

**James
River High
School**

Rapid News

Volume 16, Issue 1

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A New Community of Learners

The new academic session opened very smoothly with the usual staff changes, schedule adjustments, and high hopes of the faculty and students for another outstanding year. This is our 16th academic session. This school continues to be a thriving, dynamic, and student-centered comprehensive high school. It has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence and by the American Association of School Librarians as the top rated library media program in the country.

Most recently, the Virginia Department of Education identified this school as one of ten in the Commonwealth to be studied for "bringing best practices to scale." In 2008, the International Center for Leadership in Education recognized James River High School as one of 16 model schools in the country. As a result, a team of faculty members traveled to Atlanta in June to present at the 17th annual International Center for Leadership in Education Conference on Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships.

All of this recognition is a result of the hard work of dedicated professional staff members and the strong effort of the 2000 member student body.

During teacher work week, the faculty attended a school-wide conference on relevance, which established the platform for studying school prac-

tices and discussing how they relate to student success. This discussion will continue throughout the year as the faculty develops a framework of academic intervention strategies to help students achieve success.

As a result of studying the lunch model this past year, some adjustments were made in the expectations for students and the focus for this time. The name of lunch also reflects the faculty's emphasis that it is more than just lunch. It is now referred to as O.N.E. (Opportunities Never End) lunch. An additional learning opportunity has been created after first period each day. This 40-minute block of time is Academic Enrichment Period.

Edline

Parents have the ability to track their child's academic progress and check on assignments and deadlines, as well as email teachers from any computer with Internet access.

Teachers will update grades at least once very two weeks. Parents will be notified by email when new grades are available. This important communication tool should be a significant improvement over previous attempts to follow an individual student's progress throughout the year. The web-based program, however, should not take the place

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of regular communication with teachers.

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

Homecoming Information

Dance, October 17, 2009, 8:00—11:30 p.m.

Dress expectations include the following:

Gentlemen must wear a dress shirt with a collar, a tie, dress slacks (no jeans), belt, and shoes. Ladies may wear pant suits (no jeans and t-shirts), short or long dresses. There may be no bare midriffs.

This is a semiformal dance. Casual attire is not allowed.

Tickets will cost \$10.00 and will be on sale from October 12—October 16 at the theatre box office.

Early Dismissals

A student who wishes to leave school before his/her regular dismissal time must bring a note signed by a parent to the attendance office between 7:15 and 7:25 a.m. on the day he/she wishes to be dismissed early. The student's dismissal permit will then be delivered to the student in class prior to his/her requested dismissal time.

At dismissal, students meet their parents in the clinic/attendance office, where parents must come to sign their child out of school. Parents who call to request that a child drive him/herself home or to an appointment must follow the phone call with a fax (School fax: 379-2695), as phone dismissals are not permitted. Parents are reminded that unless such prior arrangements have been made, due to the nature of this year's lunch, **we will not be able to dismiss/locate students during the lunch hour** (11:37 a.m. – 12:24 p.m.).

Absences

If a student is absent from school, he/she should return to school the day following the absence(s) with a note signed by a parent and should present the note to his/her first period teacher. The note should include the date, the student's name, the student's ID number, the date(s) of the absence, and the specific reason for the absence.

Parents do **not** need to call the school to notify us that a student will be absent. (Extended absences should be communicated to the student's school counselor.)

Parents will automatically receive a phone call on the evening of the child's absence with notification that the student had an unexcused absence. Upon the student's return to school, a determination will be made as to whether the absence is excused/unexcused based on the reason for the absence(s).

ParentLink

As you likely know from receiving messages from school, we will utilize the ParentLink messaging system to notify parents of upcoming events and important dates, including emergency information when necessary. Many phone numbers change throughout the year, and we want to make sure that you are receiving information from school. Please make sure that the phone number we have on file for you is accurate. If changes occur, please notify our School Counseling Office at 378-2427.

Find It @ Your Library

On September 8, in an address to the nation's schoolchildren, President Barack Obama said, "That's why today, I'm calling on each of you to set your own goals for your education – and to do everything you can to meet them. Your goal can be something as simple as doing all your homework, paying attention in class, or spending time each day reading a book."

English teacher **Tracy Hamner** has challenged his students to read 750 pages (any reading counts!) during the first nine weeks of school, and he brought his students to the library in search of reading material to meet all the special interests. English teachers **Meg Heyssel** and **Stephanie Nelson** scheduled time for checkout for their students. In the first two weeks of school, the library circulation totaled 494 items, and students continue to discover reading can be fun if they choose reading material that matches their interests.

