

Poetry Out Loud Next Friday

A dozen George Mason High School students, three each from grades 9-12, have advanced to the school-wide competition next week of Poetry Out Loud. The annual contest is set for Friday, January 8th at 1:30 p.m. in the George Mason Auditorium.

Winners of the school-wide competition advance to the state competition and could ultimately go to the national finals in April.

Winners of the grade-level competition, and the poems they performed are:

9th grade

Julia Estrada – “We Wear the Mask” by Paul Laurence Dunbar
 Honora Overby – “Time Does Not Bring Relief: You All Have Lied”
 by Edna St. Vincent Millay
 Brittany Thompson – “No Moon Floods the Memory of that Night”
 by Etheridge Knight

10th grade

Rachel Dix – “The Pomegranate and the Big Crowd” by Alberto Ríos
 Stephan Cotner – “Mother to Son” by Langston Hughes
 Claire Constance – “Doña Josefina Counsels Doña Concepción Before Entering Sears” by Maurice Kilwein Guevara

11th grade

Matthew Baker – “The Fire Fetched Down” by George Bradley
 Katie Breen – “A Psalm of Life” by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
 Nadine Coupard – “Time Does Not Bring Relief: You All Have Lied”
 by Edna St. Vincent Millay

12th grade

Rebecca Ward – “Conversation” by Ai
 Miles Butler – “Requests for Toy Piano” by Tony Hoagland
 Julia Douglas – “Kissing Stieglitz Good-bye” by Gerald Stern



Winners of the grade-level Poetry Out Loud competition show off their certificates as they prepare for the finals next week.

Fundraisers Benefit Mason Musicians

A flurry of fall fundraisers has done much to fill the coffers of musicians planning to travel to the Magic Kingdom this spring.

The George Mason High School Band will be competing in Orlando, Florida at a cost of \$600 per student. To raise the

money, many musicians have involved themselves in various fundraisers in recent weeks; from selling tickets to a pancake breakfast at Applebee's to holiday poinsettias and wreaths. In addition, some students participated in M.U.S.I.C. days, where they helped out Falls Church citizens with jobs such as mowing lawns and raking leaves for donations.

Last year, the band traveled to New York to compete, and in 2008 the destination was Atlanta, Georgia.



The George Mason High School Band will compete in Orlando, Florida this spring thanks in part to generous donations made in recent fundraisers.

Lights Go Off for Winter Break

Division-wide energy savings are in effect over the 11-day winter break.

Lights in all Falls Church City public schools will be turned off, computers and electrical appliances will be turned off and unplugged and heating systems will be turned down in an effort to reduce utility costs and to conserve energy.

The only exceptions will be in the main offices, gyms and building areas where the day care programs operate during the winter break.

IB Forum/Awards Rescheduled

Due to the Blizzard of '09 the International Baccalaureate Forum and Awards program has been rescheduled:

January 7th, 2009

IB Forum – 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

IB Awards – 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

George Mason Auditorium



Calendar for

December 31, 2009 - January 7, 2010

December

31 Winter Break (Schools Closed/Day Care Open)

January

1 New Year's Day (Schools Closed/Day Care Closed)

2 6:30 p.m. Mason @ Potomac Falls (B Basketball)

4 Schools Reopen

6:00 p.m. EIP/HEP Tutoring

7:00 p.m. Special Education Advisory Committee (TJ)

6 7:30 p.m. Mason @ Manassas Park (B Basketball)

7:30 p.m. Mason @ Briar Woods (G Basketball)

7:30 p.m. PTSA (GM)

7 1:30 p.m. IB Forum (GM)

4:00 p.m. IB Awards (GM)

7:00 p.m. 7th Grade Band Concert (MEH)

7:30 p.m. Manassas Park @ Mason (G Basketball)

For more calendar information, visit www.fccps.org/calendar.

(MD) Mt. Daniel School (TJ) Thomas Jefferson Elementary

(MEH) Mary Ellen Henderson Middle

(GM) George Mason High (CO) Central Office

www.fccps.org - The official site for Falls Church City Public Schools news



BIE Partner of the Week

David and Amy Starr

Beanetics Coffee Roasters

School involvement: Assisted George Mason High School with fundraiser coffee sales to support the high school music program.

Why David and Amy are BIE partners: “Beanetics is in Falls Church every week at the Falls Church Farmers Market. We're honored to be part of such a great community and happy to support the George Mason High School Music Program by roasting its own 'Mustang Blend' coffee.”

For more information about sharing your expertise through the BIE Partnership, visit www.fccps.org or contact Marybeth Connelly at connellym@fccps.org.



Foundation Footnotes

Deadline for FCEF teacher grants is January 15th



The Falls Church Education Foundation provides grant funding for projects that maintain high standards of learning, support innovation and encourage creativity. Since 2004, the foundation has awarded \$40,000 for 27 teacher grant projects benefitting nearly 3000 students. For more information about the FCEF grants program and application information, visit www.fcedf.org and click on “For FCCPS Educators”.

The Falls Church Education Foundation is a registered 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization.

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