

**James  
River High  
School**

# Rapid News

**Volume 16, Issue 2**

**November, 2009**

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## Community Food and Conversation

Mark your calendars for Monday, November 16, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. This is the date that all the families in the James River High School feeder pattern (Bon Air, Crestwood, Greenfield, Robious, Weaver, Robious Middle, Providence Middle, and James River) will gather at the Bon Air Community Center.

Sponsored by the JRHS PTSA, this gathering will create an opportunity for the community and school representatives to share food and conversation. Each school will make a brief presentation after the BBQ dinner and then answer questions in a panel discussion format. To wrap up the evening, school representatives will answer specific questions and share interesting information about individual schools. For example, we will have experts on Edline, athletics, school counseling, and Navy JROTC present to discuss these programs.

Join us for food and information on November 16.

## The Digital Generation

JRHS students use the Internet, computers, cell phones, and many other digital tools to learn and communicate in ways that were not possible in previous generations. Our students can be considered "digital natives." Just think about the variety of new sites and tools that have become common in just the last five years: YouTube, MySpace, Facebook, and the iPod.

As we investigate today's youth, it is notable that there is more to this than just kids playing with cool new gadgets. It's about youth seizing new opportunities for engagement, self-directed learning, creativity, and initiative.

Today's youth can actively collaborate in many ways in the digital, virtual world, an environment parallel to the traditional one of face-to-face interaction. As media and pop-culture scholar Henry Jenkins says, "...this generation is growing up connecting online with kids from all parts of the planet. Being able to connect and collaborate with people who they don't see face-to-face takes on new importance in a network society."

They can present their ideas and products to a large online community and get immediate feedback. They can be in constant contact with dozens of their friends and participate in multiple games online. They can form new friendships with other youth in the same city or in another country, and they can engage in online group work with others. And they can find adult experts and mentors to support their interests.



**Continued on next page**

## Digital continued

Recent student survey results indicate “favorite tools” for the following:

- Social networks (MySpace, Facebook, IMing, Twitter)
- Instant messaging and SNS (AOL Instant Messenger, Google Talk)
- Collaborative workspaces (Wikispaces, Google Docs)
- Video and Audio Conferencing (Skype, Apple’s iChat)
- Multiplayer games (World of Warcraft, RuneScape)
- Game consoles (Microsoft’s Xbox, Nintendo’s Wii)

And as they collaborate in a hyper-connected world, cultural anthropologist Mimi Ito says kids “.....are becoming very fluent in online communication, the use of digital media, posting, linking, forward-ing, remixing media. This is just what they pick up as part of being a participant in peer culture, and that’s what’s very different.”

But, of course, you already knew this!

If you have any questions or concerns about the operation or mission of this school, please contact me at **john\_titus@ccpsnet.net** or by calling 378-2420, extension 104.

John Titus  
Principal

## 2009—2010 Winter Exam Schedule

Monday December 14	Tuesday December 15	Wednesday December 16	Thursday December 17	Friday December 18	Saturday December 19
Regular School Day	Period 3 Exam  1:45 dismissal	Period 1 & 2  11:25 dismissal	Period 5 & 7 Odd Day Tech  11:25 dismissal	Period 4 & 6 Even Day Tech  11:25 dismissal	Winter Break begins

### Exam make-up for snow

If there is no school on an even day, that exam will be postponed until Wednesday, January 6.

If there is no school on an odd day, that exam will be postponed until Thursday, January 7.

## Find It @ Your Library

The JRHS library relies on student aides to keep the place running smoothly; indeed, the librarians' jobs would be difficult to impossible without the help of these students. Their duties include meeting and greeting the many students and staff entering with varied requests, checking materials in and out, shelving, shelf reading, and keeping the library staff entertained with their high school tales.

We are most fortunate this year to have a roster of delightful, dependable student aides. We thank **Kim Batdorf, Joe Castello, Amber Coles, Katelynn Carpenter, Peter Frank, Charrese Finney, Brandon Rice, Emily Heim, David Brown, Nick Wright, Ted Richardson, Treashur Perry-Rutledge,** and **Jonathan Sumner**. We rank these students among the finest at JRHS because they exemplify the core values of CCPS. That they perform all their duties and more in such a cheerful, efficient manner is a credit to their strong work ethic.

The Wednesday Word of the Week continues this year. Every Wednesday during morning announcements, senior **Will Kennedy** reads a new word, spells it, gives the definition, lists synonyms, and uses the word in a sentence. Thanks to his enthusiastic delivery, JRHS students and staff enjoy learning SAT vocabulary words.

