

School Notes

COMPILED BY SUSAN BRAUN JOHNSON

School Information Night

School Information Night, the annual open house organized by Moms on the Hill (Moth) will be held on Dec. 3 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Tables will be set up with information from parochial, charter, public and private schools as well as child care centers, playgroups, cooperative groups, family childcare providers and preschools that all serve the Capitol Hill area. The event will be held in the basement of St. Peter's Church, located on corner of 2nd and C Sts, SE. The closest Metro stop is Capitol South on the blue and orange lines. If you would like to volunteer, please email Linsey Silver@volunteer@hillschoolinfo-night.org and indicate which of the following you can help with: outreach, promotion, logistics, setup, etc. If you know of a school who would like to register online, log on to www.hillschoolinfo-night.org.

Payne

Payne Elementary Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

As a DC Catalyst World Cultures school, Payne Elementary school staff and students are celebrating various cultures throughout the school. During October through art, dance, music, language and specific social studies activities they celebrated Hispanic Heritage month. They have been honored to share with their students how the immense contributions and varying aspects Hispanic culture has enriched their lives as individuals. Particular staff members were able to share their experiences of either growing up in a Hispanic household or having visited the numerous Hispanic countries.

Students created a mirage of



Payne students celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month

twenty-two Hispanic countries noted by the country's national flag. Costumes were created with the simplest of materials honoring specific cultural attire. Songs and instruments were played in tribute to specific styles of dance. It was a pleasure and academi-

cally stimulating to every participant. Payne looks forward to celebrating National Indian Heritage month beginning Nov. 1. – By: Vielka Scott-Marcus, Principal.

Payne is located at 305 15th Street, S.E. 202-698-3262; Vielka.Scott@dc.gov



Washington Yu Ying PCS Student's celebrate the Chinese moon festival

Washington Yu Ying PCS

The Chinese Moon Festival

Washington Yu Ying PCS Student's celebrated the Chinese moon festival with songs, a fairy tale, and with eating moon cakes. The school had even more to celebrate: Yu Ying was awarded the Department of Education Foreign Language Assistance Program grant to support their Chinese Program and the school received their Candidate Status from the International Baccalaureate Organization. To learn more about Yu Ying, please join the school at an upcoming information session: Nov 16, Dec. 9 and Jan. 13. – Mary Shaffner. Washington Yu Ying, PCS is located at 4401 8th St NE. www.washingtonyuying.org.

Two Rivers Public Charter School

Two Rivers Student Selected for Newseum Advisory Team

Congratulations to eighth grader Zameer Joaquin, who was chosen as one of a handful of middle and high school students from the DC Metropolitan area to serve on the Newseum's Student Advisory Team. Zameer participated in a competitive application process to earn this honor for the second year in a row. As a part of the team, Zameer will be providing feedback on the development of interactive exhibits, videos, and programs at the Newseum.

Two Rivers Classes Launch Fall Expeditions

This past month, Two Rivers launched its fall expeditions for preschool through eighth grade. These long-term, "real world" investiga-



Janine Levin's PK-3 Class at Brent recently adopted Sasha, a friendly corn snake, as a classroom pet. "Sasha is a prime example of how our children are learning to come together around a common cause," said Levin. "

tions are based on the Expeditionary Learning Outward Bound instructional model that emphasizes interactive, hands-on, project-based learning. The investigations will culminate in community showcases in December where students will demonstrate their learning. Among the many exciting fall expeditions are kindergarten students studying the properties and uses of simple machines, third graders becoming geologists as they explore the physical world around them, and eighth graders using the current dispute over gun legislation in their city to study the Bill of Rights. -Submitted by Michael Skinner. Two Rivers is located at 4th and Florida NE. www.trpcs.org.

Brent Elementary School Students Benefit from Museum Studies Program

Robert Brent Elementary School welcomes a new Museum Studies Director to the school this year – Ms. Sara Rouse.

Rouse earned her undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her masters of arts degree in art history and museum studies from Tufts University and has worked for the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, the National Building Museum and the Smithsonian American Art Museum as a museum educator.

"Our museums' studies program

benefits our students in a number of ways," says Brent's principal, Dr. Cheryl Wilhoite, "such as enhancing their own observation and questioning skills." As part of the program, each grade level is paired with a Smithsonian museum that they visit twice during the school year. Students use hands-on discovery, learn about the importance of museums in society, develop an understanding of curators, exhibits, designers and support for life-long learning.

