



February 2012

# TIGER TALK

## Walker-Grant Middle School

ONE LEARNING LANE. FREDERICKSBURG, VA 22401  
PHONE (540)372-1145 FAX (540)891-5449 WEB WWW.CITYSCHOOLS.COM

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Dear Families,

Walker-Grant Middle School has been very busy as we welcomed our newest team member, Assistant Principal Andrea Bumbrey. The new administrative team continues to work tirelessly to provide our students, families, and community with the best opportunities for academic excellence and extra-curricular involvement.

As I write this newsletter, looking out the window at this unusually warm day, I am looking forward to the warm holidays of spring break and summer vacation. However, February continues to be bustling with activities as Walker-Grant is hosting the Fredericksburg City Public Schools Division Spelling Bee on February 8; we have Odyssey of The Mind teams preparing for upcoming competition; and our English Language Learners are gearing up to take their Language Proficiency Tests. Additionally, the Grade 8 Writing SOL is just around the corner.

I am proud to report that in January our boys' basketball team completed their regular season with an 8-2 record. Congratulations, boys! We are also proud that our student athletes continue to put studies first and maintain a focus on academics. Thank you to parents, families, community members, and staff for their support of my first "Pastries with the Principal" meet and greet. Many took this opportunity to share their comments and an enormous amount of feedback. From those discussions the administrative team, with the support of community agencies, is planning several new events to support families and students. Please monitor the newsletter and calendar for upcoming events. The next opportunity to meet and share ideas will be at the "Cupcakes and Conversations" with the principal on February 28 in the Walker-Grant library from 5:30 – 7:00 P.M.

Thank you for your continued support of Walker-Grant Middle School, and I cannot say enough about how proud I am to be a part of such a great school community.

Sincerely,

Melanie R. Kay-Wyatt  
Principal

**TUESDAY, 2/7**

**Exploratory Fair  
for Current  
5th – 7th Graders  
5:00 – 6:00**

**Parent  
Conferences  
6:00 – 8:00  
(Appointment  
Required)**



## INCLEMENT WEATHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

2011-2012

Information concerning school closings or delays for Fredericksburg City Public Schools may be found by checking one of the following:

Fredericksburg City Public Schools website: [www.cityschools.com](http://www.cityschools.com)

[www.fredericksburg.com](http://www.fredericksburg.com)

Local Educational Access Channel 18

WFLS Radio (FM 93.3)

WVBX Radio – The Vibe (FM 99.3)

WWUZ Radio – Classic Rock (FM 96.9)

WFVA/B101.5 Radio (FM 101.5) (AM 1230)

WGRQ Radio (Q 96)

WGRX Radio (Thunder 104.5)

WTVR Television – Channel 6 (Richmond)

WRIC Television – Channel 8 (Richmond)

WRC Television – Channel 4 (DC)

WUSA Television – Channel 9 (DC)

We encourage parents to visit our website or listen to one of the radio or television stations listed above. Announcements are posted as quickly as possible.

### 504 ACCOMODATIONS AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

If your child has any type of learning or physical problem, he/she may qualify for accommodations under 504 or special education services. Please call the Walker-Grant Counseling Office at 372-1145 if you have any questions or would like to refer your child for screening and possible assessment.

No otherwise qualified handicapped individual in the United States shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits, of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973: The Rights of Individuals with Handicaps Under Federal Law.

### IN THE MATTER OF NONRESIDENT STUDENT ENROLLMENT

The Fredericksburg City Public School Division does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability in its educational programs or activities.

Any questions should be referred to Pam Steinkoenig, 200 Gunnery Road, Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401 or by calling (540) 371-1127.

### SEX OFFENDER STATEMENT

The Fredericksburg City Public School Division recognizes the danger sex offenders pose to student safety. Therefore, to protect students while they travel to and from school, attend school or at school-related activities, the Fredericksburg City School Division shall request automatic electronic notification of registered sex offenders in the same or contiguous zip codes as any school within the division. Such request and notification shall be made according to the procedures established by the Virginia Department of State Police (State Police). The Superintendent shall serve as the contact person with the State Police for receipt of the registered sex offender information.