The James River library likes to offer a wide range of personal interest books. If you donate a book by a favorite author or a book on a favorite hobby or subject, we will affix a bookplate with your student's name on it and make a permanent note of this donation in the electronic library catalog. You may wish to honor your student's birthday or graduation in this manner.

Last year we received generous donations from parents and students cleaning their bookshelves of no longer needed books. Thanks to their generosity, we were able to add these titles to the system and offer reading from teens for other teens to enjoy.

"Whatever the cost of our libraries, the price is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation."  
Walter Cronkite

Our best source for collection development comes from the recommendations of students. In this past month, a student asked for the sequel to a book she had just finished. Another student pointed out the gap in a series of six books as he told us, "The main character is Zoey Redbird. Isn't that the best name for a heroine?" Thanks to other input, we now have a collection of biographies on current sports stars, including LeBron James.

Lunch in the Library programs will continue, and the one lunch format allows performers and audience the luxury of attending without missing out on classes. **Alli Oyler's** theatre students kicked off the 2009-2010 series on October 30 with the annual Halloween recitations and acting of spooky, scary tales.

If you have any free time during the day between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., the library staff would appreciate some volunteer help. In the past, the lunch period was staffed with student aides who took care of the circulation desk as librarians helped students with research and technology. The library has become a popular gathering spot during the one lunch block, and on any given day there are up to 300 students in the library. If you would like to enjoy the lively atmosphere, please call us at 378-2426!

JRHS library is now open on Tuesday and Wednesday until 5:00 p.m. This is a golden opportunity for your student to receive one-on-one help from a librarian and catch up on assigned work. Ask your student the meanings of the September words (diligent, manifest, audacious, transcendent) and October words (sanguine, recapitulate, peccadillo, chicanery) from Wednesday Word of the Week, and help us by encouraging lifelong learning @ **your library!**

Ann Reinke  
Librarian

## Yearbook Information

Purchase the 2010 full-color yearbook on sale now—(price includes a monthly school newspaper and the literary magazine).

Mail a \$70.00 check made out to **James River High School** to the following:

3700 James River Rd., Midlothian VA 23113

**or** bring a check to the school office

**or** order online at **www.yearbooks.biz**. Use order number 2423 to locate James River. Personalized yearbooks must be purchased ONLINE by December 18!

# News From Counseling and the College & Career Center

## GRASP for Financial Aid

Once again, the James River School Counseling Department is pleased to announce a partnership with the GReat Aspirations Scholarship Program (GRASP), a non-profit organization dedicated to serving local high school students and their families in their pursuit of financial aid for post-secondary schooling.

The GRASP representatives have a wealth of experience and training in the field of post-secondary financial aid planning. Students are encouraged to contact the GRASP representative for information and scholarship opportunities. The GRASP representative assigned to JRHS is **Ronda Zukowsky**, and she will be in the College and Career Center each Tuesday from 8:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. beginning in November through the early spring. Please call the College and Career Center at 794-6763 to schedule an appointment.

In addition to assistance from GRASP, seniors and their parents can look to the "James River Ripple" newsletter, which is updated monthly and posted in most senior classrooms as well as our school website. This publication offers information on scholarship opportunities from schools, private organizations, government agencies, and businesses.

Finally, for a technological scan of the hundreds of financial aid and scholarship opportunities available nationwide, check out the latest computer software in the James River College and Career Center (CCC). Additionally, each junior and senior received a list of helpful financial aid websites in their "Life After High School" booklet this fall. The CCC coordinator is **Karen Brown**, and the center is open from 7:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. daily, plus evening hours as announced.

## TAG—Be It!

The Tuition Assistance Grant (TAG) is a state financial aid program that provides annual grants to Virginia residents who are full-time students at eligible non-profit, private colleges and universities in the state. Students do not have to re-pay TAG, demonstrate financial need, or file a financial statement! The estimated undergraduate award for the 2009-10 school year is \$3000. For more information on the TAG and how to apply for it, visit [www.virginiaprivatecolleges.org](http://www.virginiaprivatecolleges.org).

## Academic Improvement Plans

Students (and parents), did that first report card not meet with your expectations? Are you looking for a way to improve your grades and your progress in class? Then, may the School Counseling Department suggest that you – students and parents – write up an "Academic Improvement Plan." Simply follow the same general guidelines as described in the plan included in this news-

letter for your convenience.

