Dear Parents and Community Partners of James River High School,

The 8th annual Hokies vs. Hoos Food Fight was held February 17-27 to benefit the Central Virginia Food Bank. James River High School has participated in this event each year since its inception and has won the top prize which has been donated back to the food bank each year. Our students, staff, and the larger community have once again rallied behind this noble effort. Thanks to your support, we now remain undefeated for a ninth consecutive year in a row!!! Go Rapids!

Our winter athletic teams have done a marvelous job representing James River High School. I want to thank each student-athlete for making a commitment to excellence and building character while displaying sportsmanship in competition. We will recognize their collective efforts at the winter athletic banquet on February 29. Again, I appreciate their commitment to being model student-athletes.

James River continues to be a thriving, dynamic, and student-centered comprehensive high school where students come first. Rapid school spirit continues to run deep! We have a superb and very supportive school community. Our teachers are committed to providing rigorous, relevant, and engaging instructional activities that lead to student success and achievement. I know we will maintain our momentum throughout the second semester. I want to thank parents and community partners for taking an active role in supporting our school programs and students. It is an honor, and I am proud to serve the James River school community as principal.

Please feel free to contact me at jeff_ellick@ccpsnet.net should you have any questions or concerns. I look forward to hearing from you. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Jeff Ellick
Principal
Register for AP Testing

Registration for Advanced Placement testing will be **February 27 through March 2, 2012**, outside of the School Counseling Office during lunches. Students received forms for registering in their AP classes during the first several weeks of January. Cost is $87.00 per exam.

Please make check payable to **JRHS**.

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Newsmakers

Congratulations to senior **Jessica Rawls**, who participated in the Poetry Out Loud Regional Competition at the Barksdale Theatre on February 14. Jessica recited "April Love" by Ernest Dowson and "Eagle Poem" by Joy Harjo. Jessica is pictured at right with Poetry Out Loud sponsor **Allison Marchetti**.

James River High School sent 17 students to the District 3 Chorus at Clover Hill High School. It was a terrific event, and the concert was beautiful. Eight juniors and seniors auditioned for All-State Choir, and **Michelle Magee, Abby Schneider**, and **Jordan Hiegel** will be representing JRHS at All-State Choir. Congratulations to all~ ♫♪♪

Congratulations to the JRHS Speech team! On February 2, the James River Speech Team competed at Midlothian High School and performed extremely well despite very tough competition. These students worked very hard to prepare for this tournament by memorizing and practicing pieces of drama, prose, and poetry. They were exceptional ambassadors for James River High School, carrying themselves with poise, dressing professionally, and demonstrating outstanding sportsmanship with the other competitors.

Congratulations to the following students:
- **Lydia Guay**, 11 (Poetry)
- **Sara Porzio**, 11 (4th Place Poetry -- Regionals alternate)
- **Maja Lewelt**, 11 (4th Place Prose -- Regionals alternate)
- **Travis Haysley & Colter Eastman**, 11 (4th Place Duo Interpretation -- Regionals alternate team)
- **Oscar Guardado**, 10 (Impromptu)

Captain, **Matt James**, 12 (2nd Place Impromptu, will advance to Regionals)

In mid-February, the James River High School Model UN club attended the ODUMUNC in Norfolk, Virginia, a Model UN conference annually put on by Old Dominion University. The team had another successful conference, and they are to be congratulated on a job well done!

Fourteen James River students sat the 2012 National German Exam in January. Special recognition goes to **Victor Lucas**, who scored at the Gold level, placing in the 99th percentile. **Stuart Mapes** scored at the Silver level (83rd percentile), and **Madeline Urso, Devin Corrieri**, and **Adam Simpson** were recognized for above-average achievement.
Find It @ Your Library

The National Education Association's Read Across America Day is the nation's largest reading celebration. The program takes place each year on or around March 2, the birthday of beloved children's author Dr. Seuss. Based on the research proving that children who are read to, and who read for pleasure, are significantly more successful in school than children who do not, Read Across America focuses attention on celebrating the benefits of reading all year long.

