

Gifted and Talented Bulletin

Director's Note

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Office of Gifted Education and Curriculum Development

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As surprising as it is that the 2013-2014 school year is coming to a close, it may not surprise you that planning for the 2013-2014 school year has already begun. Multiple activities and advocacy opportunities are on the horizon.

In October, the Virginia Association for the Gifted (VAG) will hold its conference in Williamsburg, VA. For information, please go to <http://www.vagifted.org/conference2013.html>.

As part of the conference, Saturday sessions designed for parents will be offered. Details will be available on the above

site. Parent are invited to join the VAG by using this link <http://www.vagifted.org/membership.html>.

In addition, if you are on Facebook, the VAG posts articles and links that you may find interesting and informative. You will definitely 'like' this page! <https://www.facebook.com/VAGifted>.

In this newsletter you will find a link to information about the consolidated Kemps Landing/Old Donation Center building. Please stay informed on the building's progress.

This edition of the newsletter highlights two Outstanding Teachers of the Gifted recognized by Virginia Beach and sent to VAG Region 2 for recognition. You'll enjoy reading about Mrs. Kilczewski and Mrs. Reddick, our extraordinary nominees.

You will also enjoy a glimpse into cluster classrooms through the School Spotlight feature on page three.

As always, thank you for your support of gifted programs in Virginia Beach. Please do not hesitate to contact or blog with us – we look forward to hearing from you!

Gifted Education Community Advisory Committee

If you are interested in serving on the Gifted Education Community Advisory Committee (CAC), please call the Office of Gifted Education and Curriculum Development at 263-1405. The committee needs representation from the Green Run attendance zone and will have vacancies for the Kempsville and Cox attendance zones on July 1, 2013. See page four for additional information about the CAC.

Update: Blog and Parent Resources

While not burning up the blogosphere as of yet, we are hopeful that participation will increase on our new webpage and blog, *Conversations: The Gifted Learner*. You can find it at vbcpsgift-edprograms.weebly.com. Survey data indicate a desire to update the blog once a month, so that will be the target. Please let us know if you have ideas for the site.

The Office of Gifted Education and Curriculum Development supports the concept of "Go Green." Over 3,200 subscribers receive notification each

time the newest edition of the electronic newsletter is available for reading. If you are not currently a subscriber, click on the small icon at the top right of the homepage where it says "sign up for email updates," scroll down to find the *Gifted and Talented Bulletin*, enter your email address, and you will receive an email notice, too.

The link, <http://blogtopractice.weebly.com/index.html>, will take you to a webpage on Motivation designed to assist parents and their

children. Please see more information on this resource on page 2.

Take a moment to complete the survey included on the blog's main page, chat on the *Conversations* page or on the *Motivation* page, and help us advocate for gifted learners.

We look forward to hearing from you!



Inside this issue:

2013 Virginia Beach Outstanding Teachers of the Gifted: Lisa Kilczewski and Shelly Reddick	2
Online Parent Resource: Motivation for Accomplishment Website	2
News You Can Use/School Spotlight	3
Community Advisory Committee for Gifted Education	4
Volunteer to be a part of the creation of the 2015-2020 Local Plan for the Education of the Gifted	4

Kilczewski and Reddick Named Virginia Beach Outstanding Teachers of the Gifted

Each year the Virginia Association for the Gifted (VAG) selects regional outstanding teachers of the gifted. Virginia Beach City Public Schools selects two nominees to represent the city. This year our two Outstanding Teachers of the Gifted are Lisa Kilczewski and Shelly Reddick.

As a gifted teacher at Kemps Landing Magnet school, a full-time school for middle school gifted students, **Lisa Kilczewski** is highly regarded for her dedication to gifted learners. Her ability to relate to the needs of gifted students makes her responsive in the classroom, providing experiences that are relevant, yet rigorous. Mrs. Kilczewski takes time to conference one-on-one with students, communicate regularly with parents, and collaborate with peers to be certain that the academic and social and emotional needs of gifted students are being met. One of her eighth grade advanced English students said, "I am convinced that Mrs. Kilczewski does not look across the room and see a class, she sees a room full of individuals. I cannot remember any specific time she gave everyone the same assignment. She always gives us choices, choices for the artist, the analyst, and the animated. Even when we are working in groups, we are given choices among different areas of study."

Mrs. Kilczewski is a leader among her colleagues. In curriculum development

and as a role model for high quality instruction, she has helped improve the quality of teaching and learning throughout all classrooms at Kemps Landing Magnet School. Lisa Kilczewski is an extraordinary teacher of the gifted.

As a gifted teacher at Old Donation Center, a full-time school for elementary gifted students, **Shelly C. Reddick** has distinguished herself as an outstanding teacher of the gifted. Mrs. Reddick is masterful in developing and adapting curriculum in order to meet both the cognitive and affective needs of gifted learners. Her enthusiasm for fostering a growth mindset in gifted learners through the use of goal setting and reflection is evident in the opportunities she provides for her students. During the writing process, Mrs. Reddick's students are actively engaged in the critical/analytical examination of their work and the work of their peers. As work is presented, other students in the class use multiple resources including notes on the genre of writing and rubrics to shape their feedback to the writers. Mrs. Reddick explains, "Through this process of critical evaluation, feedback, and goal setting, students' paradigms begin to shift. By allowing students to prioritize and set person-

al goals, we begin to sow the seeds of a growth mindset."

