



The Foundation Schools Flyer

Providing a Foundation in Education Since 1975

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Seventh Period Stretch

Everyone is familiar with baseball's famous seventh inning stretch. The Foundation School of Montgomery County's (FSMC) Middle School girls had a wonderful opportunity to have a seventh period "stretch" this spring. FSMC Health Teacher, Keisha Johnstone, has been teaching dance outside of Foundation for 10 years and eagerly accepted the opportunity to provide a dance class for the girls at the school. The dance class began last year with the high school girls, and during the spring semester Ms. Johnstone worked with a small group of middle school girls.



The class content followed Montgomery County curriculum guidelines and the students received credit for taking the class. Ms. Johnstone worked with the girls on ballet, jazz, hip hop, and step which opened the students' eyes to many different forms of the art of movement. The students increased their self-esteem and teamwork skills, and made tremendous progress in learning dance vocabulary and how to execute the various steps. The class provided a positive outlet for the girls and they were very impressed with how much they increased their flexibility and strength by participating.

Staff Spotlight

Core Value - TEAMWORK

Three staff members from The Foundation Elementary and Middle School (FSEM) teamed up this spring to begin a student news show. The Foundation Renaissance launched in February and was the brainchild of Program Assistant Andrea Cooper. Ms. Cooper has previous experience with the Arlington Community Cable Station and wanted to be able to share her interest in journalism with the students. Dedicated Aide Ajibola Ogunjulugbe and Library Media Specialist Jo-Anne Foster enthusiastically worked with Ms. Cooper to transform her vision into reality.



Ms. Cooper, Ms. Ogunjulugbe and students prepare cue sheets.

The goal of The Foundation Renaissance student news show was to train the students in various journalism skills such as reading cue cards, operating a camera, filming, and editing news segments. The students came up with their own interview questions for many shows, and staff and students researched the content for the daily weather report. Ms. Cooper wrote the scripts for the shows which included a news segment, daily weather, a Core Values saying and a "What's Your View" interview segment. The show was taped and broadcast via live feed to all the classrooms twice per week. Two student news crews alternated to put together the show. Fifteen students in all participated, with student Rayvon holding the special role as The Foundation School's "Ed Bradley" in conducting the "What's Your View" interview segments. Rayvon interviewed various student and staff guests, including student artist Katrice, The Sugar Shack School Store representative and Director of Behavior Management Mr. William Savage, and FSEM's Education Director Ms. Tamiko Lobaugh.



Three of the student newscasters practice for the broadcast.

Besides being a lot of fun and providing an opportunity to put into practice The Foundation Schools' Core Value of working together as a team, the news program improved students' confidence, poise, speaking ability and technical skills. We are very proud to recognize Ms. Cooper, Ms. Foster and Ms. Ogunjulugbe for this wonderful program.

Disaster is Transformed into Design At The Foundation High School

This spring, Art Teacher Ellen Robinson was asked to take a look into one of The Foundation High School's bathrooms. To her surprise the room was covered with graffiti from floor to ceiling. Our students are dealing with severe emotional and behavioral problems and vandalism is unfortunately one way in which these young men and women choose to express their anger and negative emotions. While such acts must have repercussions, punishment certainly does not equate with prevention. Ms. Robinson was asked what could be done to help stop the problem, and after some exploring a solution was devised which transformed the disaster into a glorious design.



Ms. Robinson worked with seven of her art students to paint an ocean-inspired mural that covers the whole bathroom. The art students were competitively selected, and one student in particular devoted a lot of time to the project. Bianca found the work to be very therapeutic, and is excited to take this extra experience with her as she attends The Art League School with the assistance of a Mary Jane Kennelly Scholarship.

Staff members donated extra paint from their homes so the project only cost about \$100 for brushes, rollers and some additional paint. While the painting got underway, staff and students frequently dropped in to see the progress. Now that the mural is complete, a special application coating for the walls is being applied so that any possible future graffiti can be easily removed. The students have been very enthusiastic about the results and have asked for murals to be painted in the other bathrooms as well. Plans are in place to do at least two more bathrooms next school year - one mural will be a reflection on the water and another mural may be a garden. We hope this enthusiasm will also reduce future incidents of graffiti.



Knowledge is Power During FSMC's Drug Awareness Campaign

The personal circumstances and emotional disabilities of our students put them at high risk for drug and alcohol use and abuse. The Foundation School of Montgomery County held a very successful Drug Awareness Campaign just prior to the students' Spring Break.

"Kick Butts Day!" kicked off the campaign with students viewing a movie called "The Truth About Tobacco" during Health class and participating in a quiz and discussion about harmful effects of nicotine. In Social Studies, the students read **Tipping Points** and discussed the chapter "Suicide, Smoking and The Unsticky Cigarettes." The Career Education class learned about pre-employment drug testing, the costs to employers when employees use/abuse alcohol and drugs, and the importance of corporate wellness programs. During English, students wrote reaction papers to real-life stories of substance use.



The highlight of the campaign was speaker Clinton Crosby. Mr. Crosby, a former NFL Player, provided a fascinating story of how hard choices helped him

avoid the pitfalls of growing up in family circumstances that would defeat most children. He also spoke with the students about the life skills and choices that will protect them from at risk behaviors.