On March 2, JRHS students will hear a group of teachers read a Dr. Seuss book, a positive reminder that reading is FUNdamental for kids of all ages!

While strategies for boosting reading include the availability of traditional print materials (books, magazines, newspapers), there are numerous websites which include podcasts, blogs, and video dedicated to the teenage reader. Check out the sampling of reading resources for teens:

Internet Public Library for Teens: Teenspace
www.ipl.org/div/teen/
“Looking for something to read that isn't required by your teachers? Want to read about something you're actually interested in? This collection of resources is your answer! Here you'll find sites with fun reading lists, online independent ‘zines, blogs by teens, and more.” This site includes links to web sites to help with homework and a place to ask questions.

Readers Club
www.plcmc.org/readers_club/category.asp?cat=4
By a group of librarians in North Carolina, this site features book reviews organized by a variety of categories, including graphic novels, fantasy, and multiculturalism and encourages users to write their own reviews.

No Flying, No Tights!
www.noflyingnotinights.com
This comprehensive site reviews graphic novels for teens. With the increasing popularity of manga, the blogs allow the user to sort through by interest.

Reading Rants
www.readingrants.org
This website features an out of the ordinary booklists for teens...very fun!

What Kids Can Do (WKCD)
www.whatkidscando.org
This national nonprofit organization was founded in 2000 for the purpose of making public the voices and views of adolescents. WKCD collaborates with students around the country on books, essays, booklists, curricula, research, and teen activism.

Teenreads
www.teenreads.com
“We at Teenreads.com bring teens info and features about their favorite authors, books, series, and characters. It is THE place online for teens to talk about their fave books—and find the hippest new titles!”

Wordsmiths
Teenlink.nypl.org/WordSmiths-Current.cfm
Open to teens everywhere, not just NYC, this a spot on the web where teenagers can publish their poems and short stories. This site also includes a Homework Help tab; a sample search under Language and Literature led to Word Play, a comprehensive list of vocabulary and word sites. Be sure to check out the books available online!

YALSA Booklists for Young Adults
www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/booklistsawards/booklistsbook.htm
Created by the Young Adult Library Services Association and sponsored by the American Library Association, this site features recommended reading lists, teens top 10 lists, recommendations for reluctant readers, outstanding books for the college bound, to name a few.

Ask your student the meanings of the February words from Wednesday Word of the Week (dulcet, vestige, maladroit, acumen, and hackneyed). Help us by encouraging lifelong reading and learning @ your library!

Ann Reinke
Librarian

Food Fight Results!

The February Food Fight to benefit the Central Virginia Food Bank resulted in a collection of an amazing total of 3065 food items (up considerably from last year’s 2042) and $1051.00 from JRHS staff and students (up from last year’s $1025.00)! Thanks to your generosity, JRHS led all other participating schools combined and received a $250.00 reward from Martin’s for being the school (fourth year in a row!) with the winning total; this $250.00 was also donated to the Central Virginia Food Bank!

Thank you for your continued support of this most worthy cause!

“I like nonsense. It wakes up the brain cells.”
Dr. Seuss
Scheduling for 2012—2013

Scheduling season is in full swing, and much has happened since the start of second semester. In January, all rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors received course and level recommendations from their instructors for the 2012 - 2013 school year. In addition, students learned more about electives on February 3 by participating in the “Elective Round Robin.”

The Chesterfield Technical Center also visited JRHS in January, to help educate and introduce students to programs offered at CTC. Sophomores visited the Tech Center on February 23 for the annual “Opportunities Day” at CTC.

Our feeder middle schools were also included in the scheduling process, as counselors visited Providence Middle School on February 6, and Robious Middle School on February 7, to meet with current 8th graders and review course planning, as well as other important high school information. Our annual “VIP Night” took place on February 8 for rising freshmen and their parents to learn more about the many academic, social, athletic, and extracurricular opportunities at JRHS.

