>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>John Champe HS</td>
<td>John Champe Graduation</td>
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**John Gabriel Selected as the Loudoun County Principal of the Year**

Quoting from the Lego Movie, John Gabriel was very candid about his love for his Knights:

- *Everything is perfect: everything is cool when you are part of the team*
- *Everything is perfect, when you’re living the dream*

(1) John and Caroline Gabriel enjoying a night in his honor; (r) Principal Gabriel sitting in on a class at John Champe
Mr. Gabriel’s comments highlighted the Loudoun Education Foundation’s Outstanding Teachers Banquet at the Belmont Country Club. Congratulations Mr. Gabriel and the entire John Champe community on receiving this distinguished award!

**Agnes Meyers Teacher of the Year Finalists Honored at Outstanding Teachers Banquet**

Five of our outstanding teachers were recognized as finalists for the Agnes Meyers Outstanding Teacher for Loudoun County Public Schools. A heartfelt congratulation to these teachers who were recognized by peers, staff, and especially the school community they serve! As a small token of appreciation, the Loudoun Education Foundation was able to award each teacher with a $250 classroom grant. This was only possible due to the support of Apple Federal Credit Union, The Washington Redskins Charitable Foundation, Claude Moore Charitable Foundation, Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, Mosely Architects, Stantec, Integrus Holdings, Inc, Bernard and Daphne Mustafa, Reston Limousine, and Lynn and Jerry Rubin.

Congratulations to LCPS’ crème de la crème: including those representing our Dulles Schools: Gina Chaszar, Mercer Middle School; Sara Christie, Creighton’s Corner Elementary; Leah Gilbert, Liberty Elementary; Keith Hample, J. Michael Lunsford Middle School; and Eugene Legg, Rock Ridge High School.
Board Approves Names for Four New Dulles North/South Schools

The School Board approved four new school names at the 8 May meeting. Each of the names selected were the first choice of the naming committee, comprised of area residents and LCPS staff.

Goshen Post Elementary School in Stone Ridge:
The naming committee recommended Goshen Post as a way to commemorate both Goshen Road and the colonial era postal stop which was located in the area. The name helps preserve the historical legacy of the area known simply as “The Post.” The location was one of the earliest mail stops in the history of the nascent postal service, providing a vital communications link to community residents.
Willard Middle School in Aldie:
The unincorporated village of Willard, in southeastern Loudoun County, received its name from Joseph E. Willard. Mr. Willard was a distinguished Virginian who was elected to the General Assembly (1893 to 1901) and later served as Virginia’s Lieutenant Governor. Most importantly, the village of Willard’s roots are in the African American community. Former slaves, and their descendants, farmed the area for generations. The African American community founded a church, the Shiloh Primitive Baptist Church, and established the Willard School in 1890. The school served both black and white students and it became the mainstay of this small Loudoun multi-racial community. The community of Willard survived until 1958 when all 87 Willard area landowners had their property condemned by the federal government. The name will commemorate a critical piece of Loudoun’s history.

Lightridge High School in Aldie
Lightridge commemorates Loudoun’s agricultural history and the importance of the dairy industry to Loudoun in the 20th Century. Light Ridge Farm, from which the road takes its name, operated as a dairy farm for over 60 years. Although it no longer serves the dairy industry, it is the last working farm east of Route 15 in Loudoun County. The economic importance of agricultural, and, in particular, the dairy industry to Loudoun County, is symbolized in the county flag’s green background and “embattled” edging which is suggestive of milk droplets.

(County of Loudoun Flag)

Independence High School in Brambleton
The committee felt that naming the school Independence High School would serve as a standard for students in the construct of their academic careers. It would also strike a theme similar to that of Freedom High School and Liberty Elementary School.
Prepare for Boundary Change Process Beginning This Fall

With the opening of Goshen Post Elementary School in August of 2018, Dulles South elementary school boundaries must be redrawn this fall. Because the school is located adjacent to John Champe, elementary schools including Aldie, Arcola, Buffalo Trail, Hutchison Farm, Liberty, and Pinebrook could be affected. A recommendation of which schools to include in the discussion will be made by LCPS staff in September or October, prior to the start of the process. Please be prepared to engage in the discussion: I will post the schedule of meetings, including Public Hearings, as soon as the dates are finalized. As it is approved, planning information will be available on the LCPS planning webpage: https://www.lcps.org/page/1094

