

# The Cardinal Courier



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September 2015

Dear Cardinals,

We are drawing near the end of our first week of school for the 2015-2016 school year. Find some wood and knock hard...it has been a fantastic one! The students have jumped right in as if that summer break hadn't occurred. Of course, the summer flew by so quickly that it seemed as if it hadn't occurred. Oh my!

As I visit classrooms and talk with your students, they are settling into their new classrooms and adjusting to new expectations very nicely. With your support for school procedures, this has been a natural process. Thank you!

We look forward to having our parents visit and volunteer! Please remember your photo identification to show at the security camera, state the reason for your visit, and visit our wonderful office staff to sign in upon your admittance. All visitors to our building must sign in and explicitly display a neon Visitor's Badge between 7:30a-2:35p. If our staff do not see that badge, they will redirect you to the office to secure one.

Bus drivers are working on finalizing routes. Pick up and drop off times may continue to wiggle a bit until routines settle in. Keep in mind the unpredictable traffic in NOVA, which can greatly affect bus travel times. If you have questions about transportation involving Catocin Elementary School, you may contact our Lead Driver, Jodi Kenney at jodi.kenney@lcps.org, or 571-252-1753.

Have a fantastic September! I look forward to enjoying some ice cream with you at our annual PTA Ice Cream Social!

~Mrs. Rueckert, Principal



## **Agenda:**

9/7: Holiday (Labor Day)

9/8: First FUTURA Day

9/9: Loudoun Education Alliance of Parents (LEAP) 7:00pm - Admin Bldg.

9/11: Phoenix Parent Portal goes LIVE

9/13: Grandparents' Day

9/16: PTA Mtg, 6:30 pm - Cat Library; Join Sctouting Night, 7pm-Cat Café; Minority Student Achievement Advisory Committee 7:00pm - Admin Bldg.

9/18: PTA Ice Cream Social, 5:30pm

9/22: Fall Picture Day

9/24: Loudoun Education Foundation (LEF) 8:00am - 9:00am Admin Bldg.

9/25: PTA Ice Cream Social RAIN DATE

10/2: Q1 Interims Go Home

10/7: PTA Mtg, 6:30pm - Cat Café

10/8: Mobile Dairy Classroom Visit

10/12: Columbus Day Holiday-No School

10/13: Follow Monday Specials Schedule-NO FUTURA



# LIBRARY LINES

## MR. SHANNON - MRS. MOATS

In the library, we are learning about the new layout of the library and the new features we have added to the library since last year, including our new furniture! Our "Shelf Elf" is helping us stay on task by rewarding classes for appropriate library behavior. We are also participating in activities that are designed to make us more aware of the ten classification categories of the Dewey Decimal System. In the coming weeks, we will be working with different reference materials.

Our Battle of the Books book list is now up on the library's webpage! Be sure to check out the list and start reading the books. We will be looking for some parent volunteers to help out with this event. Many of the students are excited about Battle of the Books and are eager to read the books and compete in the event. For more information about what is happening in the library, please see our Facebook page: "Friends of the Catoctin Elementary Library"!

*Devin O. Shannon, M.Ed., M.S.*  
*Librarian*

### Fitness Matters

#### Mr. Shepard

#### Ms. Maged



Hey Catoctin Family!!! It almost seems impossible that summer is over. We are motivated and dedicated in Physical Education. This year we will cover a lot of great things with your wonderful students. In these coming weeks, we will be going over rules, playground safety, components of fitness, football, etc. We also will continue incorporating muscles, nutrition, and the pacer/pacing in our curriculum. Once again, we are very excited and enthused about Physical Education.

We in the PE department feel humbled and honored to have the jobs we have. We love working with the students. We hope that they will bring some of the activities and knowledge of healthy practices home with them. If you have any questions/concerns or are interested in helping out at Field Day feel free to call or email. As always, thank you for all of your support, time, and effort. It is always appreciated!

Will Shepard & Michelle Maged  
Physical Education Teachers



# FROM THE READING ROOM OF SABETTO AND SCHWARZ




Welcome back! We hope everyone had a wonderful summer filled with lots of great books. As we begin the school year and our students and children begin fall activities and sports, we would simply like to remind you of the power of reading to and with your child each and every night.

Stay tuned for more helpful information from us throughout the year!

Lisa Schwarz

Emily Sabetto

## WHY READ 20 MINUTES AT HOME?




Student A Reads	Student B Reads	Student C Reads
❖ 20 minutes per day.	❖ 5 minutes per day.	❖ 1 minute per day
❖ 3,600 minutes per school year.	❖ 900 minutes per school year.	❖ 180 minutes per school year.
❖ 1,800,000 words per year.	❖ 282,000 words per year.	❖ 8,000 words per year.
		
❖ Scores in the 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile on standardized tests.	❖ Scores in the 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile on standardized tests.	❖ Scores in the 10 <sup>th</sup> percentile on standardized tests.

