

## And the 2006 Teacher of the Year Finalists

**Debbie S. Field**, New Castle Elementary's Teacher of the Year, is a 16-year veteran teacher with all of those years spent teaching fourth grade in the Virginia Beach school division. She began her career at Salem Elementary and taught there for ten years before she joined the staff at New Castle Elementary where she has taught ever since. Debbie serves on countless committees and is also co-sponsor of the Student Council Association and team co-captain of the school's Relay for Life team. She works as an after school writing tutor and is a prodigious presenter at local, regional and state conferences. She was also named the New Castle VBCPS citywide and state Reading Teacher of the Year in 2002. Debbie holds a bachelor's degree in education from Old Dominion University. Her principal has described her as "the teacher every parent wants for his or her child, the teacher every principal wants for her students, and the teacher every student hopes to have."

**Meg Manugo**, Teacher of the Year from Bayside High School, teaches English 10 as well as dual enrollment English to tenth- and twelfth-grade students. She is a five-year veteran teacher, with all of those years spent at Bayside. As you may imagine, she is very active, serving on numerous committees both at her school and citywide. She also serves as a mentor teacher, a student transition and academic readiness program mentor, a TOCLI (This is a professional development activity held prior to the opening of school for new teachers and teachers new to VBCPS.) instructor for new English 10 teachers, and has worked on creating English and dual enrollment curricula for several years. Meg holds a Bachelor of Arts in English Education from North Carolina State University and a Master of Arts in English from Old Dominion University. Her principal says that what impresses him "most is Meg's compassion and respect for the learner. She understands each of her students and challenges each with high expectations. Her classroom is extremely inviting."

**Laura McLamb**, Strawbridge Elementary School's Teacher of the Year, has 23 years of experience, with 20 spent in Virginia Beach. She has taught elementary as well as middle school, having taught fourth-grade and third-grade at Providence and Landstown elementary schools respectively and sixth grade at Larkspur Middle. Laura has been at Strawbridge Elementary for two years where she has taught third-grade language arts and a second-grade self-contained class. Laura is extremely accomplished, having published several articles and served as a presenter locally and regionally. In addition, she has served as a new teacher mentor, grade level chairperson, cooperating teacher for ODU and Longwood College, as well as being a member of and office holder in numerous professional associations. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education with endorsements in language arts and the social sciences. Laura's principal had this to say about her: "It has been said that the good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires. Laura McLamb's greatness as a teacher continues to instill a desire in her students

to become lifelong learners."

**Debra-Ann Raiford**, Teacher of the Year at Kingston Elementary School, is a ten-year veteran teacher, with all of those years spent with Virginia Beach City Public Schools. Debra-Ann began her career at Alanton Elementary School where she taught fourth grade for five years. For the past five years she has served as a fourth- and fifth-grade teacher at Kingston. Debra-Ann is an inveterate presenter, having presented locally as well as state-wide. She also has served as an SOL after-school tutor and college student mentor and works tirelessly on school committees and as grade-level chairman. Debra-Ann received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Randolph-Macon College, her Collegiate Professional License from Virginia Wesleyan College and her Master of Education degree from the University of Virginia. According to her principal, Laura is an exceptional teacher: "Trained as a professional opera singer, this phenomenal teacher now 'sings' the lessons of language arts in a classroom alive with teaching and learning! Bravo!"

## Link up with the Teachers of the Year!

We are pleased to provide a link to the 2006 Teacher of the Year Web page we have created on the school division Web site, [www.vbschools.com](http://www.vbschools.com). Each school's teacher of the year is pictured, along with his or her individual philosophy of education and teaching. We encourage you to visit the site not only to learn more about the teacher of the year from your child's school, but also perhaps to gain insight into what makes these individuals the dedicated teachers they are.

You may visit the Web site at [http://www.vbschools.com/awards/toy/0506/index\\_0.asp](http://www.vbschools.com/awards/toy/0506/index_0.asp).

