

Mustang Scholastic Bowl Team Takes Regular Season

The George Mason scholastic bowl team heads for the Bull Run District tournament this week full of confidence; and with good reason. The team swept all 15 of its matches this year without a single loss. Its latest two wins came last week in same-day, back-to-back victories over Madison County and Clarke County.

Heading into the district tournament Saturday, January 30th, at Rappahannock County High School, the Mustangs are hoping to avenge their 2nd place showing last year; the first year in a decade in which they weren't district champions.

The team is currently averaging 322 points-per-game; more than 100 points higher than at this point during last year's season.



The GMHS Scholastic Bowl team. Front row: (l to r) Anuraag Sensharma, Jakob Hand, Mary Ma. Back row: Jonathan Ross, Asher Morse (captain), Ross Wilson and James Scharff (sponsor).

BBC Features GMHS Autistic Graduate

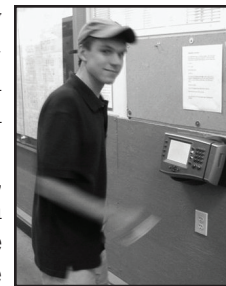
Like most fathers, Robin Bray takes pride in touting the accomplishments of his son, John Paul, a 2006 George Mason High School graduate.

"He's not a doctor or a lawyer, just a shopping cart collector; a simple but necessary job that he found despite the downturn in the economy."

John Paul, who is autistic, is working in Charlotte, North Carolina and loving every minute of it. "His job is his social life," Bray said, "and it is hard for me to get him to take time off for a vacation."

Bray captured John Paul's work experience in a series of moving photographs that proved to be so inspirational, they are being featured by the BBC this month in a slideshow called: "In pictures: His own man."

To view the images now being seen around the world, visit: www.fccps.org/bbc.



GMHS 2006 alum John Paul Bray. "I'm not autistic. I'm a hard working young man."

FCC-TV Spotlight: Digging To China

Tune in to Falls Church Community Television (FCC-TV) to watch *Digging to China*. The show provides a detailed view into the issues surrounding modern day China and airs on FCC-TV at the following times:



- Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.
- Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday at 7:00 p.m.

You can now see FCC-TV programming live at www.fccvtv.net anywhere in the world! FCC-TV also airs in the greater Falls Church area on Cox Channel 12, Verizon Channel 35 and RCN Channel 2.



BIE Partner of the Week Mike Brumagin Flippin' Pizza

School involvement: Worked with George Mason High School principal Ty Byrd to raise more than \$800 for the GMHS Haiti relief efforts; donated 2010 birthday card coupons to all FCCPS staff.

Why Mike is a BIE partner: "The Falls Church community responded with great generosity to this fundraiser for Haiti, and we are glad to have been part of the first of many Falls Church events that will raise money for this important cause."



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

Gift expands collection of learning materials for elementary students

A generous gift from a private donor will be used to purchase learning materials at Mt. Daniel and Thomas Jefferson Elementary Schools. The funding is being shared equally between the two schools to support the Primary Years Program's (PYP) "Units of Inquiry."

The Falls Church Education Foundation is a registered 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization. For more information visit www.fcedf.org or contact Donna Englander at (703) 538-3381.



School content published in *The Schools Focus* is written and edited by the Falls Church City Public Schools. For more information, contact the Falls Church City Public Schools Communications Office. Phone: (703) 248-5699 Fax: (703) 248-5613.

Special Education Study

The Falls Church City Public Schools conducts regularly scheduled studies for each major program area. The Special Education Study will begin in February 2010. Two parents from the elementary, middle and high school levels are asked to participate in this comprehensive review process.

If you are interested in serving on this committee, or desire more information, please contact Elizabeth Mackie, Director of Special Education, 800 W. Broad Street, Suite 203, 703-248-5630, or emackie@fccps.org.

Calendar for January 28 - February 4, 2010

Testing

- 1/28 Midterm Exams (GM)
- 2/4-8 IB English Oral Exams (GM)

January

- 28 End of 2nd Quarter
6:00 p.m. McLean @ Mason (Wrestling)
7:30 p.m. Family Life Education Adv. Committee (CO)
- 29 Professional Day (Schools Closed/Day Care Open)
- 30 10:00 a.m. Mason @ Bull Run District Championship (Scholastic Bowl) (Rappahannock Co.)
10:00 a.m. George Mason Dual Tournament (Wrestling) (GM)
5:45 p.m. Broad Run @ Mason - (Swimming)

February

- 1 Professional Day (Schools Closed/Day Care Open)
6:00 p.m. EIP / HEP Tutoring
7:30 p.m. Potomac Falls @ Mason (G Basketball)
- 2 3rd Quarter Ends
7:00 p.m. Potential School Board Work Session
7:30 p.m. Mason @ Madison County (B Basketball)
- 3 7:00 p.m. Faculty vs. Student Basketball Game (GM) (Haiti Relief Fundraiser)
7:30 p.m. Mason @ Madison County (G Basketball)
7:30 p.m. PTSA (GM)
- 4 7:45 p.m. Clarke Co. @ Mason (B 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

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