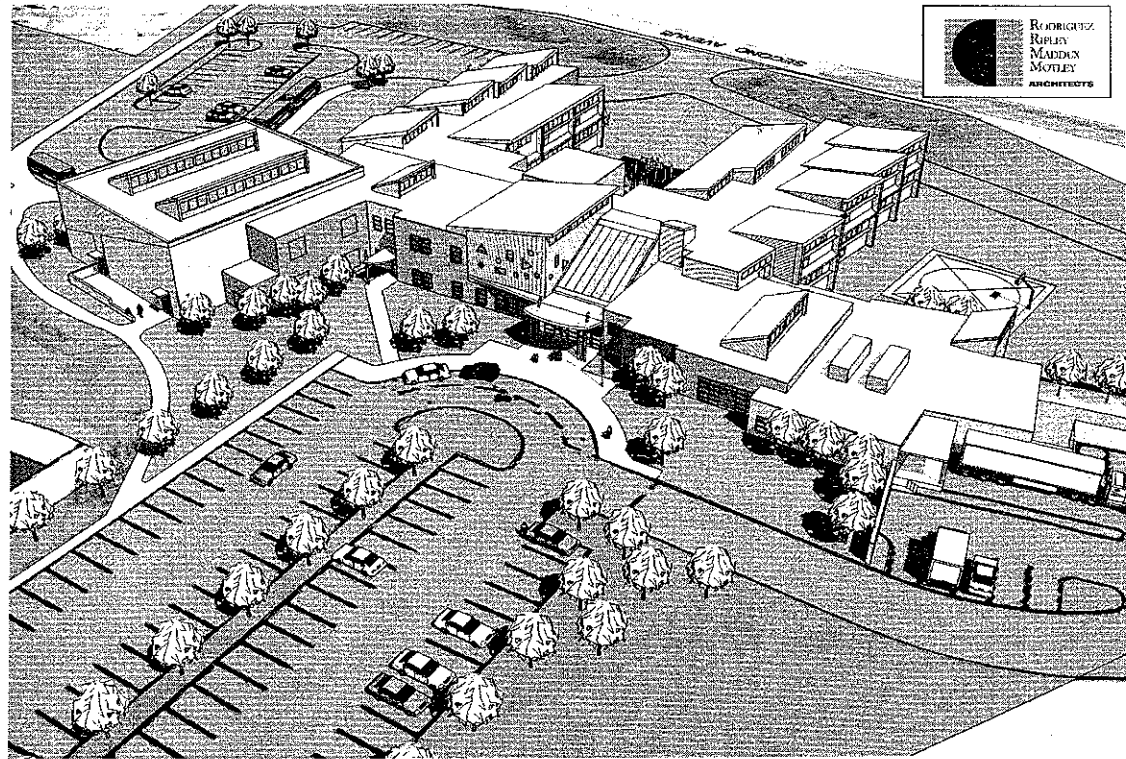


# SCHOOL DAYS

RADFORD CITY SCHOOLS / NEWSLETTER

FALL ISSUE

AUGUST 2007



The picture shows a schematic of the front entrance of the new Belle Heth. The gym is on the far left, cafeteria/kitchen on the far right. The sections of the building protruding toward the rear are the classroom wings of the building. The center section consists of administration, media center, computer labs, guidance, and nurse's station.

## LOOKING AT THE PAST AND FUTURE OF RADFORD'S SCHOOLS

By Dr. Chuck Bishop  
Superintendent, Radford Public Schools

As we prepare for the upcoming school year, I have found myself reflecting on our accomplishments during the 2006-07 academic term. This past year, our students enjoyed unprecedented success in academics, athletics and the arts. Academically, the Class of 2007 earned more than one million dollars in scholarship money to various colleges and universities, which is the most in the history of the school division. Radford can also claim two State Champions in Boy's and Girl's soccer as well as many individual champions and team 2<sup>nd</sup> place finishes. Our arts programs continue to flourish as many of our students earned recognition as a member of an Honors band or choir.

During the past year, McHarg and Belle Heth Elementary Schools celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries and Dalton Intermediate held a Local Government Day as well as a Diversity Fair. Each school worked extremely hard throughout the year to provide many extracurricular and co-curricular activities while maintaining the integrity of the instructional program.

As we move forward to the 2007-08 school year, some of our students will be provided with unique educational experiences. The new school year will mark Radford's first involvement in the Southwest Virginia Governor's School. And, we have further strengthened our partnership with New River Community College to provide additional dual enrollment courses as well as various vocational offerings. We will also see the implementation of a full day kindergarten program at McHarg.