Research has shown that the best way for students to improve their classroom standing is to create a realistic plan, with parents, teachers, and counselors as helpful resources. After all, the only guarantee we can make is that if nothing changes, nothing will change!

Please feel free to contact your student's counselor and teachers for assistance.

### Academic Improvement Plan

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Counselor: \_\_\_\_\_

I. The class(es) in which I plan to improve my grades for the current grading period:

a. \_\_\_\_\_ c. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_ d. \_\_\_\_\_

II. Reason(s) for my poor performance in this/these course(s):

a. \_\_\_\_\_ c. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_ d. \_\_\_\_\_

III. The way(s) I plan to improve my progress in this/these course(s):

a. \_\_\_\_\_ c. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_ d. \_\_\_\_\_

I am committed to improving my grades. I understand that in order to improve my grades I must work with my parent(s), teachers, counselor, and administrator to implement the strategies I've identified above. I realize that progress is defined as the sum effort of what I do on a **daily basis**.

Student Signature

## Tutoring Assistance

The Chesterfield County Public Schools website gives parents and students access to a tutoring list. To find the list, log on to the County website at [www.chesterfield.k12.va.us](http://www.chesterfield.k12.va.us), and then click on the "Parents/Students" tab at the bottom of the page. From there hit the "Information for Parents" link followed by the "Parent-Teacher Resource Center" link. At the top click on the "Services" tab, and at the bottom of the page, you will find the "High School Tutor List."

The spreadsheet will list tutors by, among other factors, subject area and geographic location. Having trouble? Need more input? Please contact your student's school counselor.

## Counseling continued

### Career Development Presentations

School counselors will be conducting ninth grade room counseling sessions during early November to present the career development program. Ninth graders will be introduced to a series of units called "High School IS My Job!" which emphasizes how the skills and knowledge of being successful in school translates into success in a job, and ultimately, a career.

The career development program is designed to help high school students learn and apply the three tenets of good career decision-making: exploring interests, identifying abilities, and exploring job opportunities.

Please contact your student's school counselor for further information and questions.

### What Counts?

What do college admissions officers look for when deciding whom to admit? You might be surprised to learn that we are told that the most important part of the application file is the high school transcript. Why? Because it documents three (or more) years of a student's work and gives admissions a wealth of information. The transcript lists classes and the levels of those classes, grades earned, the GPA, and class rank. Nothing else can supply the college with so much information about the student.

In addition to the transcript, colleges look at test scores (SAT, ACT, TOFEL), essays, recommendations, extra-curricular activities, and volunteer work. Many colleges realize that students' opportunities to participate in extra-curricular activities and volunteer work are limited because they are working to earn money for college, and students in such situations should address this issue in their essays.

Additionally, college admissions representatives tell us that they want to see strong senior schedules with at least four or five academic classes (math, science, history, English, foreign language). In other words, they are looking for students who are highly motivated and whose transcripts will present much more than the minimum requirement printed in the college's catalog.

### Visit Those Schools

If your student wants to go to college but doesn't have the foggiest idea of what size, location, or type of school, begin by visiting different types of schools (NOTE: November 2 and 3 are student holidays!). You may want to begin by starting close to

home, say VCU and the University of Mary Washington, or the College of William and Mary and the University of Richmond, or perhaps Christopher Newport University and Longwood University. None of these schools are more than 1 ½ hours away from Richmond. We recommend weekday visits because the campuses are more alive then. Whenever you go, call ahead first to confirm tour times, parking availability, location of the Admissions Office, and any other details you might need. If you need overnight accommodations, admissions officers can help by suggesting nearby motels and restaurants. In addition, try to eat at least one meal on campus! (Admissions offices ordinarily give discount or free tickets for a meal in the dining hall to prospective students and their parents.)

### Another Source of College Information

A new feature on the School Counseling website is a spreadsheet of 2008-09 JRHS graduates, grouped by the colleges that they indicated they were accepted to, listing their average SAT/ACT scores and their average Grade Point Average (GPA). As with any source of information used in making a decision, this database is not intended to be the only, or even the primary, guide in directing students where to apply to college. Rather, this information is one source of many to help families make good decisions in the college search process. Please contact your student's school counselor for more information.

### ACT Practice Test

The PTSA, along with the School Counseling Office, is sponsoring an ACT Practice Test on **Saturday, November 14, from 8:00 a.m. – noon**. Sylvan Learning Center will administer the test, which will give juniors and seniors an opportunity to sample the assessment prior to a live administration. Additionally, Sylvan will return the following week to interpret the test results for students, with information on how to improve scores.