If they start reading for 20 minutes per night in Kindergarten, by the end of 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Student A will have read for the equivalent of 60 school days, Student B will have read for 12 school days, and Student C will have read for 3.

(Nagy and Herman, 1987.)

**WANT TO BE A BETTER READER? SIMPLY READ.**

## ¿PORQUE NESECITO LEER POR 20 MINUTOS CADA NOCHE?

Estudiante A Lee	Estudiante B Lee	Estudiante C Lee
❖ 20 minutos cada día.	❖ 5 minutos cada día.	❖ 1 minuto cada día.
❖ 3,600 minutos cada año escolar.	❖ 900 minutos cada año escolar.	❖ 180 minutos cada año escolar.
❖ 1,800,000 palabras cada año escolar.	❖ 282,000 palabras cada año escolar.	❖ 8,000 palabras cada año escolar.
		
❖ Obtiene 90 por ciento en el examen del estado.	❖ Obtiene 50 por ciento en el examen del estado.	❖ Obtiene 10 por ciento en el examen del estado.

Si empiezan leer por 20 minutos cada noche desde kinder, para el ultimo grado sexto grado, el estudiante A habra leído el equivalente de 60 días de escuela. El estudiante B habra leído el equivalente de 12 días de escuela, y el estudiante C habra leído el equivalente de 3 días de escuela.(Nagy and Herman, 1987.)

**¿QUIERE MEJORAR TU LECTURA? ¡SIMPLEMENTE LEE!**



# SEARCH



Welcome to SEARCH!

It's back to school time and time for another wonderful year in SEARCH. If you, like many parents have questions about the Loudoun County Public Schools gifted program at this time, please read the LCPS Gifted Education brochure for a brief overview of gifted services in Loudoun County schools:

<http://www.lcps.org/cms/lib4/VA01000195/Centricity/Domain/49/Julie%20Program%20Pamphlet.pdf>

You will also want to explore the full LCPS Gifted Education website: <http://www.lcps.org/Page/617> Most, if not all, of your questions about the gifted education can be answered by looking through the whole website where you can find information about identification, curriculum, and other opportunities for students.

Additionally, the Loudoun County Gifted Education Department has scheduled five Gifted Information Sessions for September. Parents are welcome to join us at any session to learn about the gifted education services available through Loudoun County Public Schools and the eligibility process for these programs. The same information will be presented at each of the meetings, so it is not necessary to attend more than one.

Gifted Information Sessions will be held:

- ◆ Wednesday, September 16, 2015, 7:00 -8:00 PM at Rosa Lee Carter Elementary School
- ◆ Tuesday, September 22, 2015, 8:30 – 9:30 AM at Evergreen Mill Elementary School
- ◆ Monday, September 28, 2015, 7:00 – 8:00 PM at Mill Run Elementary School
- ◆ Tuesday, September 29, 2015, 7:00 – 8:00 PM at Liberty Elementary School
- ◆ Wednesday, September 30, 2015, 7:00 – 8:00 PM at Meadowland Elementary School

Please do not hesitate to email me at [Beth.Fletcher@lcps.org](mailto:Beth.Fletcher@lcps.org) with questions you might have, and have a great school year!

# ART NEWS FROM MS. LABBE



Welcome back to the Catoctin Art Studio! We're very excited to start the school year with a school-wide "Selfie" project! During September, we will create a "culturally relevant" self-portrait to be displayed as a school-wide display. Even the staff will be participating! In Art this year, we look forward to participating in the Original Artworks fundraiser again, as well as setting up our Catoctin ES Gallery on Artsonia.com, "The World's Largest Kids' Art Museum!" Details will be sent home before the end of the month. Ms. Labbe is ALWAYS looking for ART Volunteers-helping in the Art room, helping get supplies ready (behind the scenes), helping with displays in the hallways, and helping with Artsonia (must have some basic photo uploading/computer skills). Lastly, we need YOLPAIT brand yogurt containers for our paints! Please send in any washed yogurt containers to the Art Studio, Room 202!

## PBIS

### PBIS at Catoctin

In order to encourage a positive school climate, Catoctin participates in a school wide program called Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS). As a part of our PBIS program, every student at to be **Respectful**, **Responsible** and **Ready** at all times.

When teachers notice students being Respectful, Responsible or Ready, they may reward that student with a red *Cardinal Cash* ticket! When a class has earned 100 tickets (50 for half-day kindergarten) they will be able to choose a class reward. Pajama day is always a popular choice! Additionally, each week teachers will select one student per class to be recognized as *Cardinal of the Week*! Those students will be honored during the morning show and will receive a certificate and wristband. *Cardinal of the Week* recipients will also be recognized here in the Catoctin newsletter each month!



Catoctin is expected

Additional school-wide PBIS programs will be introduced throughout the year.