What's your favorite book? Chances are good that someone has tried to ban it. According to the American Library Association's (ALA) Office for Intellectual Freedom, more than a book a day faces removal from free and open public access in United States schools and libraries.

September 26—October 3 marks the 28th anniversary of the ALA sponsored Banned Books Week, emphasizing the freedom to choose and the freedom to express one's opinion. Banned Books Week celebrates "the freedom to choose or the freedom to express one's opinion even if that opinion might be considered unorthodox or unpopular and stresses the importance of ensuring the availability of those unorthodox or unpopular viewpoints to all who wish to read them. After all, intellectual freedom can exist only where these two essential conditions are met."

The positive message of Banned Books Week is the position taken by the ALA, that free people read freely. Students are checking out books such as *Kaffir Boy*, *Fallen Angels*, and *Slaughterhouse-Five* to form their own opinions.

In addition to teaching classes, creating new programs, meeting and greeting all freshmen, club sponsorships, committee meetings, and community

"Everything I need to know about life I've learned by reading banned books."

involvement, **Ann Reinke**, **Sue Midkiff**, and **Ann Swiatowiak** work to ensure the library remains a busy center of activity throughout the year.

Once again the James River High School library has purchased databases with home access capability. In addition to these valuable tools, many more resources are available through **finditva.com** with a library card from any public library in the state of Virginia.

Please post the following information for year-round home access to the James River High School library databases:

GaleNet: <http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/MidI84745>
Password: **MidI84745** (case sensitive)

Grolier: <http://www.go.grolier.com>
User name: **red** Password: **car**

Bloom's Literary Reference Online (new!)
<http://www.fofweb.com>
Username: **jmsrhs** Password: **rapids**

Also, be sure to check out the many electronic resources available through the Chesterfield Public Library, accessible with a library card number, at <http://library.co.chesterfield.va.us/screens/er.html>.

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. The input of students, staff, and parents helps us build a better library, and we welcome you @ **your library**.

Ann Reinke
Librarian

Yearbook Information

How to 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

College Information Night

James River High School and Monacan High School will co-sponsor the annual "College Information Night" on September 30, 7:00 p.m., in the Monacan High School auditorium. The program brings together local college admissions officers who participate in a panel discussion followed by an audience question and answer period. Topics for the evening include "The College Search," "How Colleges Select their Freshman Class," "College Application Essays and How They Are Used," "The Financial Aid Process," and "Transitioning from High School and The Role of Parents."

The event promises to be informative, interactive, and fun. Make plans to attend with your student!

Attention Parents of Seniors: "Everything You Wanted to Know about the Senior Year, but your Student Wouldn't Tell You" Program

On Tuesday, October 6, in the JRHS Library the School Counseling Office will present a program aimed at educating parents/guardians on their important role in helping students transition from high school. The program will take place from 7:00—8:30 p.m. Please plan to attend to learn more about the mysteries surrounding your senior's "Life After High School!"

College Fair

The annual College Fair for northern Chesterfield County will be held again at Midlothian High School this fall. This event is scheduled for Sunday, November 8, from 4:30-6:00 pm. The program is repeated on Monday, November 9, at John Tyler Community College, Chester Campus, from 7:00—8:30 p.m.

Over 100 college admissions and financial aid officers will be in attendance. This is the perfect time to pick up college applications and have your questions answered directly by college admissions officers. College-bound juniors, seniors, and parents are urged to attend!

Strategies for Success: Life Savers for Parents

On Saturday, October 10, the Virginia Department of Education along with regional Parent Resource Centers will host the Strategies for Success conference at L. C. Bird High School. This program is designed to provide parents with strategies for success in school and life. The keynote address will be given by Trevor Romain, an award-winning author and illustrator of self-help books and DVDs for children, including *Bullies Are a Pain in the Brain* and *Cliques, Phonies, and Other Baloney*. In addition, the conference will host breakout sessions on a variety of topics, including social skills, study strategies, partnering with your child's school, and fostering self-esteem.

For registration or general information, please contact the CCPS Parent/Teacher Resource Center at (804) 279-7311 or (804) 279-7401.

College 4 U Program

Virginia's annual *College 4 U* Program (formerly known as *College Quest*), a free one-day conference for college-bound high school students with disabilities and their parents, will be held on Saturday, November 7, from 12:30-4:30 p.m. (registration begins at noon) at our very own James River High School!

The conference includes an opening session, panel discussions by college students with disabilities, and parents whose children with disabilities have attended college. Small group workshops will also be offered in areas of interest, including preparing for college, student experiences and perspectives, financial aid, and support resources in Virginia colleges and universities.

