



# Radford Reflections

Excellence in Education.....Every Student.....Every Day

Spring Edition

2011-2012 School Year

## Tae Kwon Do



A major focus area for the Radford City Schools is continuous improvement in our health, wellness, and physical education program. The implementation of an introduction to Tae Kwon Do for third graders is an important aspect of this improvement. We send our appreciation to Ken Goodyear and everyone in the Radford City Parks & Recreation Department for your partnership in this project.



## *Superintendent's Message*

As we approach the close of the 2011-2012 school year, we reflect on an interesting and unusual year, from the state and federal budget challenges to the weather. It has been a school year with some outstanding successes in Radford. In early April, our school division participated in the final steps of a process to seek division-wide accreditation by Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) offered through AdvancEd. In the past, all schools were accredited by the organization but Radford has not applied previously for division-wide accreditation. Faculty, staff and community leaders worked together to share the good news about Radford City Schools with the Accreditation Visiting Team. Our school division and community can celebrate as accreditation has been awarded to the entire Radford City School Division. We especially thank Assistant Superintendent, Robert Graham for his dedicated leadership during this process. All of our schools are also accredited by the State of Virginia.

Our school division has enjoyed many exciting learning opportunities during this year such as Whale Day presented by Mr. Frank Taylor's Biology II class, Walk to School Day organized by Transportation Director Pat Harrison, Dr. Seuss Day, and exciting arts and sports events. There was also the joy of having all the kindergarteners visit the School Administration Office. The students took a tour of our historical building, met the office staff, talked about their favorite bears from my bear collection, and received a small bear as a gift to take home. Following the visit by the kindergarteners, the School Administration Office Staff is always joyful but exhausted! We really appreciate our kindergarten teachers!

In other news, we continue to encourage our students, faculty and staff to be actively involved in community service. For the end of this school year, the Radford City Schools partnered with Goodwill for a community-wide project. Dana Ratcliffe served as the school-division chairperson. Thanks to so many of you for supporting this worthwhile endeavor as our students continue to learn about the life-long value of their participation in community service as responsible citizens.

At this exciting time of the year, we extend our most sincere congratulations to our seniors. Our school division seeks to offer "Excellence in Education for Every Student, Every Day." Additionally, we strive to achieve the goal of "No Bobcat Left Behind" and to graduate seniors who are well-prepared citizens for life in the 21st century global society.

Thank you for your support of the Radford City Schools. Best wishes for a safe, happy and enjoyable summer 2012.

Sincerely,

*Becky H. Greer*

Becky H. Greer, Ed. D.  
Division Superintendent



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### VHSL Scholastic Bowl and MACC Teams

Information by Nishant Grover, student / VHSL photo

Second grade students have committed to graduating in 2022. While visiting RHS during Whale Day, senior leaders presented a “Rockin’ R” and encouraged the second graders to sign their names, making a commitment to stay in school and receive their diploma during the traditional graduation ceremony. To seal the deal, some of the senior leaders starred on McHarg’s Morning Show expressing pride in their accomplishments, sharing their future plans, and inspiring McHarg students to finish their education by graduating in 2022. These seniors returned to spend some quality time with McHarg’s terrific kids as they listened to students read and then joined them for Chihuahua Cheese Dogs!

Jeopardy is a show that is watched by many Americans because of its fun, simple format that asks general knowledge questions to a group of contestants while also testing the knowledge of viewers. Imagine this same concept except applied to teams of high school students. This type of activity exists and it is known as Mountain Academic Competition Conference (MACC) at the local level and Scholastic Bowl through the Virginia High School League (VHSL).

MACC involves area high schools and is broken down into five teams: Math, English, Social Studies, Science and All Around. During January and February, schools compete each week to test their knowledge. RHS has had much success in MACC, with many teams reaching the MACC tournament and the subsequent Super MACC tournament each year. MACC participants spend hours answering questions and reading over material given to them by the coaches. The coaches for 2011-2012 were Mr. Don Lawrence for Math, Mr. Rusty Swope for English, Mr. Wayne Pridgen and Mrs. Elaine H. Argabrite for Social Studies, Mrs. Elaine H. Argabrite for All Around and the MACC coaching staff for Science. These teachers have invested a tremendous amount of effort to prepare the teams for competition.

### Dalton Student Wins Logo Design Contest

By Kristy Bryant

Recently Radford City School students were invited to participate in a logo design contest sponsored by Radford Parks and Recreation. The theme for the contest was “Radford, the Spirit of America”. The winning design is to be used to advertise and promote the city’s annual Fourth of July celebration at Bisset Park.



Alaa Ragab, an eighth grade Dalton Intermediate School student, won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the contest. She will receive the honor of seeing her wonderful artwork on display throughout the community as well as a cash prize of one hundred dollars. Nathan Dove, a seventh grader at Dalton Intermediate school, tied for second place along with Jason Hage, a sixth grade student from Belle Heth Elementary School. These students will receive a cash award of fifty dollars each. Congratulations to each of these talented students for this outstanding achievement and a special thanks to the Parks and Rec. Dept. for providing this exciting opportunity to Radford City School students. The winning design and event schedule can be viewed on the organization’s website at [www.radford.va.us](http://www.radford.va.us).