Counselors are now in the process of seeing students individually to review course request information and to finalize any elective changes. Counselors also take this time during scheduling meetings with students to review course credits, verified credits, diploma requirements, and post-high school plans. Letters will be sent home with students in April to remind students and parents about course selections for the 2012-2013 school year. Students have until June 21, 2012, to make any changes to their course requests. No changes will be made to any student’s schedule over the summer, unless there is a schedule conflict.

Once again we ask that parents/guardians become actively involved with their students in this process by helping them determine their remaining graduation requirements, reviewing the electives in each career pathway, and selecting a course load that is both challenging and manageable. We also will be offering a “Program Planning Open House” on Wednesday, April 18, from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. This event allows parents the opportunity to meet with their student’s counselor to discuss individual program planning needs.

In order to accommodate as many requests as possible, we ask that parents schedule an appointment with their student’s counselor for April 18. Each appointment will be blocked for 15 minutes, and we ask that parents limit their topics to scheduling issues. Time slots fill up quickly for this event, so don’t delay!

To schedule an appointment, please call the School Counseling Office at 378-2420, 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. daily.

College Admissions Testing - SAT & ACT

Current juniors planning to attend four year colleges after high school need to take College Admissions Tests in the spring of their junior year, as they prepare for the College Admissions process. Four-year colleges require that students submit either SAT or ACT scores, and spring of junior year is prime time for students to take these tests.

SAT test dates for this spring:
- March 10
- May 5
- June 2

Please visit www.collegeboard.com for SAT test registration deadlines and details.

ACT test dates for this spring:
- April 14
- June 9

Please visit www.actstudent.org for ACT test registration deadlines and details.

Students interested in SAT prep opportunities have a number of options to choose from this spring:

SAT Prep Academy through CCPS - April 30 - May 3 at Manchester High School, 2:30 - 4:30 and/or May 7 - 10 at LC Bird High School, 2:30 - 4:30; cost is free and students register at www.mychesterfieldschools.com

ZAPS SAT Seminar - March 3 at Midlothian High School, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.; cost is $89, and students register at www.zaps.com.

Mock SAT Exam through Revolution Prep, sponsored by JRHS PTSA - March 10 in the JRHS Library, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.; cost is $10 (proceeds benefit the JRHS PTSA), and students can register at www.revolutionprep.com

Please call the School Counseling Office if you have any questions about these SAT Prep Opportunities or other test prep programs.

Unique Opportunities for Students in March

Longwood University will be hosting “Diversity Day” for high school sophomores and juniors on Saturday, March 3. The program includes the following:
Representatives from organizations on campus
Admissions Information Session
Presentation by Dr. Jamie Riley, Director of the Office
of Diversity and Inclusion
Student Panel
Campus Tour
Brunch in the Dining Hall - free for students and $5
for guests.

To register, visit www.whylongwood.com/visit.htm
or call 1-800-281-4677, #2 to register.

The 8th Annual Future Leaders Forum for Young Women in Central Virginia will be held on Saturday, March 24, from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. The event will be held at the West Creek Town Center, Capital One Campus, and it's open to young women in grades 9 - 12. Students will enjoy the following:

Meeting and networking with their peers
Hearing from nationally-renowned speakers
Building financial management skills such as budgeting, saving, and smart investing
Participating in informative hands-on activities and workshops to build their leadership skills
Learning from Forum Alumnae, who will participate as table coaches.

Students must register by March 9, and they should see their counselor for applications. Contact Karen McCoy at womenswork@capitalone.com or 284-5757.

Summer Programs are on the Horizon

The School Counseling Office and the College and Career Center continue to receive information on a number of summer programs. Please see below for a preview of some of the summer programs with early application deadlines.

The Richmond Area Program for Minorities in Engineering (RAPME) and its sponsors will be presenting the 2012 Summer Engineering Institute at VA State University and VCU. This is a three-or-five week academic program for middle and high school minority students in the Richmond/Petersburg metro area and provides students with information about various fields of engineering in order to acquaint them with the requirements for pursuing a career in engineering. Applications are available in the College and Career Center and also at www.RAPME.org. The application deadline is Friday, April 6. Please see your school counselor or visit the RAPME website for more details.