Interested students will be able to sign up for this practice test during lunch outside of the School Counseling Office the first week of November. The cost of the test is \$10, and checks can be made payable to the JRHS PTSA. Please contact the School Counseling Office if you have questions.

### FREE SAT/ACT Test Preparation Assistance

The Virginia Department of Education is pleased to announce statewide availability of a test preparation module through the VirginiaMentor program at **www.virginiamentor.org**. The VirginiaMentor test prep feature provides easy-to-use tutorials for each subject area covered by the ACT, the SAT, and the Graduate

## Counseling continued

Record Exam (GRE). Please visit the website to set up an account and gain access to customized test preparation courses.

## On-Site Admissions Visit

Once again Longwood University will be visiting JRHS to conduct on-site admissions for interested and qualified seniors. Admissions representatives from Longwood will be at James River High School on Tuesday morning, November 20, to meet with students. Seniors who are interested in participating in the on-site admissions program should have a minimum 3.0 GPA and a combined 1000 on the Critical Reading and Math portions of the SAT. For more information on the visit, please contact your school counselor.

## Parent Resources

With the school year in full swing, parents are often interested in resources to assist their children. One helpful service is FAM, a clearinghouse for parenting information sponsored by the Greater Richmond SCAN organization. FAM was launched to help all parents with the joyous and sometimes challenging job of parenting.

FAM's website ([www.famrichmond.org](http://www.famrichmond.org)) offers helpful parenting information, a calendar of local parenting workshops, connections with local agencies providing parenting help and support, and suggestions for fun family activities. In addition to the website, FAM offers workshops, forums, and training for parents and professionals. The list of these programs is on the website.

Additionally, Commonwealth Parenting is sponsoring a number of fall workshops for parents of children, toddlers through adolescents. To access class registration or for more information, go to their website, [www.commonwealthparenting.org](http://www.commonwealthparenting.org).

Closer to home, the Chesterfield County Public Schools Parent/Teacher Resource Center also sponsors a website ([www.chesterfield.k12.va.us](http://www.chesterfield.k12.va.us)). Click parents, then parent/teacher resource center, and the site lists workshops, contacts, tutors, summer camps, and other valuable services available to parents.

## Student Opportunities

Attention all future innovators! The Math Science Innovation Center is hosting a Grades 9-12 Let's Innovate Student Conference on Saturday, November 21, at the Math Science Innovation Center. Come discover the newest innovations in forensics, fractal geometry, "green" architecture, geosciences, mathematics, nanotechnology, and biomedical engineering. Meet and talk with the scientists and professionals who are turning the possibilities of today into the realities of tomorrow. You can register online at [www.msinnovation.info](http://www.msinnovation.info) or contact your math/science teacher for a program brochure. Hurry, because the conference is filling up quickly, and you don't want to miss out on this unique opportunity to interact with leaders in the fields of math and science.

## HighSchoolSports.net

Important dates for the School Counseling Office and College and Career Center are listed on the school calendar, which is accessible on the JRHS website, [www.jrhs.net](http://www.jrhs.net). Once on the home page, simply click on the link titled "Calendar for School Activities and Sports."

Information on college visits, counselor sessions, testing, and all school activities including sports can be found on this calendar. Save it as a favorite.

## Another Successful Kick-Off

The August Kick-Off Transition Program for freshmen was a great success. Council members **Abby Fines, Melanie Tsapatsaris, Nick Wright, Victoria Gonzalez, Jessica James, Quinn Mooror,** and **Grace Jefferson** helped organize a day of fun activities which helped freshmen feel comfortable with their school surroundings, meet upper classmen, and learn about school procedures and the culture here at James River. Students who registered early received a spirit bag, which included a white t-shirt. The council members wanted to help the freshmen show their spirit during the first pep rally and knew many students would not have purple shirts. The council spent two days tie-dyeing 350 shirts purple! The freshmen looked great!

The national Kick-Off Transition Program is a comprehensive transition, orientation and mentoring program welcoming new students to high school. Each junior or senior leader mentors approximately four freshmen. Every Friday, they have been meeting in homerooms to discuss topics which include extra-curricular involvement, setting academic goals, communication with faculty and staff, and study skills.

# The Green Scene

For the 2009-2010 school year, JRHS will continue to encourage students and teachers to “reduce our impact” on the environment. Through last year’s efforts to spread “eco-logic,” James River High School has earned recognition as a Virginia Naturally School! In the near future, *Virginia Wildlife* magazine will feature our accomplishments.