![Image of Arcola Elementary School Chorus](image)

Arcola Elementary School Chorus Receives Virginia General Assembly Proclamation from John Bell for Performing the National Anthem at the Washington Wizards Game

Special Permission: Some Facts about its use

Four Years ago the School Board approved Special Permission for school moves. Families are able to request special permission for any reason. Prior to the new policy many families would “look for loopholes” to achieve the same ends: an educational environment that they believed would better assist their child. Now, if enrollment at a school (or in the case of elementary school, a grade level) is below 95% capacity, parents can apply to have their child attend that school with two stipulations: provide transportation and that the child must be compliant with the school rules & regs. The window for requesting special permission is open until 15 August.

Loudoun Education Foundation Awards Spring Grants

Congratulations to all of the 27 teachers awarded grants from the Loudoun Education Foundation in the spring cycle! The approval rate for grant requests was over 50%! All teachers are encouraged to apply, with the next cycle starting this fall.
Middle School ACDA Awards Announced

Fifty-six Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) middle school students were selected for the ACDA Middle School Honors Chorus held Thursday through Saturday at Blacksburg High School and Virginia Tech’s Moss Arts Center. This group is sponsored by the American Choral Directors Association.

Mihika Bangarbale, Stone Hill Middle School
Olivia Coe, Stone Hill Middle School
Kelly Donlan, Stone Hill Middle School
Benjamin Drew, J. Michael Lunsford Middle School
Brendon Elmore, Eagle Ridge Middle School
Alana Fick, J. Michael Lunsford Middle School
Matthew Flynn, Eagle Ridge Middle School
Jake Harris, Stone Hill Middle School
Cecille Juneau, Stone Hill Middle School

Leelie Kebede, J. Michael Lunsford Middle School
Jonah Kress, J. Michael Lunsford Middle School
Devran Kukrer, Eagle Ridge Middle School
Nikita Lal, Stone Hill Middle School
Carson Manternach, Stone Hill Middle School
Annabelle Marcals, Eagle Ridge Middle School
Miriam McClure, J. Michael Lunsford Middle School
Alexander McMillen, J. Michael Lunsford Middle School
Sheriff’s Office Executing, “S.A.F.E” to fine violators in school speed zones

The Loudoun County Sheriff’s Office has been actively engaged in an initiative called, “School Awareness & Firm Enforcement (S.A.F.E.).” Bruce Domin, station commander at the Dulles South station, leads a twice-monthly program designed to increase safety at schools in the Brambleton, Aldie and South Riding Areas. During one enforcement period, 36 tickets and 15 warnings were issued. Enforcement periods have occurred 3 times this spring….one never knows when they will be patrolling, so spread the word. Please keep our children in mind when transiting active school zones!
All-Virginia Chorus Selects 11 From the Dulles Area

Twenty-four Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) high school students were selected for the All-Virginia Chorus held at Virginia Tech’s Moss Arts Center. Sponsored by the Virginia Music Educators Association, 11 of the 24 selectees were from the Dulles North/South schools. Congratulations to the following students:

- Caroline Chung, John Champe High School
- Natalie Farnsworth, Briar Woods High School
- Leah Good, Briar Woods High School
- Kevin Lacey, Rock Ridge High School
- Ashley Nguyen, Freedom High School
- Janice Nguyen, Rock Ridge High School
- Mylene Perlas, Freedom High School
- Mo Prasad, Rock Ridge High School
- Kendrick Ryan, John Champe High School
- Tiffany Shim, Freedom High School
- Andrew Zheng, Rock Ridge High School

Kevin Murphy - Newest LCPS Principal at Little River Elementary

Some familiar faces are moving up at Little River. Congratulations to longtime swim coach/teacher/administrator Kevin Murphy, who has moved from Assistant Principal to Principal at Little River. He will be replacing Julie Gros, who has been promoted to Mentoring, Coaching, and Evaluation Supervisor at LCPS. Bonus: Kim Dempsey, previously at Liberty and most recently at Arcola as an Administrative Intern has returned as the AP at Little River. Congratulations to the Little River Community!