The VCU Medical Science Internship Program (MSIP) is a five-week summer program that is designed to expose high school students to the healthcare field as well as the research component of medicine. Interns are challenged through clinical shadowing opportunities, lectures from medical professionals, and researching with a laboratory mentor. All these opportunities are arranged through the program, and placements for the interns are done based on their interests so that they can achieve the best possible experience. For more information about MSIP and application materials, please visit www.msip.vcu.edu.

SOL Testing

The Writing SOL test will be administered on March 5 - 7, to students who are currently taking English 10. The multiple choice portion of the test will be taken during regular English classes. Odd day classes will test on March 5, and even day classes will test on March 6. The direct writing portion of the test will be administered to all English 10 students on March 7. Students may take as long as they need to complete the test. Students who think they may not complete the test before the conclusion of lunches should bring a bag lunch. Students may not leave the test site until they have completed the entire test.

Additionally, CCPS will be conducting a Writing Field Test March 14 - 21, as directed by the State Department of Education, to prepare students and schools for new regulations that will go into effect next year with administration of the Writing SOL test. Starting next year, the Writing SOL test will be all computer-based, so students will be participating in the Writing Field Test through their English 10 classes starting March 14 - 21.

Please note the testing dates and plan accordingly. Punctuality and attendance are essential during testing! For answers to questions regarding the SOL testing schedule, please contact Karen Brown, Testing and College & Career Center Coordinator at 794-6763.

Important Dates

Please check the school website calendar (http://jrhs.ccpsnet.net) for a complete list of event dates.
Celebrate Art Month!

James River High School art students were recognized in the regional Scholastic Art Awards competition. Emily Blair and Devon Payne received honorable mention for their drawings, and sophomore Lois Nguyen received a silver key for her drawing. Seniors Casey Plonski received honorable mention for her art portfolio, and Michael Couchman received honorable mention for his computer graphics entries.

March is Youth Art Month! It’s always youth art month at James River, but March is when it is nationally recognized. We always have lots of beautiful art on display in the office, hallways, library, and in the counseling office. We believe in developing creativity, technical skills, and self expression in all art and photo classes, which will lead to a lifetime of aesthetic appreciation.
Michael Couchman won Silver Keys for the "Beauty and The Beast" poster and "Daily Routine" (see his work below). For the "contest" project, he won the Virginia Opera art contest for Hansel and Gretel posters, grades K-12. He also won a scholastic honorable mention for this. Michael will be a guest presenter during the March 13 School Board meeting! He was chosen to convey to the Board what being a part of CCPS art classes has meant for him and how the arts have influenced his life. This is part of the Youth Art Month presentation. Michael will share his artwork and give each board member a copy of the JRHS literary/art magazine, which represents great talent of students who take art classes from the many talented teachers in the department.

Attention Seniors!

Seniors, did you know the James River High School PTSA awards scholarships to graduating seniors to assist in their pursuit of college or technical degrees? The application process is open to all seniors with a GPA of at least 2.0 who were PTSA members as of November, 2010. Applications will be mailed out to qualifying seniors the week of April 2. Entries are due back in the JRHS Counseling Office no later than Friday, May 4.

Recipients will be announced at the Senior Awards Assembly.

The Chesterfield County Fair Association, Inc. is offering two $1,000 scholarships to be awarded to individuals seeking a formal education beyond high school. The scholarship is not based on sex, race, religion, financial need, class rank, or scholastic major. For guidelines and to download a copy of the application, visit our website at chesterfieldcountyfair.org. The deadline to apply is April 1, 2012.