## Who is “painting” the JRHS green scene?

### Faculty Council for Sustainability

Director	<b>Connie Bolte</b>
Composting	<b>Diane Flemming</b> and <b>Temple Stuart</b>
Public Relations	<b>Linda Boggs</b> and <b>Ann Reinke</b>
Recycling	<b>Chuck LaRocca</b>
Energy	<b>Bob Benway</b> and <b>Tim Couillard</b>
Advisors	<b>Meg Heyssel, Stephanie Layton, Sarah Jurewicz, Chip Boone, and Darlene Back</b>



## P.E.A.C.E. Club (currently has 50 student members and still growing!)

President	<b>Ji Han</b>
VP	<b>Seth Harrison</b>
Treasurer	<b>Kate Darlington</b> <b>Kelly Plonski</b>
Secretary	<b>Alex Connor</b>
Historian	<b>Patrice Bird</b>

**Volunteer Hours Available!**  
Recycle on Thursdays (1:50- 2:50 p.m.)

## Currently, these committees work on the following:

- Coordinate Thursday **Recycle** Pick-Up—cardboard, colored paper, empty bottles/cans, white paper, newspaper, and magazines to earn funds!
- Provide students and teachers with **Tips for Going Green**—We have a Green Awareness wall in the front hall.
- Encourage the use of reusable water bottles and lunch bags.
- Work toward the reduction in Styrofoam usage.
- Find alternative energy resources.
- **Compost** faculty lunch scraps (Exceptional Ed collects data).

### TIP TO TAKE HOME!

Pack a **CapriSUN** juice drink for lunch! JRHS is getting **PAID** to recycle the pouches through **www.terracycle.net**. There will be a station in the Open Commons and Closed Commons for collection.

Other things that can (should) be recycled...

**Batteries and Electronics!** Visit <http://earth911.com> to find a collection center near you!

Connie Bolte  
AP Environmental Science and Biology





Rehearsals for Theatre on the James' first production of the year, *Once Upon a Mattress*, are rolling along, and the show is going to be great!

The cast and crew are working hard to make this a fun show for the whole family. The show will run November 19-21, 2009, with a matinee on Saturday, November 20.

On Friday, November 6, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m., we will be working on set production, and all hands are welcome! If you are available to help build and paint sets, please plan on joining us. We are also holding monthly fundraisers at *Cheeburger Cheeburger* on Midlothian Turnpike—15% of all proceeds from sales to people who identify themselves as being part of the JRHS "family" will go to the theater department! Our next *Cheeburger Cheeburger* day will be November 4, 2009, and lasts all day, so go for lunch, dinner, or just a snack.

Theatre Partisans had a good turnout at their first meeting of the school year, but there are still plenty of opportunities for theatre parents to volunteer, so contact **Alli Oyler** at [allison\\_oyler@ccpsnet.net](mailto:allison_oyler@ccpsnet.net), or you can access our website at [www.theatreonthejames.com](http://www.theatreonthejames.com) to sign up!

## Newsmakers

Congratulations are extended to the following JRHS seniors who have been recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as Commended Students: **Libby Boswell, Sara Currie, Jacob Duell, Norman Garrett, Charlotte Hudnutt, Ben Messer, Drew O'Shanick, and Nicholas Wade**. Commended students are recognized by the NMSC for exceptional academic promise as demonstrated by their outstanding performance on the PSAT last fall. Only about 4% of all PSAT test takers are recognized each year for outstanding performance, so we are especially proud of our Commended Students. Again, congratulations!

From November 1-30, **Ms. Allison Hoover's** creative writing class will be writing up a storm as participants in National Novel Writing Month, affectionately known as NaNoWriMo. Students will set word count goals of up to 50,000 words and try to complete this goal by the end of the month. Last year, three of Ms. Hoover's students successfully completed this goal, and many other students reached 30,000 words and beyond. Stop by Lab 1231 during period 7 throughout the month of November to cheer on our burgeoning fiction writers! For more information about NaNoWriMo, visit [nanowrimo.org](http://nanowrimo.org).

James River DECA celebrated National DECA Week, October 11-17. The entire student body got involved by taking part in a DECA diamond scavenger hunt. DECA diamonds were placed in areas throughout the school, clues were given, and prizes were awarded to those students who located the hidden diamonds. Hershey Hugs were given out to faculty, staff, and students on Virginia DECA Day, October 14, as part of a DECA awareness campaign. A grand opening of the DECA sponsored school store was held on October 16. Customers had the opportunity to enter their names in a drawing for a free JRHS t-shirt, part of the newly released apparel available through the store. Currently the store offers a selection of school supplies, helium balloons, and James River apparel. The store is open every day during lunch and within a few weeks will also open from 1:45 to 2:00 p.m. Check it out!