Registration is free, and further information, including registration forms, can be obtained by contacting Kathe Wittig at kmwittig@vcu.edu or (804) 827-1403.

Life After High School

Parents are asked to be aware of group guidance sessions taking place in September and October during which each senior, junior, and sophomore participates in a program called "Life After High School." Each participant receives an updated edition of the school counseling publication to assist students and parents with the important task of transitioning successfully from secondary education to the world beyond these hallowed halls. In addition to the group meetings and informative materials, each senior will meet individually with his or her counselor to make a plan geared toward his/her interests and needs after leaving James River.

Parents, continue to stay involved and aware so that your student can make the best possible decisions. Please note that the "Life After High School" booklets are available on the School Counseling website, located at www.jrhs.net.

Resources of the Month: College-Bound Students

Parents and students, this month we direct your attention to two unique information sources to help families make good decisions about student options for "Life After High School." One resource, entitled "2009 College Attendees by SAT/ACT Scores and GPA," can be found on the www.jrhs.net website, under the School Counseling tab and Student Resource Link. As the title indicates, this link details the average

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college entrance scores and grade point averages of 2009 graduates who were accepted to select colleges in the Commonwealth and beyond. The second resource (www.CollegeClickTV.com) is a new website entitled *College Choices*, which provides more than 20,000 student interviews and information about hundreds of colleges.

Both pieces of information are useful guides to better decision-making, but as with any major decision, we encourage families to rely on a number of resources to research the best fit for students after high school.

Scheduling Issues

It seems that at this time of year there is a tremendous busting of activity surrounding class change requests. This article is an attempt to communicate the administration's position on schedule change deadlines and the reasons for such a guiding policy.

In early spring, counselors visit classes to discuss the scheduling process with all students. Information is shared with parents through newsletters and flyers that are sent home. The counselors then meet with each student individually to discuss a program of studies for the next year. Graduation requirements, student strengths and weaknesses, student goals, and teacher recommendations are important areas of discussion and consideration before students and parents make a decision on a course of study.

When students received their tentative schedule in the spring, a deadline to change their schedules was set for June 15. This June 15 deadline is an important date for master schedulers. Until that date, students and parents have an opportunity to make schedule changes. After that date, the students, parents, and administration have made commitments for the following year. Students and parents have committed to a course of study that is designed to meet their needs and goals. The administration has made a commitment to develop a schedule and to hire staff to meet the needs of all students.

When developing a master schedule, it is inevitable that some conflicts will occur. When that happens, counselors contact students to try and resolve each conflict. Unfortunately, a small percentage of students may not be able to take an elective and will need to make new choices. This process comes later in the summer after many scheduling changes have been made and the master schedule is finalized.

After the schedule is set and the staff is hired, it becomes extremely difficult to honor class change requests and still be able to maintain the integrity of

the master schedule. Classes could easily become overcrowded, creating an environment that is not conducive to learning. So, in order to maintain that integrity and to provide the best environment for learning, the administration has developed a policy of not granting schedule change requests after June 15.

The administration makes every effort to correct mistakes that have been made in scheduling, but we cannot make changes because a student changes his mind or wants to avoid certain teachers. Parents and the school can be powerful allies in teaching students the importance of making good choices and the commitment that needs to be developed in order to be successful.

Thank you for your assistance in this process.

Military List

Attention juniors and seniors! In accordance with the sections 544 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2002, high schools that receive federal funding must provide to the military a list of the names, addresses, and phone numbers of juniors and seniors who are enrolled. Upperclassmen who do not want their names released to the military must notify the Registrar, **Penny Diegelmann**, in the School Counseling Office by Friday, October 2.

Procedures in Processing College Applications

The following is an explanation of the procedure James River High School follows in processing college applications. Please help your student follow these guidelines to ensure an accurate and expedient process for all.

These procedures are designed to get the appropriate information to the schools of your choice as quickly and efficiently as possible. You need only to follow a few simple steps.

- Complete the necessary paperwork. A Student's Release Form must be completed, and a Request for Transcript Form must also be on file before any transcript can be sent. (Both forms are available in counseling.) **The transcript fee is \$3.00 per transcript.**
- Request a teacher recommendation, if needed. Be sure to provide the teacher with a stamped, addressed envelope to the school(s) to which you wish the recommendation to be sent.
- Be sure to give any counselor portion of your application to your school counselor **at least three weeks** in advance of deadline dates. The School Counseling Office will mail the counselor's part of the application and the transcript to the school directly.
- Mail your portion of the application with the application fee by the deadline date.

