

# GMHS Grades and Attendance Now Online

George Mason students and their parents now have access to AccessGM, a new online student information system. AccessGM is a password-protected learning management resource that offers real-time assessment and attendance data as well as student grades and assignments.

"I think it's fantastic," said Susan Jinks, technology coordinator at George Mason. "As a student, I would always want to know where I stand in a class."

Login instructions were sent with interim report cards earlier this week to homes of high school students. Administrators hope AccessGM will be used by students and their parents to stay connected to the academic program and to improve student performance.

**Spring Jewelry Event**  
to benefit GMHS All Night Graduation  
**Thursday, March 18th - 7:00 p.m.**  
904 Park Ave, Falls Church Info: 703-973-2071

**FCC-TV Spotlight: Chamber of Commerce Gala**

Tune in to Falls Church City Television (FCC-TV) to see the *Falls Church City Chamber of Commerce Gala*. This yearly event celebrates the business community of Falls Church City. You can catch the entire awards ceremony from the *Chamber of Commerce Gala* on FCC-TV at the following times:

- Friday, March 12 at 5:00 p.m.
- Saturday, March 13 at 4:00 p.m.
- Monday, March 15 at 4:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 16 at 4:30 p.m.

You can now see FCC-TV programming live at [www.fctv.net](http://www.fctv.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**  
**Janet Barrett**  
and **Anne Constant**  
**Falls Church Jazzercise**



**School involvement:** Participated in the Thomas Jefferson Elementary Get Fit program by teaching a Jazzercise class to students.

**Why Falls Church Jazzercise is a BIE partner:** "We're pleased to contribute to the Get Fit program. Teaching Jazzercise to elementary students was a unique and fun experience. It's a great way to show children how to fit fitness into their lives."



For more information about sharing your expertise through the BIE Partnership, visit [www.fccps.org](http://www.fccps.org) or contact Marybeth Connelly at [connellym@fccps.org](mailto:connellym@fccps.org).

**Foundation Footnotes**

**Jazz vocalist Ericka Ovette to perform at Annual Dinner**



World renowned jazz singer and composer, Ericka Ovette, will accompany the George Mason High School Jazz Ensemble at this year's fundraising dinner on April 23rd to benefit the Falls Church Education Foundation. Ericka frequently performs at local venues such as Blues Alley, Smithsonian's Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden and Workhouse Arts Center. Her vocal style is evocative of the great ladies of jazz including Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald and Sarah Vaughan. Event tickets are \$100 per person, \$190 per couple. To order, visit [www.fcedf.org/celebration.html](http://www.fcedf.org/celebration.html).

The Falls Church Education Foundation is a registered 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization. For more information, visit [www.fcedf.org](http://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, visit [www.fccps.org](http://www.fccps.org) - the official site for Falls Church City Public Schools news.

## GMHS Robotics Team Wins Silver

The Mustang Robotics team turned in an impressive performance at the FIRST robotics regional competition in Washington, D.C. this past Saturday. The team was performing very well throughout the competition until one of its partners broke a drive chain and could not fix it in the time out periods the judges allowed. Despite the setback, Mason finished with the silver medal and the Gracious Professionalism trophy, which recognizes the team's efforts to help other teams complete their programming during the competition and for its efforts to sponsor training sessions for the entire D.C. robotics alliance last December.

The next challenge for the Mustang Robotics team is the upcoming Virginia regional competition in Richmond. The Mason team hopes to improve its record against 63 other schools.

## Mt. Daniel Travels to Gooseberry Park

For the next month, Mount Daniel School students, teachers and parents will be taking a trip to *Gooseberry Park* in a heartwarming and hilarious adventure to reunite a family of squirrels separated by an ice storm. The book, by Newbery Medal winning author Cynthia Rylant, is this year's selection for Mount Daniel's annual "Read Aloud" program.

Beginning this week, teachers will read the first chapter of the book. Parents, who have received a copy of the book to keep, are asked to re-read the chapter to their children that night and then follow a similar schedule through mid-April.

"If they stay on schedule, the children will be prepared to have a conversation and meaningful discussion in their classrooms each day about what has been read," said Mt. Daniel Principal Kathy Halayko.

It is important that parents stick to the schedule and not read ahead. "We want the surprise adventures of *Gooseberry Park* to be known by everyone at the same time," said language arts teacher Carol Monsess.

While the children will be delighted by the adventures of Kona, a chocolate Lab and his friends Stumpy the squirrel and Murray, a wise-cracking bat, parents will find enjoyable exchanges as well.

"Are you nocturnal?" Kona asks. "No. I'm a democrat," Murray replies.

## Calendar for March 11-17, 2010

Testing		
3/15 - 4/9	WIDA Access for ELLs (All Schools)	
March		
11	5:00 p.m.	Stuart High @ Mason - Scrimmage (G Lacrosse)
	6:30 p.m.	Stuart High @ Mason - Scrimmage (B Lacrosse)
	7:30 p.m.	Joint Meeting - School Board/City Council/Planning Comm. (City Hall)
12	7:45 a.m.	Parent Teacher Mini Conferences (GM)
	7:30 p.m.	Hayfield Secondary @ Mason - Scrimmage (B Soccer)
13	2:00 p.m.	Mason @ Heritage High (Baseball)
15	4:00 p.m.	Mason @ Yorktown (G Tennis)
	4:00 p.m.	Yorktown @ Mason (B Tennis)
	5:00 p.m.	Broad Run @ Mason (Baseball)
	6:00 p.m.	Mason @ Falls Church High (Softball)
16	7:00 p.m.	Mason @ Herndon (B Soccer)
	7:30 p.m.	South Lakes @ Mason (G Soccer)
17	4:00 p.m.	Mason @ Brentsville District (B Tennis)
	4:00 p.m.	Brentsville District @ Mason (G Tennis)
	6:00 p.m.	Trinity School @ Mason (B Lacrosse)
	7:00 p.m.	Extended Day Care Advisory Board (TJ)
	7:00 p.m.	Elementary PTA (TJ)

For more calendar information, visit [www.fccps.org/calendar](http://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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