Briar Woods Takes Home Top Honors at State FBLA Conference

More than 1500 of Virginia’s best and brightest high school students traveled to the Virginia Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) State Leadership Conference April 7th and 8th in Reston. Briar Woods, named both an Honor Chapter and a Gold Seal Chapter, will send nine students to represent Virginia at the FBLA National Leadership Conference this summer in Anaheim, Calif.
Jack Dudley, who placed first in the Job Interview competition, earned a perfect score of 100. Dudley is the chapter president. Other first place winners:

First Place: Matt Hoyler, Spreadsheet Applications
First Place: Thomas Stapor, Database Design and Application
First Place: Stephanie Schmidt and Caroline Bird, Social Media Challenge
First Place: Sam Batra, Nikhil Patel and Brandon Race, Management Decision Making

Additionally, Stephanie Schmidt was recently elected as the FBLA Shenandoah Region president and was inducted as the Virginia FBLA state vice president representing the Shenandoah Region. Briar Woods FBLA also was named as an Honor Chapter and Gold Seal Chapter.

Briar Woods Future Business Leaders of America State Conference Competition Winners

**Full Day Kindergarten Filling All Available Seats**

Based on the budget request from the Superintendent, the School Board unanimously approved the acceleration of Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) at every school with the capacity to make it happen. This moves the percentage of kindergarten students in FDK from 11 percent in the 2014-2015 school year, to 52% this year, to 82% next year. The increase surpasses the strategic plan, which identified 75% as the goal for next year. With the possible exception of classrooms provided for parents who desire only half day kindergarten, the remaining communities will receive FDK as soon as capacity allows. It is important to realize that the school board does not support increasing class sizes in 1st-5th grades in order to provide students universal FDK. Despite the struggle of staying ahead of growth in the Dulles North/South area, we are working hard to get the seats needed to provide all of our future students the option of FDK.
School Board Reconciles $5 Million budget request shortfall
Last month the Board of Supervisors approved a 7.8% increase in the LCPS budget, just short of the 8.2% that had been recommended by the School Board. This shortfall represented $10M, $5M of which was shifted to the Lease Purchase budget. This allowed LCPS to move $5M in new vehicle purchases out of the operating budget, leaving the remaining $5M to be reconciled. Anticipated year end fund balance appears to be sufficient to forward-fund one time expenditures identified for the 2018 operating budget, thus leaving the School Board’s 2018 operating budget request fully funded.

Comments:
The spring has been a busy time for Loudoun County Public Schools: this newsletter is but a small sampling of the accomplishments of our Teachers, Students, Staff, and Community. Each plays an important role in supporting our drive to “Empower all students to make meaningful contributions to the world”.

Late spring is my favorite time of the year. In addition to graduations and promotions, where we celebrate our children’s successes, we also honor our teachers and staff. Participating in the Principal of the Year/Outstanding Teacher Banquet, the LCPS Employee Retirement Banquet, and the LCPS Service Longevity Awards allows me to honor each faculty member who has made public education their life’s work. I spoke with Educators Rising, our future educators’ organization (formerly FEA), and relayed the importance of their (anticipated) chosen profession: the return on investment of a teaching career far surpasses that of any other occupation. However, educators don’t take home their investment: they distribute it to the rest of the world.
Our schools remain packed for the upcoming 2017-18 school year. However, I promise relief is on the horizon:

- 2017: Brambleton Middle School (off Evergreen Mills Rd) opens
- 2018: Goshen Post Elementary School (adjacent to Champe) opens
- 2018: Willard Intermediate School (Middle School) (off Braddock Rd) opens
- 2018: Three-room additions each at Arcola, Creightons Corner, Legacy, Liberty, Pinebrook and Rosa Lee Carter open
- 2019: Independence High School (in Brambleton) opens
- 2020: Lightridge High School (off Braddock Rd) opens
- TBD: ES-31 (to relieve elementary school overcrowding in North Brambleton)

Please reach out to myself and our At-Large member Beth Huck with your issues/concerns. Have a great summer, and get ready for a spectacular new school year!

Sincerely,

Jeff Morse
Chairman & Dulles District Representative
Loudoun County School Board
Jeff.Morse@lcps.org