On October 10, the Virginia Boat Club, along with James River Rowers, held the fifth annual Head of the James. Fourteen teams and clubs from Easton to Raleigh, N.C., participated. The James River team, rowing under the umbrella of Virginia Boat Club Junior, did very well, with each of the four-women's boats placing first in their events. The Men's Novice eight-man boat and the two-man shell finished second and the Men's varsity four-boat rounded out the rooster with a fourth place finish. Thank you to the efforts of all the participants, extraordinary parents, volunteers of VBC, **Mrs. Murphy** on coordination, **Mr. Keith Cottrill** for the PA system, senior **Sean Cook** for singing the national anthem, **Mr. Vatel Dixon** for use of stop watches, and Coaches **Hank Holswade, Chris Shores, and Ann Wingen-Butler**.

Senior **Chris Anderson** was presented with his Eagle Scout award in September, and teachers **Linda Boggs, Janelle Parks, Betsy Thomas, and Ben Dyer** were in attendance. His Eagle project was the design and construction of a bird garden at Robious Elementary School. Congratulations!

## **Mark Your Calendars**

### **Help Support JRHS Athletics!**

#### **October 31 (Halloween!) – 11:00 a.m., Robious Landing Park, JRHS 5K**

Join in the first JRHS 5K! Admission is only \$20.00 and includes a T-shirt, food, and a chance to win great prizes. Relay teams are welcome and costumes are strongly encouraged. Registrations may be returned to **Tracy Hamner** in room 1236 or mailed to him at 3700 James River Rd., Midlothian, VA 23113. Please include your name, phone number, address, email, and shirt size (youth m/f, high school m/f, adult m/f). Please make checks payable to James River High School. Questions? Contact **Taylor Moose** at [mooseinmotion@verizon.net](mailto:mooseinmotion@verizon.net) or **Tracy Hamner** at [tracy\\_hamner@ccpsnet.net](mailto:tracy_hamner@ccpsnet.net).

#### **November 2—JRHS Baseball Golf Tournament**

The second annual James River Baseball Golf Tournament will be held on November 2, 2009. This tournament was a huge success last year with over 100 participants in the inaugural tourney. The tournament is a fundraiser for the program, with proceeds going towards field maintenance and upgrades, as well as equipment needs. If anyone is interested in playing in the Captain's Choice Tournament, please contact **Greg Domnisse** at 677-2104 or email [gregory\\_domnisse@ccpsnet.net](mailto:gregory_domnisse@ccpsnet.net).

#### **December 5 & 6—Christmas Tree Sale**

The third annual Christmas tree sale will be held at the baseball field on December 5 and 6, 2009. The proceeds also go towards field maintenance and upgrades, as well as equipment needs. If you have any questions, please contact **Greg Domnisse** at 677-2104 or [gregory\\_domnisse@ccpsnet.net](mailto:gregory_domnisse@ccpsnet.net).

### **FY2011 Budget Community Conversations**

#### **We Want to Hear from You!**

Chesterfield County government and schools are projecting a \$55 million to \$60 million budget deficit for fiscal 2011. Consequently, county and school decision makers want to hear your thoughts and ideas about spending priorities and budget development. Please join us for one of the joint county and school fiscal 2011 budget presentations followed by facilitated small-group discussions.

**Thursday, November 5 – Meadowdale Library – 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.**

**Thursday, November 5 – Elizabeth Davis Middle School – 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.**

**Friday, November 6 – Chester Baptist Church – 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.**

**Monday, November 16 – Clover Hill High School – 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.**

**Tuesday, November 17 – Salem Middle School – 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.**

**Thursday, November 19 – Manchester High School – 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.**

Dates are subject to change. Please visit [www.chesterfield.gov](http://www.chesterfield.gov) or [www.chesterfield.k12.va.us](http://www.chesterfield.k12.va.us) for up-to-date information.

#### **Other Opportunities**

If you are unable to attend one of the conversations, we still want to hear your suggestions and comments. Please call the Budget Hot Line at 804-318-8222 or complete the Budget Comment Form online.