Shelly C. Reddick is an exemplary teacher of the gifted.



Shelly Reddick (right) accepts congratulations from Old Donation Center principal Gloria Harris.



Lisa Kilczewski (left) is congratulated by Chuck Foster, principal, Kemps Landing Magnet School.

Motivation for Accomplishment Website and Parent Workshop

The Motivation for Accomplishment website was released in mid-January to Virginia Beach parents of gifted students and has had well over 6,000 visitors. The website was developed by the parents and educators of the Parent Institute Committee for the Office of Gifted Education and Curriculum Development. It is designed to be used either as a reference source or as an opportunity to develop a broad understanding of what we know about the complexities of motivation. A variety of strategies are available on this website for parents as they seek to discover what works for their children. Go to <http://blogtopractice.weebly.com/>.

On May 2, gifted resource teachers (GRT) Jill Reid, Caitlin Kaminski, and Missy Sullivan along with Bill Goff, a specialist

for the gifted program, discussed the website with over 200 parents at Virginia Beach Middle School (VBMS). The bring-your-own-device workshop and the website were both highly rated by parents who completed an online survey after the event. Nearly all of the parents who responded to our survey reported they would highly recommend the website to parents who are struggling to keep their children motivated.

Two comments recurred frequently. First, parents reported it was a tremendous relief to learn they were not the only ones struggling with a child's motivation. Second, they told us the online planning tool is proving to be informative and helpful to

them. In fact, you may want to start your exploration of the site by first reviewing the Motivation Planning Tool at: <http://blogtopractice.weebly.com/motivation-planning-tool.html>.

The presenters were assisted by the GRT at VBMS, Sarah Allard, and other VBMS staff members, including John Fox, Gary Viado, and Joanne Pruett. Kyle C., a student there, provided much-appreciated technical guidance. We also thank Dr. Sandra Brown, the VBMS principal, for her support and the support of her staff.

If you have questions or if you are interested in participating on the Parent Institute Committee, please contact Dr. Goff at wgoff@vbschools.com.

★ News You Can Use ★ School Spotlight ★

New this year, *The Gifted and Talented Bulletin's* "News You Can Use/School Spotlight," will provide information and showcase happenings and events throughout the gifted program. Information on these and other schools is available on each school's website. Visit vbschools.com to access the school links and read more! Have a recommendation for the spotlight? Let us know on the *Conversations* blog.



At Landstown Elementary School, hard work has really been paying off in 2nd and 3rd grades. Students have been discussing literature through literature circles. Students in both classes completed a novel study that features gifted characters. Second graders read *Frindle* by Andrew Clements and third graders completed *Someday Angeline* by Louis Sachar.

In both books, the protagonist is a student with gifted characteristics who experiences some challenges because they are perceived as being different. Each week, students were given reading assignments and roles such as Discussion Director or Vocabulary Enricher. They then worked individually to complete the chapters and prepare for their roles. When they came together in their small groups, they conducted their discussions with their classmates, their teacher, Mrs. Haberdash, and Mrs. Cabotaje, the gifted resource teacher (GRT). Though difficult at first, lots of practice resulted in rich discussions led by the students themselves!

In addition, students have become great bloggers. Several times during the novels, students were asked to log on to their class blog where Mrs. Cabotaje posted a question relevant to the novel. Students responded to the teachers' questions as well as at least one other student's comment. With a blog writing rubric to guide them, students became better at giving evidence for their opinions, building on the comments of others, and writing in a style that is mature and appealing to others while also checking their punctuation, spelling and grammar.

The children have recognized the benefits of the process and the ways in which they've grown. At the end of a recent discussion in second grade, one student said,

"Now that our group talking has become so good, it's taken our thinking so much higher!" Another agreed and said, "I'd rather be doing literature circle than running around outside! When you're doing it [discussing literature], there's something happening."

Through the use of literature circles and novel studies, not only are students learning to read and respond to challenging literature, they are also being exposed to characters who are bright kids like themselves who may think and feel a little differently from other kids their age. It's an opportunity for teachers to help them see that their characteristics are what make them who they are!



At Salem Middle School, Mrs. Fleischer's grade 6 social studies class stepped back in time to the hot summer of 1787. Students analyzed 1700 census data to determine how issues such as representation in Congress and taxation would impact individual states as they took on the role of delegates during the Constitutional Convention. Key delegates, such as James Madison, Roger Sherman, William Patterson and George Mason, tried to sway the delegates to adopt their plans or point of view on the issues of the day. Mrs. Freeman, GRT, presided over the contentious debate in the role of George Washington, while Mrs. Fleischer used the iPad to video record students' responses. At the end of the two-day simulation, the class debriefed comparing their outcomes to the outcomes of the actual Convention. Students reflected on the themes of conflict and compromise and examined how generalization statements applied to what they had learned. They also made connections to future events, such as the issues and conflicts between states that would eventually lead to the Civil War.