Students from FSEM Cash-In On a Great Visit to the Bureau of Engraving and Printing

Students from The Foundation Elementary and Middle School thoroughly enjoyed their visit to the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) on May 7th. The trip to Washington, DC, which was a real treat for the students, was made possible through the coordination of BEP employee, Pattie Ware, and a generous donation from a friend of the school which covered the cost of the transportation and lunch for the students.

As the U.S. Government's security printer, the BEP is responsible for the design, engraving and printing of all U.S. paper currency. The Bureau also produces portions of U.S. passports, materials for Homeland Security, military identification cards, Immigration and Naturalization Certificates, White House invitations, Treasury obligations and other U.S. securities. Ms. Ware met the students and staff from the Green Class at the Bureau's entrance and guided the group to the beginning of the tour. They watched a video and then toured the facility to see how paper money is printed, stamped, coded with serial numbers and cut. The students and staff asked many questions and learned a lot about the production of our Nation's currency. The tour ended in the BEP gift shop where each student was allowed to select two souvenirs.



Recent Grant Awards

The Foundation Schools would like to acknowledge the generosity of the many Foundations, Corporations and Individuals that provide their support of our programs. We offer special recognition to The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, Montgomery County Council, United Way of the National Capital Area, Spring Creek Foundation Designated Fund of the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region, The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, the Zickler Family Foundation, and an Anonymous Foundation for providing grant funding during the second half of the 2008-2009 School Year. We could not achieve our vision that Every Student Triumphs Over Adversity without this vital support from our community.

Thank You!

Looking to the Past to Improve Literacy

Our Library/Media Centers (LMC) play an important role in our efforts to improve student literacy. Both of our schools were fortunate to receive **We the People Created Equal Bookshelves** from the American Library Association and National Endowment for the Humanities. Our Largo LMC used their bookshelf in conjunction with the social studies curriculum, culminating in a game show activity during Black History month. Students matched pictures of significant figures in the books with statements describing who they were. Students who matched the statement with the correct picture won a new book!



Nourishing Minds AND Bodies - Matching Funds Available to Support the School Lunch Program

Some Food for Thought.... Most of us have experienced at one time or another how difficult it is to concentrate and perform our best when we are hungry. Perhaps we didn't eat a good breakfast before heading off to work, or our morning meeting ran over and into our normal lunch time. Now, imagine how a child who doesn't have breakfast and doesn't have enough to eat for lunch is going to perform in school. Compound that hunger with severe emotional and behavioral problems. Compound it again with learning differences and learning disabilities. How much harder is it for that child to succeed academically and socially?



The Foundation Schools can't very well nourish minds unless the basic physical needs of our students are being adequately met. Over 80% of the students in our Largo campus are living in low-income households. Providing nutritious, satisfying meals is a real challenge for these caregivers, especially with the current recession. Our School Lunch Program is a critical intervention and promotes success in the classroom by enabling our students to be physically ready for learning.

The School Lunch Program falls outside the purview of our budget from the Maryland State Department of Education, and unfortunately funding from the National School Lunch Program covers less than half of the expenses of feeding our students. Grants and private donations are essential in enabling us to provide this service for our students.

The Foundation Schools is incredibly grateful to The Zickler Family Foundation for providing Challenge Grant Funds for the lunch program during the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 School Years. The Challenge Program encouraged other Foundations and Individuals to "step up to the plate" so we could provide nutritious meals for our students. **We are very excited to announce that The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation will be providing matching funds for the 2009-2010 School Year. They will match dollar-for-dollar up to \$20,000 in contributions for the School Lunch Program.** Please consider helping us to take advantage of their generosity!

I would like to take advantage of the Matching Grant Program by making my tax-deductible contribution to help provide lunches for low-income students.

Enclosed is my donation of \$_____ (please make your check payable to "The Foundation Schools") or Please charge my (Circle One) Master Card/Visa/American Express for my donation of \$_____ Credit Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Security Code (3 or 4 digits on the back of the card to prevent against fraud): _____ Signature _____

Please return this completed form to: The Foundation Schools, Attn: Development Office
6000 Executive Blvd., Ste. 605, Rockville, MD 20852

Donations may also be made online at www.foundationsschools.org. Thank you!



The Foundation Schools

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The Foundation Schools was chartered in 1975 as an independent, 501(c)(3) nonprofit psychoeducational services organization. For over three decades our mission has been to provide a specialized educational and therapeutic program for students with emotional disturbance and prepare them to be productive and successful in their future academic and career paths. For more information visit our website at www.foundationsschools.org.

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Hosts a School Supplies Drive to benefit our low-income students!

The Foundation Schools is very pleased that Money One Federal Credit Union is partnering with us for a second year to assist in meeting our critical need for school supplies for our many low-income students.

Money One members and friends in the community can help our students start the 2009-2010 School Year with the appropriate supplies necessary for them to get on the path to success. **Donations of all types of new school supplies are needed.** Examples include: pencils, colored pencils, pens (blue and black ink), notebooks (composition and 5 subject), markers, highlighters, zippered 3-ring binders, glue sticks, glue, crayons, 3x5 index cards, backpacks, rulers, 2-pocket folders, calculators, zippered pencil cases, subject dividers and notebook paper.

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and Stacey Thomas.

Collection boxes are located in the Money One FCU branch during lobby hours. Donations may also be dropped off at our schools or Administrative Office. Thanks for your support!