The Scholastic Bowl Team competes at a more intense level and while the method of preparation is similar to MACC, Scholastic Bowl questions are much more difficult. This year RHS won its 14<sup>th</sup> district championship in the Three Rivers District and 13<sup>th</sup> Regional Championship. At the state competition, RHS finished 4<sup>th</sup>. On April 21<sup>st</sup>, Radford’s team competed in the Virginia Tech Spring Invitational and placed 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Scholastic Bowl season ended on a high note.

#### Dates to Remember:

June 1, 2012	Last day of school
August 23, 2012	Open House for Parents
August 24, 2012	Battle of the Bridge
August 27, 2012	Watch for more news about “BOB” First day of school for students
September 3, 2012	Labor Day Holiday, schools closed
October 8, 2012	End of the 1 <sup>st</sup> six weeks





### More Belle Heth Fun

By Charli Dietz, student

There is something new at Belle Heth. Recently, a swing set was added to the playground. Thanks to three fundraisers and all of the parents, students, and staff who helped raise the money, we now have it. The people who built the swings are part of a group that builds playground equipment that makes kids like us jump for joy. Do not forget that after school you can come by with a parent and have fun on them. The swings not only benefit the students at Belle Heth, but the whole community as well.

### Salem Red Sox Reading Program

By Ellen Denny / Photo by Dana DeHart



McHarg second graders recently enjoyed a day at the ball park. As a group, the children attended a Salem Red Sox baseball game at Lewis Gale Field in Salem. The day was filled with homeruns, strike outs and hot dogs. The opportunity was made available through a partnership with the Salem Red Sox organization and McHarg Elementary. The Salem Red

Sox reading program is an incentive based initiative to encourage children to read. Once the students reach their reading goal, they are awarded a free ticket to a designated baseball game. The second grade class decided to go as a group and enjoy the experience with their classmates. Kindergarten and first grade students who meet their goal will receive a ticket to attend a game with their family later in May. McHarg has participated in the program for a number of years and greatly appreciates the support of the Salem Red Sox organization and their recognition of the importance of reading!

### Adventure Day

Article by Lee Slusher / Photo by Sandi Curd

On Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, the Dalton Intermediate School Eighth Grade Students participated in an exciting field trip that supports the *Virginia Health Education Standards of Learning*. Students spent the day in "Adventure Education" at Radford University with facilitators from the *RU ABLE* Program.



The day began across the bridge on the beautiful RU West Campus. Eighth graders and their teachers played hard, played safe, played fair, and had fun while participating in outdoor and indoor activities that required teamwork, problem solving, decision-making, and pushing themselves to complete personal challenges. Bailey Thomas, one DIS 8<sup>th</sup> grader, said, "Today I took a giant step out of my comfort zone!" The climbing wall and the zip line were definitely the favorites of many. Heth

Grant summed it up by saying, "Today I had one of the scariest moments of my life, but it helped me with team building and trust." A big THANKS to the RHS Foundation and parents who financially supported this wonderful learning experience.



### Congratulation Retirees

Dianne Wallace, Rebecca Bondurant, and Jonnie Collins



## Belle Heth Reading Garden

by Keeleigh Cormany, student

For the past year, Belle Heth Elementary School has been working on a project called a reading garden. The reading garden will soon grow many beautiful flowers. We will get to watch them grow and help take care of them.

I interviewed Nurse Tammy Weston who was a big part of making the reading garden happen. Ms. Weston said, "The reading garden will be a place that everyone can go." She also said her goal is to get every student's handprint at Belle Heth imprinted into the concrete stepping blocks.

To help provide our wonderful garden we received a very generous grant called the Lowe's Toolbox for Education grant. Any school may apply but it is very difficult to be awarded this grant. We are very lucky to be able to secure this grant for our garden.

Ms. Weston had an idea that anyone who has a garden or plants flowers is invited to bring extras to our school for our reading garden. Please don't bring any plants with thorns. I can't wait to watch this garden grow!

## Model General Assembly (MGA)

Information by Nishant Grover, student / Photo by Carolyn Williams

Students in high school learn much about the political process through the social studies curriculum and paying attention to current events. However, many wish that they could have a real-world experience that could tie knowledge to hands-on learning. At Radford High School, the answer is Model General Assembly. MGA, as its participants call the activity, is a mock legislative conference that takes place in Richmond at the State Capital. Students from all over the state attend this three-day event and debate legislation with much vigor, intensity and passion. RHS sent about thirty students to this year's conference, which took place during March 29-31, under the leadership of club president Nishant Grover, head sponsor Mrs. Elaine H. Argabrite and co-sponsors Mrs. Carol Andrews and Mrs. Carolyn Williams. During the weeks preceding MGA, students choose among the roles of senator, delegate, lobbyist, reporter or underclassmen legislator. Also, students came together to write legislation that will be debated on the House and Senate floor. Upon arriving at MGA, students debated bills during the day, but at night another facet of politics emerged: the electoral process. Here, participants listened to candidate speeches for the offices of Governor, Lt. Governor and Speaker of the House and voted for the candidate that would best serve in the respective positions. This year, RHS students Matt Turk and Jeff Fung, were elected as Lt. Governor and Speaker of the House for 2013 MGA. Overall, MGA was a weekend that many cherished because of the insight gained into the political process and the many friendships and memories made.



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