## As a Parent, How Can You Prepare for a School Emergency?

There are **three** simple **steps** parents can take to prepare for a school emergency.

1. Provide **accurate emergency contact information** to your child's school and notify the school if it changes.
2. Fill out the **School Emergency Card for Parents** included in the **School Emergency Guide for Parents**. Carry this card in your wallet at all times.
3. Subscribe to **vbschools x-tra**, an electronic notification service that sends e-mail messages to your home/work computer and/or cell phone. **Vbschools x-tra** provides subscribers with up-to-date information about school closings and cancellations, early dismissals, and other unforeseen emergencies.

## As a Parent What Should I do During a School Emergency?

When a school emergency has occurred, you can get important information and directions by doing one or all of the following:

- Call the school division's **Emergency Hotline** at **263-1000**.
- Check your e-mail if you are a **vbschools x-tra** subscriber.
- Visit **www.vbschools.com**.
- Tune into the **local television** and **radio** for news alerts.

Additional information included in the **School Emergency Guide for Parents** is available on **vbschools.com** by selecting the category **Safe Schools** on the home page.

Virginia Beach City Public Schools  
is Prepared for an Emergency

## Gifted Education...Advisory Committee Looking for Potential Members

You may be aware that the school division's Office of Gifted Education works closely with a gifted education citizens/parent group called the Community Advisory Committee (CAC). The CAC's purpose is to advise the School Board of the educational needs of all gifted students in the Virginia Beach City Public Schools.

While there are currently no open seats on the committee, nonetheless, the CAC is updating its pool of potential members by adding to its list of interested citizens who are willing to serve. The duties and responsibilities of the Gifted Education CAC are several and are listed below:

- reviewing the local plan for the education of gifted students,
- monitoring revisions and ongoing progress of the plan's implementation,
- development of annual goals and priorities,
- representing the community,
- encouraging a collaborative relationship between the school division staff and community,
- becoming knowledgeable about current programs, research, and best practices in gifted education and its relationship with regular education,
- focusing attention on issues related to improving the educational services for gifted students, and
- submitting written recommendations to the Superintendent and the School Board.

Members are appointed by the School Board for a term of three years. Voting members of the committee include twelve members representing parents of students in the gifted program, community representatives, and business leaders.

If you are interested in adding your name to the list of potential members of the Gifted Education CAC, please e-mail the director of the Office of Gifted Education and Academy programs, Mary Ann Burritt ([mburritt@vbschools.com](mailto:mburritt@vbschools.com)), or call the office at 263-1405.

### Gifted Education Community Advisory Committee Schedule of Meetings for 2005-2006 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

#### November 14, 2005

Tallwood High School  
1668 Kempsville Road  
Virginia Beach, VA 23464  
*Overview of Global Studies and  
World Languages Academy*

#### December (no meeting)

#### January 9, 2006

Kemps Landing Magnet School  
4722 Jericho Road  
Virginia Beach, VA 23462  
*Overview of Kemps Landing Magnet School*

#### February 13, 2006

Contemporary Art Center of Virginia  
*Overview of Governor's School for the Arts*

#### March 13, 2006

John B. Dey Elementary School  
1900 N. Great Neck Road  
Virginia Beach, VA 23454  
*Overview of the Gifted Resource  
Program Transitions*

#### April 17, 2006

(Spring Break: April 10 - 14)  
TBD

*Overview of the Middle Years Program  
& International Baccalaureate Program*

#### May 9, 2006

School Administration Building, Room 113  
Prepare Annual Report

#### June 13, 2006

School Administration Building, Room 113  
Review Report with the School Board

# Sports Fans Cheer for School Division's New Football Program

It's fourth and goal. The home team is poised to score the game winning touchdown. You sit on the edge of your seat waiting to see what happens next. Surprisingly, you aren't at the football field. You're seeing all the high school football sports action right at your desk.

Since the beginning of football season Virginia Beach City Public Schools has been teaming up with WTKR, Newschannel 3, to bring you a weekly high school football highlights show. *The Locker Room* features the big plays and interviews from each school's game, every week.