Keep a copy and a record of the materials

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you sent to the schools to which you are applying.

Let's Begin Right for a Successful School Year

Parents, when the school bell rings early on these fall mornings, don't let the echo of the tardy bell shock you and your student back to reality. Make plans today to ensure that this school year begins in an organized fashion and continues with success in the weeks to come. A few simple steps implemented and enforced early in the school year could become the building blocks for academic success.

The results of exhaustive research produced the following conclusions about student success regarding homework, curfew, and student jobs.

- **Homework:** (1) Homework must be done before students go out. (2) Students should lose privileges if homework is not done. (3) Location where homework is done should be mutually agreed upon by parents and students. (4) There should be no set time for homework each day, but parents should step in if grades decline between marking periods. In such cases a specific time each day should be set aside for homework. (5) A lack of planning on the student's part does not constitute an emergency on the parent's part.
- **Curfew for high school students:** (first time shown is for school nights and second time is for weekends) 9th grade: 9:00/11:00 p.m.; 10th grade: 9:30/11:00 p.m.; 11th grade: 9:30/11:00 p.m.; and 12th: 10:00/11:00 p.m. (NOTE: Chesterfield County has an 11:00 p.m. curfew for minors.) Studies recommend that the curfew be extended to 30-45 minutes after school functions conclude.

Welcome to the CCC

James River's Testing and College and Career Center Coordinator (CCC) is **Karen Brown**. Mrs. Brown and school counselor **Sarah Cooke** will coordinate activities for the CCC this year. The Center's mission is to assist students with finding and using college, career, and scholarship information from 7:15 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. during regular school days. In addition, the CCC will be open during select evening hours for special programs as announced.

The CCC appreciates the significant contributions of the parent volunteers and computer assistants. **If you would like to donate your time and talent, please contact the CCC at 794-6763.**

College Admissions Officer's Visits

Juniors and seniors are encouraged to listen to the announcements and to visit the College and Career Center regularly for the most current information. The list in the CCC is updated daily as colleges make appointments, and it is listed on the school calendar. If you haven't activated your EdLine account, please do in order to reach the link to

the school calendar and receive e-mails on college and career programs.

Scholarship Information

School Counselor **Michele Lawrence** compiles scholarship information monthly in the publication known as the James River Ripple. Students may reference The Ripple in their English 11/12 or US History/US Government class or pick up copies of the publication in the CCC. While visiting the CCC, students are also encouraged to look through 2009-2010 scholarship books and visit financial aid web sites on the Internet (sites are listed in the junior and senior edition of the "Life After High School" booklet).

Check out the James River web site (www.jrhs.net) for the Ripple and other scholarship information.

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.

GRASP representatives have a wealth of experience and training in the field of post-secondary financial aid planning. Students are encouraged to contact our GRASP representative, **Ronda Zukowsky**, for information and scholarship opportunities. Mrs. Zukowsky will be available in the College and Career Center (CCC) each Tuesday from mid-October through April. She will be visiting seniors through US/VA Government classes in the early fall and be available to meet with parents and students on Tuesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Parents are encouraged to call the CCC (794-6763) to schedule an appointment.

Need Money For College?

Join Charles J. Phillips, author of "College: Why Should You Pay For It? I Didn't" for a free seminar at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, October 3, at the Holiday Inn Select Koger South Conference Center. This seminar will give high school students and their parents a jumpstart on getting money to pay for college. Visit www.collegefreenetwork.com or e-mail questions@collegefreenetwork.com.

Explore Some Opportunities

- VCU Scholars High School Program—This program has been designed to assist high school students and their parents in preparing for college by providing a series of student/parental workshops, mentorship, and academic enrichment activities. The program focuses

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on minority or economically disadvantaged students who are interested in learning more about career options in the dentistry, and it is scheduled to run from October 10, 2009, to May 8, 2010. There is no cost for participants but students are responsible for their own transportation. For an application or more information, please contact **Latanya Alexander** at 804-628-2283 or **ldalexander@vcu.edu**.

- The Virginia Aerospace Science and Technology Scholars Program—This program is available to high school juniors and is provided at no cost to students. Students who are selected will participate in an interactive, online science, technology, engineering, and mathematics learning course taken in the spring semester followed by a week-long residential Summer Academy at NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton. The application deadline is November 6. Complete program information and timeline are included on the program website, **www.vasts.spacegrant.org**.