New Rain Garden at Brent

Brent Elementary will hold a special ceremony at 10 a.m. on Nov. 2 to dedicate the construction of a modern rain garden that surrounds Brent's new playground. The rain garden was made possible through a grant from the District Department of the Environment. In addition to serving as a play and learning amenity, it will also help keep pollutants out of local waterways by capturing run-off through the native plants. Officials from the USDA and Ward 6 Council Member Tommy Wells are expected to attend.

Brent Night At La Plaza-Nov.30

Help support Brent by eating dinner at La Plaza on Nov. 30. at La Plaza (located at 629 Penn. Ave. SE). As part of a monthly program, La Plaza generously donates a portion of funds raised that night to Brent."

Brent Open House on Nov. 17

On Nov. 17 from 7:30 - 8:30 a.m. Brent will hold an open house for families who want to learn more about the school. Brent Principal Dr. Cheryl Wilhoite, teachers and parents will be available to answer questions about the school – which serves students in Pre-kindergarten 3 through 5th grade. Brent Elementary located at 301 N. Carolina Ave. SE. - Angie Lundberg.

Ludlow Taylor Elementary Ludlow-Taylor Partners with the Fillmore Arts Center

Ludlow-Taylor Elementary School, designated this year as an arts integration catalyst school, is partnering with the Fillmore Arts Center. Every Tuesday and Thursday, the Fillmore Arts Center sends teachers

displayed by the student performers, it's clear that they were having a ball.

Michael Showalter, parent of a preschool student, has been very pleased with Fillmore's partnership with Ludlow-Taylor. He recounts how he and his three-year-old were playing and singing some songs at home: "Suddenly I realized that he was tapping rhythm to the song we were singing. I asked excitedly, 'Where did you learn this?' and he said matter-of-factly, 'In my dance class.' It's always a joy when your child begins to understand concepts. I'm so enthusiastic about Ludlow-Taylor's arts program. We're already beginning to see the benefits."

Ludlow-Taylor will be planning its arts integration curriculum this year and has already gotten a jump-start through its partnership with the Fillmore Arts Center.



Ms. Scholfield (far left) stands with members of the Rotary Club of Capitol Hill and some of the school supply-stocked backpacks the club provided.

in music, the visual arts, dance and drama to work with Ludlow-Taylor's multi-talented students for two-hours at a time. By the end of the year, students will have taken classes in all four areas. All Fillmore teachers are fully certified in their disciplines, and they all perform or exhibit both locally and regionally.

Parents were given a taste of what students are learning at the recent Back-to-School night. Students interpreted Where the Wild Things Are through yoga poses such as Warrior I and Child's Pose as well as a dance routine. Given the enthusiasm

LT Receives Backpacks From the Rotary Club of Capitol Hill

The Rotary Club of Capitol Hill donated 45 backpacks filled with school supplies to Ludlow-Taylor Elementary School. Club member Barbara Carter organized the effort, and Ms. Scholfield organized the effort on the school side – thanks for all your hard work! Backpacks went to students in all grades. The club will also be participating in several work-days at Ludlow-Taylor throughout the year – the school is excited about the Capitol Hill Rotarians donating their

time! - Tom Hamilton and Shahna Gooneratne.

Ludlow-Taylor Elementary is located at 659 G St, NE; 202- 698-3244;ludlow-taylorfriends@hotmail.com.

St. Peter's Interparish School St. Peter's Parents and Teachers "Got Talent"

Mark your calendars for the third annual St. Peter's Parent/Teacher Talent Show on Dec. 4 at 7p.m. The Talent Show will be held in St. Peter's Church Hall and tickets can be purchased at the door for \$20. Ticket price includes an evening of wonderful (and often HILARIOUS) entertainment and refreshments including appetizers, wine & beer! Last year's performances included singing, guitar, cello, a rock band, and comedy.



St. Peter's always-talented Father Byrne
(Credit:Sheila Walter Faison)

Books, Books, Everywhere!

St. Peter's students in grade 4, 5, and 6 proudly hosted best-selling author Mary Downing Hahn for a reading, signing and question & answer session about her newest young teen thriller *Closed for the Season*. The latest among some twenty novels, Hahn's *Closed for the Season* tracks two 13-year-old boys who set out to solve the mystery of a murder that took place in the old house into which Logan's family has just moved. Hahn grew up in College Park and served as a children's librarian in Prince George's Public Library System.

