

Leadership to Change at Thomas Jefferson Elementary School

When the 2009-2010 school year ends, Thomas Jefferson Elementary School Principal Vincent Baxter will say so long to the Falls Church City Public Schools. Baxter shared his decision with the TJ faculty and staff Tuesday afternoon, and the school board formally accepted his resignation at its regular meeting Tuesday night. Baxter's last day with the FCCPS will be June 30th.

"I've had four wonderful years here in Falls Church City," Baxter said. "My decision to leave is personal and stems from a desire to work a little closer to home so that I can be more involved with my own children's lives as well as the lives of the students I serve in school."

Baxter's tenure with the FCCPS began in 2006 when he signed on as Assistant Principal of Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School. Two years later, he succeeded retiring Principal Trudy Taylor at Thomas Jefferson Elementary School.

While Taylor was among those who helped spearhead exploration of the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program (PYP) for the division's elementary schools, Baxter was charged with implementing



Vincent Baxter

it at Thomas Jefferson Elementary School. Under his leadership, the faculty and staff have been developing the first phase of implementation as they work toward formal recognition as an International Baccalaureate school.

In an effort to ensure a smooth transition at Thomas Jefferson, Superintendent Lois Berlin said that Assistant Principal Bob Palermo will be promoted to principal, and the school's PYP coordinator, Mary Kay Howard, will assume additional responsibilities as the assistant principal. Berlin shared that message with the school's faculty and staff Wednesday morning.

"At this critical time, it is important that there's a continuum," Berlin said. "Mr. Palermo and Ms. Howard have been a part of the school culture for many years, they are well-respected by the faculty, staff, students and parents, and they are well-versed in PYP and its attributes. All of this will help ensure a smooth transition at TJ."

GM Hosts Iron Chef Competition

The final exam in the George Mason High School Gourmet Cooking class doesn't involve essays, multiple choice or fill-in-the-blank questions. Instead it is a team Iron Chef Competition.

Over the course of two days, four teams created sweet and savory dishes using the "secret" ingredients of sour cream and carrots. In the first competition, the groups created Italian Nachos-Restaurant Style, Sour Cream Coffee Cake, Blue Cheese Potato Cakes and Raspberry Sour Cream Tart. The second bake-off featured carrot dishes including Grilled Beef and Vegetables in a Lettuce Wrap, Roasted Carrot and Fennel Soup and Carrot Apple Muffins.

Judges included GMHS teachers Jon Pepper and Sarah Meservey, assistant principal Paige Whitlock, FCCPS food service supervisor Richard Kane and restaurant owners Hedi Ben-Abdallah and Marco Escudero of the Idylwood Grill.

The overall favorite dish was the raspberry sour cream tart created by freshmen Alex Gann and Paula O'Rourke, and sophomore Nicole Philbin.



(l to r) Paula O'Rourke, Nicole Philbin, and Alex Gann show off their GM Iron Chef Competition winning Raspberry Sour Cream Tart dessert.

Calendar for May 28-June 4, 2010

Testing

- Now - 28 PALS Post Test (MD/TJ)
- Now - 6/4 DRA/QRI Posttest (MD/TJ)
- Now - 6-4 SOL (TJ/MEH/GM)

May

- 27 5:30 p.m. FCCPS Retirement Ceremony (MEH)
- 7:00 p.m. Mason @ Bull Run District Final (G Soccer)
- 7:30 p.m. Family Life Education Advisory Committee (MEH)
- 28 11:30 a.m. School Board Luncheon (TJ)
- 29 12:00 p.m. Mason @ Region B Semifinals (B/G Tennis)
- 31 Memorial Day (Schools Closed/Day Care Closed)

June

- 1 12:00 p.m. School Board Luncheon (MEH)
- 7:00 p.m. School Board Work Session (CO)
- 2 7:00 p.m. Award Ceremonies (GM)
- 7:00 p.m. Band Concert (TJ)
- 7:30 p.m. PTSA (GM)
- 3 7:00 p.m. Rising 5th Grade Parent Tour (MEH)
- 4 11:30 a.m. School Board Luncheon (MD)

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

FCC-TV Spotlight: George Mason High School Play

Tune in to Falls Church Community Television (FCC-TV) to see George Mason High School students perform William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. One of Shakespeare's most famous comedies, this play is sure to delight all audiences. You can catch the GMHS performance on FCC-TV at the following times:



- Thursday, May 27 at 11:00 a.m.
- Friday, May 28 at 4:30 p.m.
- Saturday, May 29 at 4:00 p.m.

You can now see FCC-TV programming live at www.fcctv.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

Hedi Ben-Abdallah & Marco Escudero

Idylwood Grill and Wine Bar

School involvement: Hedi and Marco participated as judges for the Gourmet Cooking Iron Chef competition at George Mason High School. Hedi also visited the IB French class to speak French with students, tell them about life in Tunisia and teach them how to cook a Tunisian meal. Idylwood Grill has also provided complementary lunches for new FCCPS teachers and their mentors.

Why Hedi and Marco are BIE partners: "It was a treat to judge the Iron Chef competition and give the students tips on their product and presentation. Supporting the schools is important because everyone in the community needs to work together on behalf of the next generation."

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



Spring Appeal raises funds for immediate needs

FCCPS families will soon receive a letter from FCEF President Dan Gardner asking for support for current needs in the school system. 75% of each donation will be directed to short-term, high priority needs and 25% will be invested in the Foundation's Legacy Endowment Fund for future needs.

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.

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