## Music - Worth News From Ms. Olejér



Welcome back to the music room at Catoctin! I am so happy to be here! We will be working on many musical concepts throughout the year through many activities. We will have a composer of the month each month and for September our composer is George Gershwin. All students will be learning about his life and music in music class, as well as listening to music composed by him. First grade is learning how to use their voices in many ways and learning to sing together. Second grade is reviewing how to use their voices, and singing together. Third grade is learning tempos, or the speed of music. Fourth grade is experiencing world music drumming, as well as singing on pitch. Fifth grade is playing African drums and learning about many percussion instruments. All grade levels will continue to learn about notes and rhythms, which they will practice every day. We also have another music teacher this year who will be teaching the classes of Mrs. Welsh, Ms. Malayil, Mrs. Powell and Mrs. DiGello. His name is Mr. Furhman and he also teaches music at Hutchison Farm Elementary. We are both looking forward to a wonderful year in music.

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER - MR. LOTZ

### Counseling at Catoctin

Greetings from the School Counseling Office!

Mr. Lotz is thrilled to be back for his ninth year at Catoctin Elementary School. Classroom guidance lessons have already begun! Guidance topics for the upcoming year include friendship, bullying prevention, career exploration, study skills and good character.

We are excited to welcome Mrs. Torres back to Catoctin for the second year in a row! Mrs. Torres will be available in the Counseling Office every Tuesday and will be focusing primarily on small group counseling.

Please be on the lookout for information regarding the various small group counseling opportunities offered at Catoctin. Groups on anxiety, friendship, study skills, self-esteem, anger, divorce and grief will all be offered during the school year. Interest forms are due to the guidance office by September 25.

If you have any questions about classroom guidance, small group counseling or other aspects of the guidance program at Catoctin Elementary, please contact Mr. Lotz or Mrs. Torres at **571-252-2940** or **George.Lotz@lcps.org** and **Elisabeth.Torres@lcps.org**.



# FAST FACT BOND REFERENDUM



Bond funding for school construction will be up for voter approval in the Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, election.

On the referendum this year are two schools: ES-31 (a Dulles North elementary school) and HS-11 (a Dulles North Area high school). The maximum amount in capital improvement bonds this referendum would authorize is \$150,995,000. This money would be used to finance the cost to design, construct and equip these school.

ES-31 is anticipated to provide primary enrollment relief for Creighton's Corner, Hillside, Legacy, Mill Run, Moorefield Station and Rosa Lee Carter elementary schools.

HS-11 is anticipated to provide primary enrollment relief for Briar Woods, John Champe, and Rock Ridge high schools.

This is not a referendum on whether these schools should be built. They have already been approved by the School Board and Board of Supervisors. This referendum seeks the authority to issue general obligation bonds to fund these projects.

The Board of Supervisors has selected general obligation bonds as the method of funding these projects. General obligation bonds have historically been among the least expensive means of financing school construction and sold with a 20-year repayment schedule for construction projects. Using this method, people moving into Loudoun will pay for the schools that will be built for the county's increasing school population.

If the bond referendum is not approved, the Board of Supervisors must find other means of funding for these projects that is typically more expensive and less timely.

Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## **Voter Deadlines:**

In-Person Voter Registration Deadline: 5 p.m. Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>.

By-Mail Voter Registration Deadline: Postmarked no later than October 13<sup>th</sup>.

Last day to apply to have a ballot mailed to you is 5 p.m. Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>.

Last day to vote an absentee ballot in person is Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup> (registrar's office will be open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.).

For more information, contact the Voter Registration and Electoral Board Office at 703-777-0380. This office is located at 750 Miller Drive, SE, Suite C, Leesburg, VA 20175-8916.

# !! IMPORTANT INFORMATION !!

*Catoctin is routinely inspected in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA). As required by the Commonwealth of Virginia and the EPA, this notification is to inform you that asbestos-containing material (ACM) is present in several locations in our school. The ACM is inspected semi-annually by qualified LCPS personnel to insure that the material remains in good condition and is not creating an exposure hazard for building occupants.*

*The Asbestos Management Plan indicates locations where asbestos-containing materials may be present. The plan can be found in the administrative office at the school. In addition, a copy of the Asbestos Management Plan is located in the Loudoun County Public Schools Facilities Services Division office at 1002C Sycolin Road, Leesburg, Virginia.*

*Please feel free to request information about our Management Plan, the inspection findings and our plan of action. The Plan will be available for your review and inspection during normal office hours.*

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Chiet, Assistant Principal.

# !! IMPORTANT INFORMATION !!



FROM THE DESK OF THE ATTENDANCE SECRETARY

**AN IMPORTANT REMINDER**

If your child is going to be absent, please remember to call the absentee line, 571-252-2941, to report the absence.

When taking your child to the doctor/dentist, please don't forget to get a doctor's note.

Remember to



get up on time.

Don't be late for



or the



*Students must be in their classrooms by 7:50 ready to learn. Otherwise, they will be marked "tardy."*

*Excessive tardies will be referred to the Attendance Officer.*