- S.T.E.M. Night—Is “Pi” more than a dessert to you? Do you consider Fortran to be a classical language? Do you think Geology rocks? If so, don’t miss S.T.E.M. Night. Please join the University of Virginia faculty, students, and an admission dean to learn more about science, technology, engineering, and math programs at the University on October 15, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. in the Clover Hill High School auditorium located at 13900 Hull Street Road, Midlothian, VA 23113.

- Dominion Power and VCU’s School of Engineering, in association with the Boy Scout Council, are proud to sponsor a co-ed VCU Engineering Exploring Post for high school students who are interested in a career in engineering. To learn more about this opportunity, students and parents are invited to an open house on October 6, from 7:00—8:30 p.m. on the first floor of West Hall at the VCU School of Engineering (601 W. Main Street). The Exploring Post is limited to 50 students this year, so interested students should act early. For more information about the Post, please visit **http://learningforlife.org**. Details and questions about the Open House can be directed to Melissa at **Melissa.A.Bollbach@dom.com** or 804-771-6444.

SOL Testing

The Fall Writing SOL will be administered during the week of October 19-23. This administration will target new seniors needing verified credits and current juniors and seniors who need to retest for verified credit. Please be reminded that all students must pass the English Writing and English Reading SOL tests in order to qualify for graduation. Please contact your student’s school counselor for more information.

PSAT

The Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test (PSAT) will be administered on the morning of **Wednesday, October 14**, at JRHS. This year ALL sophomores **AND** juniors will be administered the test *free of charge* as a means of preparing for future assessments and as a way to learn more about their academic strengths and weaknesses. The PSAT is aimed at preparing college-bound sophomores and juniors for college entrance exams. If freshmen or seniors wish to take the test, the cost is \$13 and can be paid in the School Counseling Office on October 1, 2, and 5 during lunch.

Practice booklets and test bulletins will be distributed to all tenth and eleventh graders in late September and early October. Test results will be returned to students in January. Please contact the School Counseling Office if you have questions regarding the PSAT administration.

SAT AND ACT

Juniors are encouraged to take the SAT (Reasoning Test) and/or the ACT at least once during the spring while seniors are asked to research the testing requirements for the colleges of their choice. If seniors are looking to improve their college entrance scores, they should retest in October and/or November. This is encouraged in order to allow time for SAT: Subject Tests to be scheduled for students applying to schools that require one or more of these assessments. Most colleges suggest that seniors complete their testing by the December test date for regular and early admission.

It is important to note that all SAT: Subject Tests are not offered for each test date (for example, the Reading and Listening Test for most world languages is only offered on the November 7 test date). Registration bulletins and practice booklets are available in the School Counseling Office, or students may register on the websites which can be accessed from the College and Career Center web page on the school website.

Important dates are listed on the school website. Visit **www.jrhs.net** and click the calendar for school activities.

Meet the New JRHS Staff

Chemistry and physics teacher **Darlene Back** earned a BS in chemistry from Morehead State and a PhD in chemistry from Vanderbilt University. After 22 years as a research chemist at Dow Chemical, she joins the JRHS Science Department. Her interests include weaving, gardening, and doing family genealogy.

James Buckner, chemistry teacher, earned his PhD in physical chemistry from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Before joining the JRHS Science Department, he spent 21 years in the semiconductor industry building computer chips. He knows shorthand, likes to backpack, and enjoys cashew pie!

World History I teacher **Michael Farrell** attended Hampden-Sydney College, where he majored in political science. He received his teaching license from the University of Richmond, and he student taught at Providence Middle School and Monacan High School. This collegiate football player now helps out with the JRHS football team.

Wesley Hedgepeth joins the Social Studies Department, teaching World History 2 and U.S. History. After earning a BA and MAT from James Madison University, he student taught at Falling Creek Middle School and Matoaca High School. He enjoys traveling, cooking, running, and reading in his spare time.

Tim Llewellyn joins JRHS as the new Director of Student Activities. He earned his BS from Bridgewater College and his MS from Virginia Commonwealth University. This marks his 21st year in Chesterfield County, and he spent the last 17 years teaching and coaching at Clover Hill High School. He is a golfer with a hole-in-one accomplishment!

English teacher **Stephanie Nelson** received her BA from James Madison University and her MT from Virginia Commonwealth University. When she has free time, she enjoys tennis, swimming, reading, and watching movies.

Charell Wingfield joins the Mathematics Department as an algebra and geometry teacher. She received a BS and MAT from James Madison University, where she also worked as a graduate assistant and a resident counselor for the Female Institute for Development and Learning. In her free time, she works out, sings, shops, and, most importantly, spends time with family and friends.