In addition to the author visit,

grades three through eight enjoyed the annual Boo! Books event during which students and teachers/staff meet to discuss scary Halloween books they read in October over cider and doughnuts. Following Boo! Books, students paraded in costumes around "X" Park as part of the St. Peter's annual walk-a-thon for the homeless while they parade their costumes around "X" Park. The day ended with an eighth grade-sponsored haunted house and Halloween parties in the classrooms.

Tyler Elementary Tyler Enjoys Some Local Flavor

When is a pumpkin not a pumpkin? When you drop it - then it's SQUASH! Tyler Elementary students had the exciting opportunity to enjoy lots of squash, apples and other yummy seasonal produce during Local Flavor Week at the end of Sept. Sponsored by the DC Farm to School Network, schools were encouraged to organize educational activities emphasizing where food comes from and why fresh, local fruits and vegetables are good for the mind, body and planet!

Students began with a field trip to the Department of Transportation's farmers market to learn from these hardworking heroes how various fruits and vegetables grow, feel and taste. The kids asked lots of good questions and Farmer Gregg and Farmer James were very generous with their produce. When asked what she was going to do with the apple and cucumber she received, Maya from Ms. Kevill's second-grade class declared, "make an apple and cucumber salad!"

A few lucky classes experienced a cooking demonstration by local chef Janis McLean from restaurant 15Ria. She made a delectable squash soup that even some of the most tentative tasters seemed to enjoy. A number of students were surprised to declare, "It tastes sweet!"

And even Tyler's teachers got in on the festivities. Ms. Duff, the school librarian, introduced all age groups to an assortment of garden and farm themed books. Art teacher Ms. Madden incorporated the interesting colors and textures of squash into her curriculum. And Mr. Hart,

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Beauvoir is an independent, co-educational elementary school for students in Pre-K through Third Grade, located on the grounds of the Washington National Cathedral.

Please call 202-537-6485 or visit www.beauvoirschool.org for more information.



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Tyler students enjoy some fall flavor

the music man, had the kids moving and grooving to a song about oats, peas, beans and barley. Thanks to all those who made Tyler's first annual Local Flavor Week celebration a real success. For info on some of these delicious local foods, check out the following resources: www.orchcountry.com; www.15ria.com; www.localharvest.org/farmers-markets/M1783.

Save the Date: Tyler's Winter Fest Dec.5

Tyler will host their Winter Festival on Dec. 5 from 3 to 6 p.m. There will be music and dancing for the whole family, crafts and games for children, and face painting. A professional photographer will be on site to shoot family photos with winter themed backgrounds (opportunity to order prints or cards), handmade crafts and gifts for sale, hot apple cider and baked goods, hot dogs and hot bratwurst. The event will be indoors and held rain or shine so please mark your calendar. - Melanie Sunukjian. Tyler is located at 1001 G St SE; www.tyler-tigers.org.

Capitol Hill Day School

What is Field Education?

The Field Education Program at Capitol Hill Day School is based on the belief that children learn in more depth and breadth when the real world and the classroom are connected, when they see and experience the things they are studying. They use the

and touching authentic objects, and to learn from experts in a particular field. Socially, it provides children with opportunities to interact with each other in a variety of environments and contexts, and exposes them to many different kinds of people and places. Philosophically, it helps children realize that learning is a process that can go on anywhere that circumstances and interest permit – a process that can continue for the rest of their lives.

Some trips the children have embarked on:

Early Childhood visited the National Aquarium and the octopus feeding at the National Zoo's Invertebrates Exhibit, as part of their unit on Oceans and when the 1st grade studied balance and motion, they visited the University of Maryland Girl's Gymnastics Team and went Ice Skating at Fort Dupont Park. Primary Grade field studies included participating in a Deer Hide Tanning Workshop with a primitive skills expert as part of their unit on Woodland Indians. Second grade visited the Herbarium at the National Arboretum, where Botanist Kevin Conrad demonstrates his process for collecting, pressing, and mounting leaves during their tree unit.

Upper Grades visited a hospital where they observed heart bypass surgery to further their studies in Human Physiology, spent 3 days on Port Isobel Island in the middle of the Chesapeake Bay to learn about the

Bay's ecology and went to Thomas Jefferson's home in Monticello while studying U.S. History, just to name a few.