# PTSA NEWS

Your PTSA welcomes your involvement as we continue to build a strong community that works for every student at James River High School. Check out our website at [www.jamesriverhighschoolptsa.net](http://www.jamesriverhighschoolptsa.net) for all the latest contact information, volunteering opportunities, special programs, and forms. Please bookmark the site and check back often for current information regarding your school community.

## Important Upcoming Dates

November 10 – Qdoba Night - remember to purchase a drink with your meal.

November 13 – Last day for seniors to join the PTSA and be eligible for a scholarship

November 14 – ACT Practice Test (\$10)

**PTSA Membership:** All parents, students, family, friends, and staff in the James River High School Community are invited to join the PTSA. Dues are only **\$7.00** per member and support a variety of programs including scholarships, Boy's and Girl's State, the Reflections Program, Post-Prom, and hospitality. In addition, with your paid membership, you will receive the student directory at no charge. Please note, **seniors** must be members by **November 13** in order to apply for the PTSA scholarships. Questions regarding PTSA membership may be directed to **Susan Allison** at [smallison@verizon.net](mailto:smallison@verizon.net) or **Gary Darby** at [garydarby@comcast.net](mailto:garydarby@comcast.net). Membership application forms may also be downloaded from the PTSA website, [www.jamesriverhighschoolptsa.net](http://www.jamesriverhighschoolptsa.net).

**Fundraising:** The PTSA has initiated several programs as a means to fund the programs we sponsor throughout the year. Please support the following:

- **JRHS Cookbooks** - We still have copies of **James River Cooks, Vol. II**. The cookbook is \$10.00 and has great and easy recipes! Contact **Judy Deichman** at [judith4125@aol.com](mailto:judith4125@aol.com) or at 378-3738..
- **Kroger Plus Card/Apples for Students** - The Kroger Plus Card for Education has a new name! **Apples for Students** was up and running at the end of September. Check the PTSA website for additional details!
- **Currents** - This year the PTSA is partnering with **Currents Fundraiser** by participating in their online program. It's so easy, and our PTSA will receive 50% of the profits from each order! Simply go to the website [www.currentfun.com](http://www.currentfun.com), select the "online" option on the left, and place your order. Once your order has been placed, select "Virginia" and then "James River High School PTSA" to make certain the school receives credit for your order. Questions? Contact Susan Brown ([susanbrown@aol.com](mailto:susanbrown@aol.com)) at 320-6189.

- **Cartridge World Program** - James River High School has joined forces with Cartridge World in an effort to recycle empty ink jet and laser toner cartridges. Simply drop off empty inkjet and laser cartridges at JRHS in the cartridge collection bins. Cartridge World will pick up the empty cartridges that are collected, and once their value is determined, a check will be mailed to the James River PTSA. Questions? E-mail Susan Brown at [susanbrown@aol.com](mailto:susanbrown@aol.com).
- **Qdoba Nights** - Mark your calendars for the next two Qdoba nights: Tuesday, November 10, and Wednesday, December 2. In order for James River to receive any credit for your purchase, you must present a flyer and **buy a drink with your meal!**
- **Julie Bruner – Getting My Tail Into College**- Julie Bruner is a former senior college counselor at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School and now Director of College Guidance at Trinity. Based on her many years of college expertise, she has created a step-by-step planner for high school juniors and seniors to make them better equipped to handle the challenge of getting ready for college. She has agreed to donate a portion of the proceeds from the sale of her college planners to JRHS. Please check the website under "PTSA" to find out how you can purchase this valuable tool and donate to the school!

**Neighborhood Coffees:** A great way to become familiar with JRHS is to sponsor a neighborhood coffee. These are scheduled with the assistance of PTSA and are informal meetings in your home with Principal **John Titus** and a guidance counselor. It's a good way for the parents in your neighborhood to communicate with our administration and get answers to questions regarding how the school operates, county-wide educational issues, or the future direction of JRHS. Contact **Laurie Delege** at 330-4402 ([bugnmeva@aol.com](mailto:bugnmeva@aol.com)) or **Roxanne Ghaharmani** at 330-0712 ([roxxmani@comcast.net](mailto:roxxmani@comcast.net)) if you are interested in hosting a coffee in your home.

**Class Coffees:** Class coffees were so successful last year that the PTSA will continue to host a coffee for each grade level. The coffees will be held between 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the library. Mr. Titus and a school counselor will be there to answer any questions parents may have. This is a great opportunity to learn more about James River, as well as class-specific information. There will also be parent seminars held prior to the junior and senior class coffees. These seminars will begin at 6:30 p.m. and feature a guest speaker on a topic of particular relevance to parents.