At Cox High School, teachers and students are seeing the benefits of working with Sandra Kaplan's Depth and Complexity Model in the classroom.

History teacher, Mr. Hahn, and Mrs. Roberson, GRT, co-taught a World History

I lesson on Hammurabi's Code. Students conducted small group discussions utilizing the Depth and Complexity Model to explore the multiple perspectives of Babylonian citizens of the time period. Students explored questions such as: What dilemmas or controversies are involved in the Code of Hammurabi? What elements can be identified that reflect bias, prejudice, discrimination?

Mrs. Clark's biology class completed a performance-based assessment where students were challenged to "think like a professional" in the field of ecology, zoology or genetics. Each student chose a critical issue in their field of choice and assumed the role of a professional who must propose a solution and persuade an audience to support it. Additionally, the students will be encouraged to extend their learning with a service project involving a community organization that shares their mission. This project infused the gifted pedagogy of the *Parallel Curriculum Model* (Identity and Practice) as well as Sandra Kaplan's Depth and Complexity Model.

Through this enhanced instruction, gifted students were given the opportunity to reach gifted benchmarks targeting critical thinking skill development in an authentic way.



KLMS and ODC Building Consolidation

Updates on the consolidation are available at http://www.vbschools.com/school_renovation/schools/OldDonation-KempsLandingES.asp. Information will be updated as the process continues.

Application Information

For easy access to applications for Old Donation Center (ODC), Kemps Landing Magnet School, and for academy and advanced academic programs, please visit <http://www.vbschools.com/curriculum/appprocess/>. Information for the 2014-2015 school year will be posted in the fall. You can sign up to be notified when the applications are available. Visit Vbschools.com x-tra for more information.

Office of Gifted Education and Curriculum Development

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Check out vbschools.com for more information!

Gifted Education Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

The purpose of the Gifted Education Community Advisory Committee is to advise the School Board of the educational needs of all gifted students in the school division. The duties and responsibilities of the Gifted Education Community Advisory Committee are to:

- review annually the local plan for the education of gifted students, including revisions.
- determine the extent to which the local plan for the previous year was implemented.
- develop annual goals and priorities.
- represent the community.
- encourage a collaborative relationship between school division staff and the community.
- become knowledgeable about current programs, research, and best practices in gifted education and its relationship with general education.
- focus attention on issues relative to improving the educational services for gifted students.
- submit recommendations of the advisory committee in writing to the Superintendent and the School Board.

Gifted Education Community Advisory Committee

Lisa Burns	Salem
Yoon Do	At-large
Leigh Drake	Ex-officio, Arts
James Gillies	First Colonial
Kelly Hedrick	Ex-officio, Administration
Shekita Howard, Chair	Princess Anne
Gary Krinberg	Ocean Lakes
MaryAnn Magnant	Landstown
Tonia McCree	Ex-officio, Middle School Resource
Rose O'Neill	Ex-officio, High School Resource
Helen Pryor	Tallwood
July 1 Vacancy	Kempsville
Beth Schlossberg	Ex-officio, Elementary School Resource
July 1 Vacancy	Cox
Gary Webster	Kellam
Matthew Wrocklage	Student Representative
Dorcas Zuniga	Bayside
Vacant	Green Run

Meeting Dates	Site
June 10, 2013	School Administration Building Building #6 2512 George Mason Drive Virginia Beach, VA 23456

All CAC meetings begin at 6:30 PM

Opportunity Available

Interested in being a part of the development of the Virginia Beach City Public Schools Local Plan for the Education of the Gifted 2015–2020?

- Next year begins the process of developing this plan. Parents, teachers, and administrators are invited to participate. Please call 263-1405 for more information and to volunteer. More information will be forthcoming. The 2010–2015 Local Plan is available [here](#).

The Virginia Beach City Public Schools prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, pregnancy and childbirth, or marital status. School Board policies and supporting regulation (Policies 2-33, 4-4, 5-7, and 6-7 and Regulation 5-44.1) provide equal access to courses, programs, counseling services, physical education and athletics, vocational education, instructional materials, and extracurricular activities. Violations of these policies should be reported to the Director of Student Leadership at (757) 263-2020 or the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources at (757) 263-1133.

Alternative formats of this publication which may include taped, Braille, or large print materials are available upon request for individuals with disabilities. Call or write Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Director of the Office of Gifted Education and Curriculum Development, Virginia Beach City Public Schools, 2512 George Mason Drive, P.O. Box 6038, Virginia Beach, VA 23456-0038. Telephone (757) 263-1405; fax (757) 263-1424; (757) 263-1240 (TDD) or email at KellyA.Hedrick@vbschools.com.

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For further information, please contact the Office of Gifted Education and Curriculum Development (757) 263-1405.*

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