Lisa Sommers, Director of Field Education, arrived at Capitol Hill Day School in the fall of 1984 after earning a Master's Degree in Museum Education from George Washington University and having worked at several area museums. During her 25 years at the School, the Field Education Program has expanded considerably; there are now overnight trips in many grades, and over 300 trips school-wide per year. Her work is inspired by the school's rich curriculum, and the exciting resources of the DC Metro area and beyond; connecting the two is her mission and passion. - Jane Angarola, Capitol Hill Day School is located at 210 South Carolina Avenue, S.E.; www.chds.org.

Maury Elementary Maury – Fired Up With Reading!

Fire Up With Reading is a reading incentive program that will run from Oct. 9 through Feb. 12, the last school day before the Chinese New Year on Feb. 14. Each class will build a paper dragon on a wall outside their room or in the multi-purpose room. Students will add one scale to the dragon each time s/he reads for 30 minutes, with each class' goal of 2,000 scales. The teacher of the first class to reach Fire Breathing Status will have the honor of wearing the head of a Chinese dragon costume during a celebration at the end of the program, with the body of the dragon made up of the top readers from each class. Students are so excited about this program! Maury's principal, Ms. Albert-Garvey, reported at the Oct. 15 PTA meeting that half of the 4th grade requested that their rainy-day indoor recess be spent reading in the library!

Cultural Identities

Mrs. Boudreaux's 2nd grade put on an intelligent and interesting presentation of each child's ethnic background, presentations written by students with their parents, performed to a room full of family members, teachers, and the principal. Armenian music played softly before the show began. Students with a Latino background did a little salsa dancing. One student wore her



As part of CHDS' Field Study Program, 7th graders enjoy a trip to Isobel Island to study the Chesapeake's Ecology.



Maury families, teachers and principal leaving Lincoln Park on Walk to School Day. (Credit E. Nelson.)

pink and blue West African dress, and a child of Native American descent wore a feather in her hair. Afterward, all enjoyed a multi-national lunch of Suisse bread and chocolate, matzo, pilaf, soul food, quesadillas, and more.

Maury's Open House

Maury Elementary will hold an Open House on Nov 19 at 9 a.m. Meet their new principal Carolyne Albert-Garvey and learn all about her exciting initiatives for Maury. Listen to other parents' experiences, talk with teachers and tour the classrooms in action. - Heather Schoell

Maury is at 13th and Constitution Ave., NE, visit www.mauryelementary.com; 202-698-3838.

Cluster School News

Stuart-Hobson Gets Outside With National Wildlife Federation

On Oct. 15, 5th, 6th and 7th graders at the Capitol Hill Cluster School's Stuart-Hobson Middle School and visitors from the National Wildlife Federation participated in hands-on activities celebrating the natural world -- including creating and performing their own wildlife-focused stories, making animal masks, and designing stepping stones for a new garden on the campus. The program was part of a national kick-off of NWF's "Be Out There" campaign, an initiative designed "to inspire families across America to open the door and get outside" that coincided with release of a movie based on the beloved children's book

"Where the Wild Things Are."

Stuart-Hobson's academic program builds on the DCPS curriculum with frequent special events and field trips. A few days before the NWF event, sixth-graders traveled to Luray Caverns in Virginia for a first-hand view of some of the geological phenomena they've been studying in their science class. Sixth-grade science teacher Susan Dunn said she hoped the trip would bring to life some of the concepts her students were studying, noting that they read Jules Verne's "Journey to the Center of the Earth" over the summer and made class presentations about recent earthquakes and global volcanic activity earlier in the week.

Digging Deep into Local Civil War History

Third-grade teachers at Watkins participated in a five-day seminar this summer that was developed by staff at three of Washington's most well-known Civil War era sites: Ford's Theatre, where President Abraham Lincoln was shot; the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site in Anacostia; and Tudor Place, an historic Georgetown home that served as a boarding house for Union soldiers during the war. Veteran teacher Tina Deanna remarked on the quality of the program, which provided both in-depth examinations of the historical importance of the sites themselves and practical information about how to engage students with various learning styles during visits to the sites and in classroom discussions afterwards. DCPS students study both the Civil

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Open Houses

November 3, 2009
9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

January 13, 2010
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

January 14, 2010
9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

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Stuart-Hobson students enjoy extra reading time in the school's newly renovated library

War and DC history in third grade, so the seminar was particularly on-point for the team. Ms. Deanna noted that Watkins third-graders visited Ford's Theatre and Tudor House earlier this term, so she and her team already have had the opportunity to try out what the techniques they learned during the summer program. – Kathy Bates.