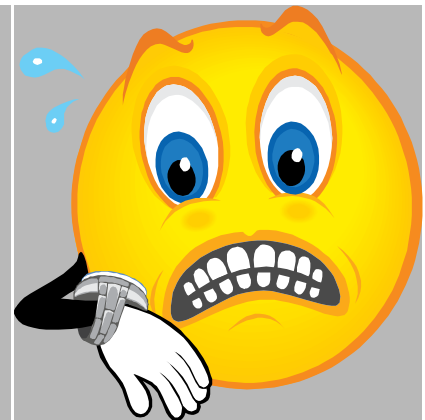
## NEW FACES AT WALKER-GRANT



We would like to extend a very special WELCOME to our new Assistant Principal Mrs. Andrea Bumbrey, and to the following practicum students who have been working in our classrooms: Elizabeth Botha, Kaitlyn Connolly, Morgan Downing, Mariana Hermosilla, Kaitlyn King, Sarah Manuel, Jessica O'Connell, Brooke Parker, Veronica Shipe, and Ian Walley.

### **ATTENDANCE REMINDER**

**PARENTS AND STUDENTS ARE REMINDED OF THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING AT SCHOOL ON TIME EACH DAY. THE LATE BELL RINGS AT 7:40. STUDENTS SHOULD BE IN CLASS AND IN THEIR SEATS AT THAT TIME!**



### **What is SEAC?**

SEAC is the Special Education Advisory Committee. Every school division is required to have a SEAC as detailed in Regulations Governing Special Education Programs for Children with Disabilities in Virginia, effective January 25, 2010 (special education regulations). The major purpose of SEACs is to provide an opportunity for parents and other school board appointees to have a voice in the way school divisions provide services to students with disabilities. SEACs are extensions of local school boards since members are appointed by them, and SEACs can provide reports and recommendations to their school boards. SEAC meetings are open to the public and we value your comments/questions concerning special education in FCPS. Please watch the principal's newsletters and/or Channel 18 for reminders and information on upcoming meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for March 29, 2012 @ 7:00 pm at James Monroe High School.



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Liza Cobey and Edward Hoffman earned perfect scores in the first meet of the Word-Masters Challenge, a national language arts competition entered by approximately 220,000 students annually. In the entire country only 57 seventh graders and 51 eighth graders earned perfect scores! Other W-G students achieving outstanding results were Sidney Blasiol, Imelda Rubio-Estrada, Rylan Keeler, Helen Rathgeb, Autumn Wiley, Isaiah Wilson, Carter Boyd, Annie Taylor, Emily Deschambault, Clara Camber, and Evan Cobey.

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Poster contest winners were recognized at the January School Board meeting, including: Holiday Poster Contest winners Andrea Aguilar, Jdody Misodor, and Miah Pando; and Lions International Peace Poster Contest district winner Fayza Karim.

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Grade Level Spelling Bees were held in January. The following champions and co-champions have advanced to the FCPS Division Bee to be held on February 8:

6th Grade—Champion Rawley Gardner, Co-Champion Harmoni Brown-Coe

7th Grade—Champion Libby Walsh, Co-Champions Mary Wallace Baker, Kirby Foss, and Reniqua Walker

8th Grade—Champion Samuel Lucas, Co-Champion Alina Lovos

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We are proud to recognize Mrs. Blaire Morris for recently achieving National Board Certification. Mrs. Morris has been a Gifted Education teacher at Walker-Grant for six years, and she previously taught at Hugh Mercer Elementary. The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards improves teaching and student learning. National Board Certified teachers are highly accomplished educators who meet high and rigorous standards through intensive study, expert evaluation, self-assessment, and peer review. The Walker-Grant Middle School family and community are very proud of Mrs. Morris and her accomplishment.

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The following students are currently serving as Virginia General Assembly pages: Connor Forjan, Caleb Franklin, Joseph Franklin, Cleo Morris, and Catesby Willis.





## GRADE 6 NEWS



### English

Students have begun their unit on nonfiction texts. We will be reading and discussing all sorts of informational texts. We will be discussing the ways to analyze and understand different forms of nonfiction. Students will practice cause and effect, use context clues, infer, work on drawing conclusions, find facts, and locate the main idea. We will also be studying the ways to analyze text either by using a Venn diagram, a time line, or other sources. Students will familiarize themselves with the dictionary and thesaurus and become comfortable looking up words and using guide words. As always, please encourage your child to read every night! The more you read, the more you know!

### History

Students have continued their journey through American history by learning about the Great Depression. They compared and contrasted the decades of the early twentieth century and found that many events of the Roaring 20s contributed to the causes of the Great Depression. In March students will be learning about World War II, its causes, and the reasons for our involvement in the war. Next we will focus on the major events of the war including the Holocaust. We will also learn about life on the home front. The World War II unit is very extensive and covers many important people and events. Please make sure your student succeeds in this unit by daily review or questioning!

