



Pupil Services Communiqué

April 2019

Highlights...

- Cover: Autism Services
- Page 2: Career & Transition Services; Multi-Tiered Systems of Support
- Page 3: Parent Resource Services; School Counseling
- Page 4: Specialized Instruction; Speech Language Services; Student Assistance Services
- Page 5: Trailside Middle School; Upcoming Events

AUTISM SERVICES



On April 6, 2019, the LCPS Autism Team held the inaugural **Autism Community Day**. The event was a huge success with over 400 individuals partaking in the fun. The event was held at the Loudoun County Public School (LCPS) Administration Building and included the following activities: a Fun Run, a sensory room provided by *We Rock the Spectrum Gym*, bubble wagons, yoga, adaptive PE demonstration, and performances by the theatre arts departments at Heritage and Tuscarora High Schools. Many community partners helped to facilitate the event to include Wegmans and Cheers Sports. The day was filled with laughter and smiles! We are already looking forward to next year's event!



CAREER & TRANSITION SERVICES



Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) Department of Pupil Services, Special Education, and Transition Services' business partners, Northern Virginia Electric Cooperation (NOVEC) and Virginia Regional Transit (VRT), received awards at the School Business Partnership breakfast in March 2019. They were recognized for the work that has been done with LCPS to support students with disabilities.



NOVEC is helping to build a career and transition lab as well as providing career exploration presentations and experiences <https://vimeo.com/317275242/cfd7ef95b2>. In addition, VRT provides travel training in our high schools and post high school programs and has a history of supporting other Pupil Services programming <https://vimeo.com/317514754/d6932f1b6>. Both awardees also received the Virginia School Board Award recognition by the Loudoun County School Board.



Forty-seven CAST and twenty-four Project Search post high school program applications were received, interviews were held, committee selections were made, and letters have been mailed to students and their families. Project Search will serve 10 students in SY 2019/2020 and Community and Schools Together (CAST) has expanded to six locations for the next school year by placing the "Career & Transition" program at the following high schools: Independence, John

Champe, and Woodgrove. This programmatic change is enabling CAST to serve 41 students in SY 2019/2020. CAST can be a multi-year program based on need and Project Search is a one-year program at one location. Both programs are all-day work immersion and independent living skills programs for students with disabilities ages 18-21.



MULTI-TIERED SYSTEM OF SUPPORTS (MTSS)



The new Multi-Tiered System of Supports website is live! You will find information on Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), Response to Intervention (RTI), and Mental Health (MH)/Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) within this website. You can access MTSS by this [link](#) or through the LCPS website from the [Diagnostic and Prevention Services](#) website. This website will continue to be enhanced, especially as we continue to expand RTI and Social Emotional Learning.

PARENT RESOURCE SERVICES (PRS)



On March 21, 2019, PRS hosted the Pupil Services Mental Health and Wellness Series, “Managing Bumps in the Road: Building Resilient Relationships with Your Teen.” Dr. John Walker’s presentation provided parents an opportunity to learn about parent-child relationships during the middle and high school years. It was a very well-received presentation.

On April 9, 2019, PRS hosted a workshop by Stefanie LaPolla, “Using a Multi-Tiered System of Supports to Support the Needs of All Learners.” In this interactive session, families learned how a multi-tiered approach is used to support the academic, behavioral, and social-emotional needs of all learners in LCPS.

Feedback for both presentations was very positive and included the following comments: “Excellent presenter! Useful content!” “Very engaging and insightful. I appreciated the real-life examples.” “I would like to congratulate you for doing this kind of workshop and we really need this information and orientation. Thanks!”

Please visit the [PRS website](#) for additional information.

SCHOOL COUNSELING SERVICES

On Wednesday, April 3, 2019, the Office of School Counseling Services hosted the first annual Career & Apprenticeship Fair sponsored by ManTech. This fair was open to all students in grades 8-12. There were over 65 professional careers, apprenticeship careers, organizations, and military branches represented. Amazon Web Services provided two presentations on the topic of Women in STEM. Approximately 400 families attended this event. School Counseling Services expects this annual event to grow even larger with participation and attendance in 2020.