The best part is that even though football season is just about over, you can still go back and review the action. Log on to the school division Web site, [www.vbschools.com](http://www.vbschools.com), and click on the **Locker Room** in the "E-facts" section. That will take you to the published football schedule and the streaming video from games gone by.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for fans that can't make it to every game to keep up with their neighborhood teams," says Bruce Phelps, Student Activities Coordinator for the school division. "The show recognizes the outstanding achievements of our student athletes and helps build support and pride throughout the community."

If you prefer to call the plays from the comfort of your coach, you also can watch *The Locker Room* each week on television. The program airs 29 times a week on VBT, cable channels 47 and 48. For airtime, check the Sunday edition of the *Beacon*.

## It's a blue ribbon for Hermitage Elementary School!

"We are thrilled! Hermitage Elementary was selected as a National No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon school, and we were one of only seven public schools in Virginia to be so honored," said Kathleen Starr, principal of Hermitage.

According to Starr, Hermitage was chosen for this national award as a direct result of their fantastic record of student achievement on the Standards of Learning tests. Hermitage students posted scores that rank in the top 10 percent of schools across the Commonwealth.

Even more impressive, students not only passed the SOL tests with great scores, but they were high enough to qualify for "pass advanced" status. For example, in third grade, 75 percent of students passed at the advanced level in math, with several classes having all students pass advanced. In history, 67 percent of students passed at the advanced level, and in science, it was 51 percent passing advanced. Fifth-grade students also had great results with 54 percent passing advanced in writing, 47 percent passing advanced in English, and 63 percent passing advanced in history.

When asked how students scored at such high levels, principal Starr gave credit to every person who is part of the Hermitage School Community. "Students, teachers, administrators, support staff, parents – everyone acted in concert with one another so that students not only learned the material, but they mastered it at an advanced level," said Starr. "We are so very proud. As a school we have developed a common mission and vision that we believe benefits all students. Knowing we have a high mobility rate, we implemented research-based instructional practices on a schoolwide basis so that all children will learn. Our students absolutely excelled. Our results alone were outstanding, but then to have been awarded Blue Ribbon status is so very gratifying. Receiving this award under-

lines the effectiveness and success that has resulted from the teaching and learning that is occurring at Hermitage Elementary."

Public schools were selected for Blue Ribbon status based on one of two criteria: at least 40 percent of their students were from disadvantaged backgrounds and they dramatically improved student performance on state tests; or, their students, regardless of background, achieved in the top 10 percent of their state on state tests. In addition, all schools had to have made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and be fully accredited.

Principal Kathleen Starr and Michelle Redick, Reading Resource teacher, will attend a special Blue Ribbon awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., on November 10th and 11th. At that time, U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings will honor the winning schools with a plaque and a flag signifying their Blue Ribbon status.

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program was established in 1982 to spotlight the country's most successful schools. The program was renamed and modified last year to emphasize the goals of No Child Left Behind. Schools must now be nominated for the award by their state departments of education rather than being allowed to self-nominate as was formerly the case.

Look for photos of Hermitage Elementary School's plaque and flag signifying their Blue Ribbon status in a future issue!



## Two great resources to keep you informed about school closings and delays due to inclement weather!

In case of snow, visit **vbschools.com** for the most up-to-date information on school cancellations or delays. By subscribing to **vbschools x-tra**, you now have the option of being notified of school closings and cancellations through your cell phone. To receive school closing or cancellation notices via a cell phone, subscribers must have text messaging service from their wireless carrier.

You can subscribe to **vbschools x-tra** on the home page of the school division's Web site, **vbschools.com!**

## We Want to Hear from You! Yes, you!

Apple-A-Day readers are encouraged to send their comments, ideas or suggestions about existing and possible stories to the editor, Yolanda Jones-Howell, by calling 263-1202 or by e-mailing to [yhowell@vbschools.com](mailto:yhowell@vbschools.com).

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