### Science

During the month of February, students are learning about what happens to the sun's energy when it reaches the Earth. Students have learned about the electromagnetic spectrum and its parts. The Earth's energy budget and its role in keeping the Earth the right temperature for human beings to live have also been topics of conversation. Students are also learning about the types of heat transfer—convection, conduction, and radiation and the roles of all three in heating Earth, controlling our climate, and the affect on our oceans. We conducted experiments on how different surfaces heat and cool and on types of heat transfer including popping pop corn and roasting marshmallows.



### Creative Writing

Ms. Parks' Creative Writing classes from the first semester completed portfolio projects that will allow them to reflect upon their writing experience. Second semester students will begin with an introduction to creative writing through the works of Dr. Seuss.



# GRADE NEWS

## English and Creative Writing

On to poetry! English 7 students are beginning their study and comprehension of poetry. They will learn to identify, to analyze, and to use poetic devices such as figurative language. We will continue with our study of grammar as well as identifying and using parts of speech.

Advanced English 7 students have completed their study of the historical fiction genre and are ready to tackle poetry. They will be examining various poetic forms and devices as well as the lives of prominent poets. Along the way, they also will create some original poems. The grammar unit will focus on prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections. The *Vocabra* unit and prefix/suffix examination are ongoing.

Ms. Parks' Creative Writing classes from the first semester completed portfolio projects that will allow them to reflect upon their writing experience. Second semester students will begin with an introduction to creative writing through the works of Dr. Seuss.

## Life Science

Students are currently studying a unit on taxonomy, the science of classification. Students are participating in lab exercises and constructing classification charts. In pursuit of their investigation of the kingdoms, students will study bacteria, protists, fungi, plants, and animals. They will learn that scientists have divided the former kingdom of monerans into two new kingdoms: archaeobacteria (ancient bacteria) and eubacteria, which has a different chemical makeup and is the causative agent in many diseases. Students from both teams will conduct research on infectious diseases. The diseases must be bacterial, viral, or caused by a protist. They will be using materials placed on reserve through the library for their research as well as utilizing recommended internet sites. They are researching the etiology, symptoms, treatment, prevention, and other interesting facts concerning a specific infectious disease. The final product will be a "Wanted Poster" featuring the disease of their choice.

## Math

Quarter 3 of the Math 7 Enriched curriculum is all about functions - equations, inequalities, graphing, slope, lines, tables, and variables. This is a big unit that will follow the students into Algebra and beyond. The material is covered in the textbooks that were sent home at the beginning of the year so they can be used for secondary help. Be sure to be checking the internet as well, because the new textbook series we adopted, *Big Ideas Math*, has a ton of free online help resources that are invaluable! On a personal note, many parents and guardians have asked about when Mrs. James will be heading out on maternity leave. The plan is to work until the baby comes! In preparation for her temporary departure, Mrs. James has already prepared every lesson, classwork assignment, homework assignment, weekly assignment, quiz, test review, and most of the tests. Any documents that are delivered in class will still be made available via her website and new *SkyDrive* location.

In Algebra I, we will be completing our statistics unit then beginning our unit on polynomials. Students will explore rules for simplifying exponent and polynomial expressions. Ms. Liskom will continue to post homework assignments, test dates, etc. on her blog: [www.cityschools.com/eliskom](http://www.cityschools.com/eliskom)

## Civics

In Civics we have quite a bit happening. We have just completed our study of the Judicial Branch at both the national and state level. From here we will start learning about Political Parties and the election process! Students will gain insight into the political process and how it effects their lives at the national, state and local levels. We will discuss political parties and what our responsibilities are as citizens on the election process. This is so exciting to be doing now, with all the election coverage that is in the news these days. Please watch and discuss with the students at home!!





## GRADE NEWS

Students came back rested from the holidays to discover possible careers in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math). We built and programmed robots to challenge ourselves to problem solve in groups. Real computer scientists and mathematicians visited our classes to tell us about what they do and to cheer us on when getting our “bot” to go in a perfect square proved frustrating. Students will dive into the Motion and Force unit in February. The next units include Work, Power, and Simple Machines; then States and Forms of Energy. With a cumulative (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>) Science SOL test approaching, we have a lot to learn and review. Only half a school year away from our 8<sup>th</sup> graders becoming high school students, YIKES!



### A MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE



In the next few weeks I will be screening 7th grade students to identify anyone with a curvature of the spine (scoliosis). According to available information, up to 10 out of every 100 children may develop this condition. If found and treated early, progression of this deformity can be prevented.