Watkins Elementary/
Montessori
420 12th St., SE
202-698-3355

Stuart-Hobson
Middle School
E St., NE
202-671-6010

Peabody Early Learning/
SWS, Reggio Emilio
425 C St. NE
202-698-3277

**St. Anselms Abbey School
Father Michael Hall, OSB,
Celebrates 50 years as
Benedictine monk**

When is the last time you met someone who spent 50 years in the same place?! At St. Anselm's Abbey School in Michigan Park, school



Father Michael Hall, OSB, Celebrates 50 years as Benedictine monk at St. Anselms

chaplain Father Michael Hall, OSB, recently celebrated 50 years as a Benedictine monk. Father Michael grew up near Barney Circle on

Capitol Hill, attending St. Francis Xavier Catholic School in SE. He first arrived at St. Anselm's in 1952 as a 9th grader and graduated in

1956. He joined the Benedictine community there in 1959 and began teaching at the school in 1960. He served as the Headmaster of St. Anselm's for many years and continues to teach American History, International Relations, and Comparative Politics in addition to his duties as chaplain.

St. Anselm's Open House

St. Anselm's will be holding an Open House on Nov. 1 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. The school is an independent, Roman Catholic school for academically gifted boys in grades 6 - 12. The 43-acre campus is located in NE Washington, about 15-20 minutes from Capitol Hill. For more information, please contact E.V. Downey, Director of admissions, at admissions@saintanselms.org or 202-269-2379. 4501 South Dakota Ave, NE. www.saintanselms.org.

**J.O. Wilson Elementary
Principal Cheryl Warley,
Among America's Best
K-8 Principals**

Cheryl Warley, principal of J.O. Wilson, is one of 63 outstanding elementary and middle school principals from schools across the nation and abroad who have been named as 2009 National Distinguished Principals (NDP) by the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP). The NDP program, which is held in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Education, featured an address by Secretary of Education Arne Duncan at the awards banquet. NAESP and the U.S. Department of Education started the program in 1984 to recognize public and private school principals who make superior contributions to their schools and communities.

"Great principals are leaders who can change belief systems, support teachers, and ensure all students have access to good instruction and opportunities to reach their academic potential," Duncan said. "We need thousands of great instructional leaders like the NDP Class of 2009 to instill the belief that every child can learn, help turnaround the most chronically underperforming schools, and replicate models of suc-

cess that can be found throughout our nation.”

River Park Nursery School

On their first field trip of the year, the children of River Park Nursery School explored the FDR memorial. They learned about the 32nd President, touched the statues and listened to the waterfalls. The students recently enjoyed a Halloween party and have been talking about jack-o-lanterns and

education as affordable as possible. Part of this effort is the Archdiocesan Tuition Assistance Program, available to students applying to or currently enrolled in Catholic schools within the archdiocese. All tuition assistance obtained through the archdiocese is based on financial need. Families must apply each year to receive assistance and need must be demonstrated each year to qualify. Applying for tuition aid has no bearing on whether a student is



River Park Nursery School students enjoyed the statues at the FDR memorial.

the changing seasons. They also wrapped up a successful Harvest Bake and Yard sale at Eastern Market – thank you for your support! Everyone is looking forward to a special Thanksgiving program and potluck lunch scheduled for Nov. – Suzanne Nelson. RPNS is located at 212 East Capitol St. NE. www.riverparknurseryschool.org; 202-546-7757

Financial Aid Information 2010-2011 Tuition Assistance Applications Now Available

Applications for families interested in receiving tuition assistance from the Archdiocese of Washington for the 2010-2011 school year now are available online at www.CatholicSchoolsWork.org. The deadline to apply for this tuition assistance is Dec. 4, 2009. The Archdiocese of Washington hopes to award more than \$4 million in tuition assistance for 2010-2011 and works hard to keep Catholic

admitted to a school.

Families applying for archdiocesan tuition assistance only need to complete one form for all children, whether elementary school students or high school students, even if seeking tuition aid for children in both schools.

The Archdiocese of Washington is home to 96 Catholic schools educating 29,000 students in the District of Columbia and five Maryland counties: Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George's and St. Mary's. – Kathy Dempsey, 301-853-4519; www.CatholicSchoolsWork.org. ★

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Thursday, December 1, 2009 – 6:30-8:00 PM

Thursday, January 14, 2010 – 6:30-8:00 PM

Thursday, February 11, 2010 – 6:30-8:00 PM

Thursday, March 4, 2010 – 6:30-8:00 PM

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