Newsmakers

Congratulations to the newly appointed 2009-2010 DECA Officers! They are as follows: President – **Emily Neidle**, Co-Vice Presidents – **Michelle Kerkeslager** and **Lisa Long**, Secretary – **Tierra Pinnix**, Reporter – **Gray Fultz**, Treasurer – **Emma Grimsdale**, and Historian – **Alex Grace**. The officers are currently planning the DECA Program of Work, which details activities for the 2009-2010 school year. Members will be involved with Y Street, a Virginia youth-led movement in Virginia, promoting healthy lifestyles through activism projects. Other activities include fundraisers, community service projects, and a celebration of DECA week October 11-17.

Rose Malone, Career & Technical Education Department Chair completed the requirements for a Master's of Education in Curriculum and Instruction through Averett University on September 26, 2009. Congratulations, Rose!

Math teacher **Sharon Hoffert**, an NBCT and Presidential Awardee for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, was just published in the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics journal *Mathematics Teacher*. Her article may be found at www.nctm.org/eresources/view_media.asp?article_id=8920.

On a summer learning trip to London, **Suzanne Kelly** and **Carolyn Schmitt** of the English Department and Counselor **Julie O'Bryant** spent eight August days in London enjoying the city on the Thames. Members of the group visited William Shakespeare's new Globe Theater and sat in Charles Dickens' chair at Fleet Street's Ye Old Cheshire Cheese. A visit to Westminster Cathedral's Poets' Corner and Canterbury Cathedral brought literature alive. The fabulous weather, a pub's Sunday roast, Kensington Palace, and the Changing of the Guards made all three agree they need another visit to Merry Olde England to see some things they missed!

Congratulations to art students **Wesley Messer**, **Conner McGurl**, **Shayne Vanderpool**, **Morgan Porter**, and **Meagan Abell** for having their work chosen for exhibit at the U. S. Department of Education (see related article on page 10).

Peer Facilitators

Peer Facilitators I and II will travel to the ropes course at the western Henrico YMCA on October 1. Each year the peer facilitators have the opportunity to participate in team building and trust exercises with a certified instructor. The day is spent getting to know one another, enjoying a great lunch, all while working in a beautiful outdoor setting. Peer instructors **Wallace Dietz** and **Linda Boggs** use the experience as a foundation for the many peers' activities throughout the year.

Interested in our projects? Stay tuned for stories and pictures on our activities as the year unfolds.

Linda Boggs

Drivers Education Corner

As a new year begins, I get many questions regarding the licensing process. This article contains a brief run-down of some of the requirements. Requirements have changed a great deal over the years; indeed, there are even changes as of July 1, 2008, for your students.

- **They must be 15 years and 6 months to obtain their learner's permit.**
- **They must complete a DL 1M learner's permit and driver license application form.**
- **They must furnish proof of social security, residency, and original identification document certifying name and date of birth.**
- **They must pass a multiple-choice sign and knowledge test, and they MUST answer all 10-road signs correctly before being able to proceed to the second part of the exam. Students are required to answer at least 80% of the general knowledge questions correctly (20 out of 25).**
- **They must pass a vision test.**
- **They must have a digitized photo taken at DMV.**
- **They *must* possess their learner's permit for 9 months.**
- **They need to be at least 16 years and 3 months old to get their driver's license.**
- **They must have 36 hours of classroom instruction. They will need 14 hours of Behind-the-Wheel (in car), with seven hours driving and seven hours observing.**
- **They will need a driving log of at least 45 hours of supervised practice with at least 15 hours after sunset.**
- **They must have the CCPS Driving Log filled out completely and signed.**
- **They will need parent/guardian permission to issue license form (*issued by the state*).**
- **They will need a permission form to enroll in Behind the Wheel (*CCPS Behind-the-Wheel Enrollment Form*).**

The 180-day provisional license (TDL-180) is valid when accompanied by a valid Virginia learner's permit.

Mr. Vandell holds sign-ups for Behind-the-Wheel on Mondays during the first half of lunch in the Open Commons in front of the boys' side entrance to the gym. In order to sign up, the student must bring the *Permission for enrollment form issued by CCPS*. The cost of B-T-W is \$100.00. Please make checks payable to JRHS. This money is currently being collected by the in-car teacher on the first day students drive. At this time you do NOT have to pay until your first day of in-car (Behind-the-Wheel).

Students will be able to pick from a series of different time slots provided by the in-car teachers. This enables them some flexibility. They also have the ability to pick a driver and a partner as long as their partner signs up with them on the same day.