## PTSA continued

Dates for the remaining coffees are as follows: Freshman Class Coffee – December 1, 2009; Sophomore Class Coffee - March 24, 2010; Junior Class Coffee – January 26, 2010.

**Post Prom Party:** This year's prom date for juniors and seniors is **Saturday, May 1**. Although it seems like a long way off, the PTSA is already in the planning stages of this year's **Post Prom** event. In order to be successful, we need about 75 parent volunteers! Yes, we welcome the addition of any freshman and sophomore parents who would like to help. Stay tuned for more information regarding this fun, safe, alcohol and drug free event.

**Volunteers:** There are many volunteer opportunities at JRHS—Hospitality, College and Career Center, Library/Media Center, Welcome Desk, and Post-Prom, to name a few. Volunteer forms were included in the Parent Information Packet and are also on the JRHS website under PTSA. Please take a moment to complete the form and return it to school. Volunteering is a great way to meet other parents and learn what's going on in the JRHS community. If you have limited time due to work and family commitments, you can

still volunteer to donate food or drinks for events that the PTSA sponsors throughout the year. If you have questions or want to talk about ways you might be able to volunteer at the school, contact **Lisa Davey** at [imdavey@comcast.net](mailto:imdavey@comcast.net) or 683-0511. Volunteer forms may be downloaded from the Web site at [www.jamesriverhighschoolptsa.net](http://www.jamesriverhighschoolptsa.net).

**Welcome Desk:** If you have some free time during the day and are interested in volunteering for the school's Welcome Desk, please contact **Judy Deichman** at [judith4125@aol.com](mailto:judith4125@aol.com) or at 378-3738. It is a great way to learn more about what's happening at JRHS!

**Chesterfield County Parent-to-Parent Blog:** The Parent-to-Parent Blog is designed to provide real-time communication between parents and the county's PTSA executive board. It's a great place to go for information! Check it out at [chesterfieldparent-to-parentblogspot.com](http://chesterfieldparent-to-parentblogspot.com).

Pam Blackburn  
PTSA President  
[pamela\\_blackburn@ccpsnet.net](mailto:pamela_blackburn@ccpsnet.net)

## Community Barbeque and Information Session!

**Come out and meet school administrators, counselors, and other representatives and hear about what's happening in school.**

**When:** Monday, November 16, 6:00—8:00 p.m.

**Where:** Bon Air Community Center  
8725 Quaker Lane  
Richmond, VA 23235

**Who:** Families of students in the following:  
James River High School  
Robious Middle School  
Providence Middle School  
Greenfield Elementary School  
Crestwood Elementary School  
Weaver Elementary School  
Robious Elementary School  
Bon Air Elementary School

**Reservations required!**

**Please RSVP to Amanda Voelker at [Amanda\\_Voelker@ccpsnet.net](mailto:Amanda_Voelker@ccpsnet.net) or by calling 804-378-2420 by Friday, November 13. Space is limited so register today!**



3700 James River Road  
Midlothian, VA 23113

Office: 804-378-2420

Fax: 804-379-2695

School Counseling: 804-378-2427

Athletics: 804-378-2429

**JAMES RIVER HIGH  
SCHOOL**

*A Nationally Recognized  
Blue Ribbon School of  
Excellence.*

**John B. Titus**  
Principal

**Kitty Catina**  
Assistant Principal

**Jennifer Coleman**  
Assistant Principal

**Amanda Voelker**  
Assistant Principal

**Michael Fennessey**  
Dean of Students

**Jeanine Grabham**  
Dean of Students

**Bryan Carr**  
Director, School Counseling

**Tim Llewellyn**  
Director, Student Activities

We're on the Web!  
[jrhs.ccpsnet.net](http://jrhs.ccpsnet.net)

## Senior PDAs

- Submit electronically for the highest quality.
- Submit as a picture file (jpeg or bmp).
- Make checks out to [James River High School](#).
- Include photos in a self-addressed envelope if you want them returned to you.

Full page: 11" X 9 1/4"      \$300.00

Half Page: 5 1/2" X 9 1/4"      \$225.00

1/4 Page: 2 3/4" X 4 5/8"      \$175.00

1/8 Page: Business card size      \$ 80.00

All ads are in full color!



*Rapid News* is produced monthly and designed with Microsoft Publisher. Submissions should be sent to **Ann Reinke**, newsletter editor, by the fifteenth day of each month. She may be reached by email:

**[ann\\_reinke@ccpsnet.net](mailto:ann_reinke@ccpsnet.net)**

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