SPECIALIZED INSTRUCTION

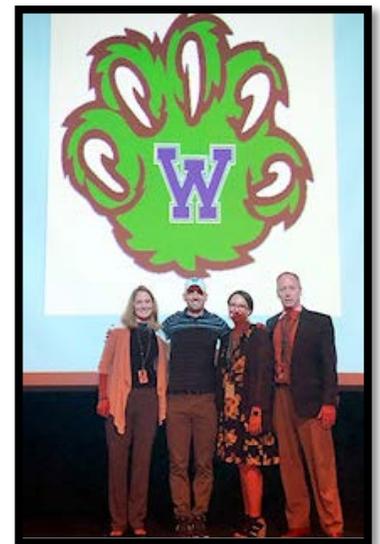
April concluded the first three professional learning cohorts of Specialized Math Instruction. Special educators representing 54 elementary and middle schools participated in the cohorts. These teachers received four days of professional learning on designing specialized math instruction for students with processing deficits impacting math through a focus on building number sense as a best practice. The sessions were spread out over the course of a month, providing opportunities for teachers to practice and implement their learning with the school teams and students. The content delivered for special education services in both general education and special education settings was a collaborative effort between the Department of Pupil Services (DPS) and the Department of Instruction (DOI) to ensure consistency of practices to intensify interventions. The newly developed positions of Specialized Instructional Facilitators of Math will be supporting the ongoing professional learning and implementation of these practices in the coming school year.

SPEECH-LANGUAGE SERVICES

During the divisionwide professional learning day on April 1, LCPS speech-language pathologists teamed up with their colleagues from Prince William County Public Schools for a full-day presentation on best practices for the evaluation and treatment of Childhood Apraxia of Speech. The presenters were two nationally known speech-language pathologists in the field - Dr. Ruth Stoeckle (recently retired from the Mayo Clinic) and Pooja Agarwal (Progressive Speech Therapy).

STUDENT ASSISTANCE SERVICES

On April 11, 2019, Woodgrove High School (WHS) hosted guest speaker, Sam Anthony Lucania. Sam is a person in long-term recovery from substance use disorder who uses his personal experiences with drugs, alcohol, depression, anxiety, and suicidal behavior to educate and motivate others. Sam began the morning speaking to parents and sharing his story. He discussed signs of gateway behavior, protective measures to take at home, the importance of awareness and education as a parent, and understanding that it is not “if” your child but “when” your child will get introduced to drugs. His presentation was well received and there were requests to do more parent discussions in the future. Shortly after the parent presentation, Sam spoke to students in two back-to-back assemblies. Following an introduction by Mr. Shipp, WHS principal, and Amy Iliffe, student assistance specialist, Sam shared his powerful story. Students heard about his first-hand experience with substance use, bullying, and anxiety that began during adolescence. Sam is an engaging speaker, and his message of hope and encouragement is so powerful that you could hear a pin drop in an auditorium of 700 students. Following the presentation, Sam ate lunch with students and was approached by many who wanted to hear more and share their own stories. Several teachers and students commented that Sam was the best guest speaker they had ever heard at any Loudoun County Public School. Woodgrove already has plans to invite him again next year.



TRAILSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL RAMP AWARD



This year, Trailside Middle School will receive the Recognized American School Counselor Association (ASCA) Model Program (RAMP) designation during a special ceremony at the American School Counselor Association’s Annual Conference in Boston, MA. The school will be honored on July 1, 2019, for making an exemplary commitment to comprehensive school counseling programs. The RAMP designation, awarded for aligning with the criteria in the ASCA National Model, recognizes schools committed to delivering a comprehensive, data-driven school counseling program and an exemplary educational environment.

Since the program’s inception, more than 800 schools have been designated as RAMP recipients. RAMP-designated schools are now in 40 states across the country. The RAMP designation is good for five years, after which time schools must reapply to maintain their RAMP status. Trailside Middle School joins the other Loudoun County Public Schools that have received this distinction: Algonkian Elementary, Forest Grove Elementary, Little River Elementary, Sanders Corner Elementary, Stone Hill Middle, Broad Run High School, John Champe High School, Dominion High School, and Freedom High School.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **May 2019:** Better Speech & Hearing Month
- **May 8, 2019:** School Nurse/Health Clinic Specialist Appreciation Day
- **May 15, 2019:** Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Awards Ceremony, Briar Woods HS, 6:30 p.m.
- **May 27, 2019:** Memorial Day Holiday
- **June 7, 2019:** Last Day of School (Students)
- **June 11, 2019:** Last Day of School (Teachers)



Committed to “EDUCATING THE WHOLE CHILD” and to ensuring a safe, healthy, and supportive learning environment for all students.



DEPARTMENT LEADERSHIP

Dr. Asia Jones, Assistant Superintendent, Pupil Services
John Lody, Director, Diagnostic and Prevention Services/
Interim Director, Special Education
Dr. Clark Bowers, Director, Student Services