I would encourage you to come to our Come Home Alive teen driver awareness program in the JRHS theatre on Wednesday, November 4, at 7:00 p.m. with your son/daughter. The classroom Drivers Education teachers as well as in-car teachers will be there. If you have any other questions or concerns, we will be updating our portion of the school website with a more thorough overview as well as other helpful information that should answer most of your questions.

If you have further questions, please feel free to contact your student's classroom teacher or send me an email at **brent_vandell@ccpsnet.net**. Please include a phone number because sometimes it is more efficient to answer a series of questions over the phone.

Brent Vandell



JRHS Theatre on the James has a full and exciting year planned! Our first production will be the rollicking musical, *Once Upon a Mattress*, based on the fairy tale, *The Princess and the Pea*. The show will run November 19-21, 2009, with a matinee on Saturday, November 20.

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 first *Cheeburger Cheeburger* day will be October 12, 2009, and lasts all day, so go for lunch, dinner, or just a snack.

All parents, grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, and friends of students involved with Theatre on the James are invited to join the JRHS Theatre Partisans, the organization which helps support the Drama Department productions at JRHS. Our first meeting of the new school year will be Tuesday, October 6, at 7:00 p.m. in the theater. Sign-up sheets detailing volunteer needs for all shows will be supplied at the meeting.

Any questions throughout the year regarding the theater department can be directed to Mrs. Alli Oyler at allison_oyler@ccpsnet.net or you can access our website at www.theatreonthejames.com.

Art Department News

Five James River students will have their art and photography on display in Washington, D.C., at the U.S. Department of Education along with 32 other Chesterfield students. Chesterfield County is the first in the nation to display in the exhibition program. Students recognized at the opening reception on September 25, include **Wesley Messer**, **Conner McGurl**, **Shayne Vanderpool**, **Morgan Porter**, and **Meagan Abell**. The works were selected from last year's Fine Arts Festival. Students and their families, along with art teachers **Laura Wright**, **Frank Constanzer**, and **Allison Duvall** attended the reception along with superintendent of schools **Dr. Marcus Newsome**, assistant superintendent **Dr. Dale Kalkofen**, and Chesterfield County art specialist, **Lin Ferrell**.

National Art Honor Society officers for 2009-2010 are **Cleo Dan** and **Sophia Jackson** as co-presidents, **Lindsey Hughes** and **Kate Tierney** as co-vice presidents, **Samantha Gorewich** as secretary, **Emily Noack** as treasurer, and **Mary Waller** as historian. NAHS is working on school and community service activities, including helping with the Bon Air Artists Association *Art Affair*, where James River will exhibit art along with the professional artists October 17 and 18 at Stony Point Fashion Park.

NAHS students will be making tie dyed T-shirts for sale to students, staff, and James River families. Samples will be on display at lunches, and orders will be taken.

Laura Wright

Edline Information

Edline is a website that parents and students can use to access grades and assignments via the Internet. Teachers will update grades every two weeks this year. The website is www.edline.net. Freshmen were given activation codes during Kick-off Orientation and homeroom on the first day of school.

Account screen names and passwords remain the same from year to year. If you have questions about your information, please e-mail Kitty Catina at kathryn_catina@ccpsnet.net or call 378-2420 to have your account information reset.

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 or **Tracy Hamner** at 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.

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.

Mark Your Calendars for Senior Activities and Dates, 2009/2010

Friday, 9/25/09	Senior Class Meeting and Picnic Information on upcoming events and packets for ordering graduation material. Lunch provided.
Friday, 10/3/09	Senior yearbook pictures are due to the main office.
Wednesday, 10/07/09	Senior Ordering Night, 4:00-8:00 p.m., Closed Commons Seniors and their parents come to order graduation paraphernalia from Herff-Jones.
Thursday, 10/8/09	
Friday, 10/9/09	Herff-Jones Representative at JRHS during lunches for senior orders.
Thursday, 10/22/09	9:00-10:15 a.m. Senior Convocation JRHS Theatre
Friday, 05/07/10	5:00-8:00 p.m. Senior Cookout, JRHS Fieldhouse
Friday, 05/28/10	7:00—10:00 p.m., Senior Night/ Reception, JRHS Theatre and Open Commons
TBA	Senior Awards Day, Class Picture, Picnic
Wednesday, 06/09/10	Mandatory Graduation Practice, 1:00-3:30 p.m. Theatre/Gym
Thursday, 06/10/10	GRADUATION! 7:00 p.m., The Siegel Center

Suzanne Wille, Stephanie Burr
Senior Class Sponsors

PTSA NEWS

Welcome to another great year at JRHS! Your PTSA has been very active over the past two months, and we welcome your involvement as we continue to build a strong PTSA that works for every student at James River. With the beginning of the school year, we have many important items to share with you.