The procedure for screening is a simple one in which the screener looks at the child’s back while he or she is standing and then bent forward (like touching one’s toes). If your child has a possible curvature, you will be notified and asked to take him/her to their health care provider for follow up. If you have any questions about this screening or object to your child being checked please notify me at 540-372-1145.

In addition to screening for scoliosis, there will also be a BMI (Body Mass Index) screening conducted. BMI is a measure that is used to show a person’s “weight for height for age.” It is calculated using an individual’s height and weight. Just like a blood pressure reading or a vision screening, the BMI can be a useful tool in identifying possible health risks. The purpose of this screening program is to give you information about your child’s weight status and ideas for a healthy lifestyle.

The school nurse will supervise your child’s screening and will make sure your child’s privacy is respected at all times. The results of your child’s BMI will be kept in their health folder and are strictly confidential. The results will be mailed home directly or communicated in writing to you.

BMI does not tell the whole story about your child’s health status. BMI does not distinguish between fat and muscle. If a child is very athletic and has a lot of muscle, his or her BMI may be high even though the child is not overweight.

You are encouraged to share these results with your child’s health care provider. Your child’s doctor or nurse is in the best position to evaluate his or her overall health, he or she can explain the results of the BMI screening and talk to you about whether there are steps you can take to encourage a healthy diet and physical activity.

Please feel free to call me with any questions you may have about BMI screening. If you would not like your child’s height, weight, and BMI measured in school, please send a written request to me.

Additional information about children’s health and fitness can be found at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention resources at: [cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov). Keyword “children’s BMI”.

Thank you,

Peggy Williams, School Nurse



# *News from the Counseling Department*

Greetings friends and families!

In the month of February, Walker-Grant's Counseling Department will be taking on the role of test coordination with the administration of the ACCESS for ELLs (Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State for English Language Learners). Mrs. Cooley will be working with Mrs. King, Mrs. Dreiss, and Mrs. Masterson in this endeavor. Testing for English language learners will take place **Feb. 6-16**. Additionally, Mr. West will be working with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers on preparations for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Writing SOL which will take place **March 5-7**.

On **February 27-29** Mr. West and Mrs. Cooley will be taking the long trek down to Lafayette Upper Elementary School to speak with the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students about anything and everything that has to do with coming to Walker-Grant. Both counselors are excited to see our future students and allay any fears they may have on coming to school here.

Mr. West's study skills and organization group, *The Skills Team*, has officially ended. (This group was prematurely cut short due to time conflicts with Mr. West and the students). Mr. West wishes the best to his group members and hopes that they continue to use their agendas each and every day! Mrs. Cooley and Ms. Downing are finishing up two *Real Girls* groups. Due to popular demand, they will start with another *Real Girls* group in February.

## **A warm welcome to Morgan Downing, our Counseling Intern**

Morgan will be working in the Counseling Center two days per week through the month of April, assisting Mr. West and Mrs. Cooley with individual counseling, group counseling and classroom guidance as well as with other administrative duties.

Ms. Downing is a junior at the University of Mary Washington, studying both Psychology and Women and Gender Studies. She is interested in counseling and working with adolescents. She has spent most of her summers at Camp Hanover in Mechanicsville, Virginia, and it was there that Morgan discovered she loved the outdoors and working with kids. Ms. Morgan works on the UMW campus as a student aide and as a supervisor for *Phonathon*.

### Jenna Cooley M.Ed. –School Counselor

Counselor for 7<sup>th</sup> grade and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students with last names K – Z.

EXT. 2211      [jcooley@cityschools.com](mailto:jcooley@cityschools.com)

### Andrew West M.Ed. –School Counselor

Counselor for 6<sup>th</sup> grade and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students with last names A - J

EXT. 2210      [awest@cityschools.com](mailto:awest@cityschools.com)

School Phone: 540-372-1145





## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING STUDENT PICK-UP**

It is extremely important that the school has current contact information for parents (both custodial and non-custodial) and for anyone else who is authorized to pick your child up from school. Please provide us with a copy of any court order regarding custody/visitation, if applicable. *Written notice from the custodial parent does not supersede court documents.*

The excerpt below is from the Fredericksburg City Public Schools' Policy Manual:

### **PARENTAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

When parents of a student are estranged, separated, or divorced, building personnel will uphold the parental rights of both parents. Unless there is a court order to the contrary, both parents have the right to:

1. view the child's school records, in accordance with Policy JO;
2. receive school progress reports, the school calendar, and notices of major school events;
3. visit the school in accordance with Policy KK;
4. participate in parent-teacher conferences; in the case of the noncustodial parent, after a timely request is made; and
5. receive all notifications in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
6. receive notice of the student's extended absence, as defined in and pursuant to Policy JED, if both parents have joint physical custody.