See page 8 for more senior reminders!
## Attention Seniors and Their Families!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Attire</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 21 &amp; 22</td>
<td>Cap &amp; Gown Delivery</td>
<td>DURING LUNCH</td>
<td>Closed Commons</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 19</td>
<td>HYPNOTIST Tom Deluca</td>
<td>7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Theatre</td>
<td>Casual, school-appropriate attire</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>Prom</td>
<td>8:00- 11:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Science Museum of Virginia</td>
<td>Formal</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 30</td>
<td>Senior Night</td>
<td></td>
<td>Theatre/Open Commons</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>May 30</td>
<td>Senior Class Day Assembly</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. (report to gym at 8:45 a.m. for lineup)</td>
<td>Theatre</td>
<td>Ladies – dressy attire Gentlemen – white shirts, ties, dress slacks, proper shoes</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Senior Class Picture/Picnic</td>
<td>12:00 noon (following assembly)</td>
<td>Gym/Stadium</td>
<td>Photo - Caps and gowns Picnic - Casual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 3</td>
<td><strong>Baccalaureate</strong></td>
<td>3pm (Seniors arrive at 2:45 for lineup)</td>
<td>Huguenot Road Baptist Church</td>
<td>Gowns only - no caps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 6</td>
<td>*Commencement Practice</td>
<td>1:00-3:15 p.m.; arrive no later than 12:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Theatre/Gym</td>
<td>Casual, school-appropriate attire; shoes are required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 7</td>
<td>Commencement</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.; arrive no later than 6:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Siegel Center, VCU</td>
<td>Caps and gowns</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Seniors must be present in order to participate in Commencement and must stay for the entire practice. Exceptions will NOT be granted.*

**Sponsored by parents.**

### Senior Class Officers:
- President **Sam Reid**
- Vice President **Francine Kamara**
- Secretary **Kari Heavenrich**
- Treasurer **Nathan Bonn**
- Historian **John Pickard**

### Sponsors
- **Meg Heysel**, English Dept, Room 1103,
- **Suzanne Wille**, Math Dept, Room 2402

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**Please join in the fun!**

Parents and guests are encouraged and welcome to attend the hypnotist event on March 19. Tickets are $10.00 ($7.00 for JHRS students and $5.00 for seniors who have paid their senior dues), and proceeds will go to benefit the charity Rapid Relief.
Theatre on the James would like to thank the lively audiences who attended *Squad Room* at the end of February. We had such a blast and would like to thank teachers **Liz Ahlfield**, **Shannon Castelo**, **Cameron Koehler**, and **Helena Oakey** for joining the cast of the show.

Auditions for the next production, William Shakespeare's *Love's Labour's Lost*, will be Wednesday and Thursday, March 7 and 8, after school in the theatre. Auditionees are asked to prepare a monologue from those posted on the call board. As always, Drama Club meets every even Friday at noon in the Theatre for a bit of business and a ton of improv!

Chickfila will be hosting a fundraiser for Theatre on the James Monday, March 19, between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Please consider going out and mentioning Theatre on the James to help support us!

Lastly, the Talent Show is fast approaching. Auditions are April 30 and May 1 after school. Get your act together now!

Theatre Partisans, the parent support group for students participating in theatre productions at JRHS, would like to encourage parents to continue to be as involved as possible with Theatre on the James throughout the year. There are many ways to help, from building sets to making costumes to working concessions and selling tickets. Contact **Mrs. Alli Oyler** at **Allison_Oyler@ccpsnet.net** or access [www.theatreonthejames.com](http://www.theatreonthejames.com) for information.

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**Teen Drivers**

The James River High School Driver Education Department is partnering with Drive Smart Virginia again to host the Teen Summit on Distracted Driving. In December, the two groups united to kick off the statewide program, “Sharing the Road with Big Trucks.” The summit on Distracted Driving will be held in late March at a school-wide assembly. A group of student ambassadors co-developed this program and helped to provide direction for the summit, including the choice of speakers, designing posters, and creating T-shirts for the participants.

Drive Smart is currently running a video promotion at James River, which will award $500 to the students with the best “Distracted Driving” video. The prize will be awarded at the Teen Summit, and the video will debut in front of the entire student body. The James River Health/Physical Education/Driver Education Program is honored to be chosen by both the State Department of Education and Drive Smart Virginia to host these important programs.

Please feel free to contact driver’s education teacher Brent Vandell for more information ([brent_vandell@ccpsnet.net](mailto:brent_vandell@ccpsnet.net)).
Yearbook Information

Purchase the 2012 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.