PTSA Web site: Keep abreast of all new programs and projects offered by your PTSA by connecting to the new Web site at <http://sites.google.com/site/jamesriverhighschoolptsa/home>. Contact information, volunteering opportunities, special programs, and forms can be found on the Web site. Please bookmark the site and check back often for current information regarding your school community.

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. **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 or **Gary Darby** at garydarby@comcast.net. Membership application forms may also be downloaded from the PTSA Web site at <http://sites.google.com/site/jamesriverhighschoolptsa/home>.

PTSA Student Directory: All PTSA members will receive a copy of the Student Directory. It will include the name, address and phone number of ALL students. **IF YOU DO NOT WANT** your student to appear in the directory, complete the "OPT-OUT" form located on the PTSA Web site (see above), and e-mail it to **Karen Knorr** at karenknorr@mac.com. PTSA members will receive a **FREE** Directory (one per family), distributed through first period teachers. The deadline for submitting this form is **Friday, October 9, 2009**.

Advertisers for the Student Directory: The PTSA is once again allowing the JRHS community to advertise in the directory. With more than 800 directories distributed, it's a great way for you to advertise your business throughout our school community! If you are interested in advertising, complete the **Business Card Ad Order Form**, available at our Web site, attach a check for \$25.00 payable to JRHS PTSA, and **mail it before October 9** to

*JRHS PTSA Student Directory
Attention: Karen Knorr
2800 Robys Way
Midlothian, VA 23113
(H) 320-0162*

PTA Reflections Contest: The Reflections Program is an opportunity for students from all backgrounds to express their creativity in the areas of literature, photography, visual arts, musical composition, dance choreography, and film/video production. The 2009-10 Reflections theme is "**Beauty is...**". The deadline for entry is **October 16**. For more information, go to www.vapta.org or download a copy of the entry form from the PTSA Web site. Entry forms are also available in the library. For more information call **Karen Scherzer** at 330-5961 or **Robin Balsamo** at 272-9222. There will be prizes for all first, second, and third place entries!

Congratulations to the PTSA Scholarship Winners! Last spring, the PTSA was able to offer five **\$800** scholarships to student members. To qualify, a student must join the PTSA by **November 13**, be accepted to a college, vocational, or technical school, have a minimum GPA of 2.5, and contribute to the James River High School community. Best wishes to the following winners: **Jessica Greene** (UVA), **Carter Brown** (VT), **Victoria Dickens** (JMU), **Daniel Miranian** (UVA), and **Lauren Werner** (Evangel University).

Fundraising: The PTSA has initiated several programs as a means to fund the programs we sponsor throughout the year. Please make every effort to 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** (judith4125@aol.com) at 378-3738.
- **Kroger Plus Card/Apples for Students** - The Kroger Plus Card for Education has a new name! **Apples for Students** will be 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, 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) 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.

PTSA continued

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.

- **Qdoba Nights** - Mark your calendars for the first three Qdoba nights: Tuesday, October 6; 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 school 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** (bugnmeva@aol.com) at 330-4402 or **Roxanne Ghaharmani** at 330-0712 (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 class parents. Dates for the coffees are as follows:

Freshman Class Coffee – December 1, 2009
Sophomore Class Coffee - March 24, 2010
Junior Class Coffee – January 26, 2010
Senior Class Coffee – October 27, 2009

At the upcoming **Senior Coffee**, Julie Bruner, author

of *The College Edge* and former college counselor for Maggie Walker Governor's School, will speak briefly about the college process for seniors. At 7:00 p.m., John Titus and school counselor from JRHS will answer your questions related to senior year at James River.

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 or 683-0511. Volunteer forms may be downloaded from the Web site at <http://sites.google.com/site/jamesriverhighschoolptsa/home>.

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 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-parent.blogspot.com.

Pam Blackburn
PTSA President

**Join the
JRHS PTSA—
Only \$7.00!**



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
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We're on the Web!
jrhs.ccpsnet.net

SCHEDULE A CONFERENCE: Meet Your Child's Teacher!

Tuesday, November 3, is Parent/Teacher Conference Day from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. If you would like to make an appointment to meet with your child's teacher(s), please call the office on **Monday, October 26, through Friday, October 30**, from **8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** at 378-2420, extension 164. Please have your child's teacher's name and/or schedule on hand.

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



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ann_reinke@ccpsnet.net

To receive notice of each new posting *and* late breaking news, please send your email address following the directions on the home page: **jrhs.ccpsnet.net**.