#### **B. Parent Responsibilities**

The custodial parent has the responsibility to:

1. keep the school office informed as to the address of residence and how he or she may be contacted at all times.
2. on the Fredericksburg City Public Schools registration form, list the current address and phone number of the noncustodial parent, unless such address is unknown and the parent signs a statement to that effect, or unless a court order restricts the educational or contact rights of the parent; and
3. provide a copy of any legal document which restricts the educational and/or contact rights of the noncustodial parent.

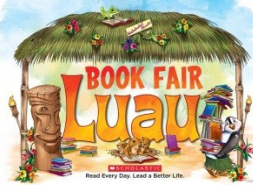
The noncustodial parent has the responsibility to keep the school office apprised of changes in his or her current phone number and address. Further, the noncustodial parent may make timely requests to participate in parent-teacher conferences. At the request of a noncustodial parent, such parent will be included as an emergency contact for the student's activities unless a court order has been issued to the contrary.

Adopted: August 3, 1998

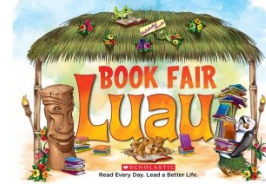
Amended: August 6, 2001

Amended: June 2, 2003

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## Book Fair is Almost Here!



- **When:** The book fair will be open **Monday, February 6 through Friday, February 10** from 7:15 AM until 3:00 PM.
- **Where:** Walker Grant Library
- **After School Hours:** On Tuesday, February 7, the book fair will have extended hours to from 5:00 - 7:30 PM (this is also Parent Teacher conference night). Bring the whole family! Credit Cards are also accepted.
- **Payment Options:**
  - ✓ **Cash**
  - ✓ **Checks:** Please make payable to “WGMS.” The checks need to be made out for the exact amount of the purchase.
  - ✓ **Credit Cards**

### Additional Information:

Students will “window shop” with their classes. They will also be able to shop at the Book Fair individually with passes from a teacher.

### How Does This Help You Child and Our School?

Not only does the Book Fair help raise funds to purchase essential classroom and library resources, it encourages reading among our students. Parent and family volunteers are needed in order to make this event a success. If you choose to volunteer, then you will only need to volunteer two hours of your time. Please fill out the bottom of this paper and have your child **return it to Miss Coyle in the Library**. Thank you for your help and support to our Walker Grant Tigers!

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**I am willing to help at the WG Book Fair**

Please call me at \_\_\_\_\_ or e-mail me at \_\_\_\_\_

My name is \_\_\_\_\_

My Child's Name is \_\_\_\_\_



# **TIGER CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY**



- Friday, February 3**      *-Report Cards*  
*-Boys' Basketball Tournament at Culpeper (Orange & White Day)*
- Saturday, February 4**      *-Boys' Basketball Tournament at Culpeper*
- Monday, February 6**      *- Book Fair*  
*-School Board Meeting @ City Council Chambers, 7:30 PM*
- Tuesday, February 7**      *-Exploratory Fair, 5:00—6:00 PM*  
*-Parent Conferences, 6:00—8:00 PM (call for appointment, please)*  
*-Book Fair (evening hours 5:00—7:30 PM)*
- Wednesday, February 8**      *-Book Fair*  
*-FCPS Division Spelling Bee, 8:30 AM*
- Thursday, February 9**      *-Book Fair*
- Friday, February 10**      *-Book Fair*  
*-All-District Choir @ Brooke Point High School*  
*-Valentine's Day Dance, 3:00 PM*
- Saturday, February 11**      *-Saturday School, 8:00—11:00 AM*
- Wednesday, February 15**      *-Honors Assemblies: 8:00 AM 8th Grade, 9:15 AM 7th Grade,*  
*12:15 PM 6th Grade*
- Thursday, February 16**      *-PTA Meeting, 7:00 PM*
- Friday, February 17**      *- EARLY DISMISSAL, 12:20 PM*
- Monday, February 20**      *-Presidents Day Holiday / NO SCHOOL*
- Tuesday, February 21**      *-Parent Advisory Committee Meeting, 6:00 PM*
- Thursday, February 23**      *-PTA Spirit Night @ Chick-fil-A Central Park, 5:00—8:00 PM*
- Saturday, February 25**      *-Saturday School, 8:00—11:00 AM*
- Tuesday, February 28**      *-”Cupcakes and Conversation” with the Principal, 5:30—7:00 PM*