(Continued on page 4)

# BACK TO SCHOOL !

## SCHOOL DATES TO REMEMBER

August 22	1 <sup>st</sup> Day of School
September 3	No School- Labor Day
October 3	End of 1 <sup>st</sup> Grading Period
November 1	No School- Parent/Teacher Conferences
November 2	No School- Teacher Staff Development
November 16	End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grading Period
November 21-23	Schools Closed- Fall Break
December 20	Schools Close 2 Hours Early
December 21-31	Schools Closed- Winter Break
January 1-2	Schools Closed- Winter Break
January 16	End of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grading Period
January 17-18	Schools Closed- Teacher Workday/Staff Development
January 21	Schools Closed- Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
February 29	End of 4 <sup>th</sup> Grading Period
March 20	Teacher Workday In-service Day
March 21-25	Schools Closed- Spring Break
April 17	End of 5 <sup>th</sup> Grading Period
May 26	Schools Closed- Memorial Day
May 30	Last Day of School- 2 Hour Early Dismissal

*Dates are subject to change due to inclement weather or emergency closings.*

## SCHOOL HOURS

McHarg Elementary	8:35 - 3:15
Belle Heth Elementary	8:40 - 3:00
Dalton Intermediate	8:10 - 2:35*
Radford High School	8:10 - 2:35*

*\*School day begins at 7:35 for Dalton and RHS students enrolled in zero period classes.*

## MEAL PRICES

### Elementary Schools

Breakfast – 85 cents, Lunch - \$1.75  
Lunches can be pre-paid for \$1.45/day saving 30 cents per day

### Dalton and RHS

Breakfast – 85 cents, lunch \$1.95  
Lunches can be pre-paid for \$1.45/day saving 50 cents per day

### Adults

Breakfast \$1.10, lunch \$2.40

## ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

In order to enroll in Radford City Schools for the first time, parents or guardians should report to their child's school with the following information: birth certificate, social security card, VA physical, proof of residency and immunization record. For students transferring to Radford City Schools, much of the information needed for enrollment can be obtained from your previous school. However, a parent or guardian must fill out the appropriate form requesting that records be transferred to Radford.

## IMMUNIZATION ALERT!!!

The 2006 General Assembly approved legislation *requiring* a booster dose of pertussis containing vaccine (Tdap) for students entering the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. It is important to remember that *there is no grace period offered this year, so all immunizations must be completed and documentation received at Belle Heth prior to the beginning of the school year.* For your convenience, your physician's office or the Radford City Health Department may fax the documentation to the school at 731-3697. *Rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders who have not received this immunization will not be permitted to enroll for the 2007-08 school year until this documentation is received.*

## WELCOME TO NEW STAFF AND FACULTY!

We welcome seventeen new members of the RCPS staff, and wish them well in their new assignments.

At McHarg: Ragan Bowman, Kim Coulson, Katy Everhart and Ranglette Dobson join our Kindergarten faculty. David Lawson is now a part of the office staff, Suzanne Saunders is on the Physical Education roster, and Kelly Wheeler is here for "Book Buddies."

At Belle Heth, say hello to Jeanette Croteau, Reading teacher, and the fourth grade faculty welcomes Jeannie Straw and Heather Rowland.

Dalton has a new Social Studies teacher, Megan Marshall. Radford High School: Cecil Hickam, Math; Meredith White, Spanish; Chris Bibeau, Chemistry; Kim Reese, Art; Wendy Gilmer, Librarian, and Matthew Saunders, Alternative Education.

## OPEN HOUSE/ORIENTATION ACTIVITIES

All parents and students are invited to attend a division-wide school open house on August 20 from 1-4 p.m. or 5:00-7:30 p.m. This event will allow parents and students an opportunity to meet with teachers as well as gather important information about the upcoming school year.

All rising 9<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents are invited to attend a special orientation session at Radford High School on August 15 from 5:30-7:30. This session has been designed specifically for students entering high school for the first time, and their parents.

## VOLUNTEERS ARE WELCOMED THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOLS

Many times during the year, individuals are needed to serve on various committees in the school division. Parents and community members are encouraged to contact Dr. Chuck Bishop at 731-3647.

Check with individual schools, too, for chances to help with class projects, events and activities.

Involved parents and community volunteers can plan an important role in educating our students. And it is a great opportunity to participate in the decision-making process!

## Coach tells 2007 RHS grads to use "a common sense approach and no grump!"



Radford High School's retired coach Norman Lineburg told the 95<sup>th</sup> graduating class of 2007 to use "a common sense approach to life," and remember, "no grump, health is wealth, and the best day of life is today."

The evening began with a steady rain, a field of umbrellas in the Bobcat Stadium grandstands, and graduates and faculty sitting on wet folding chairs in damp caps and gowns. It was the first outdoor commencement in many years, and despite the weather, several of the student speakers lauded the decision to return to the campus for the ceremonies, rather than past indoor venues elsewhere.

The graduates were offered over \$1.6 million in scholarships and grants, the most ever for RHS, according to Principal Mark Lineburg. Senior class President Nikki Greco recalled four years of "work, perseverance and dedication" leading to "our 007 year. Everything we did was our last... games, prom" and more. There is a part of you and me that doesn't want to let go."

Valedictorian James Rogers said, "Minimal sacrifice will never succeed. I stand before you as a special education student (in elementary school) turned high school valedictorian." The 4.5 GPA student will attend UVA as a Jefferson Scholar, studying commerce and Asian studies.

A giant painting by classmates Kate Donnelly and Ryan Edwards was presented to the school "as a permanent reminder of the Class of 2007."

Major awards presented at the graduation included:

The \$1500 a year Ray Hoyt Scholarship was presented to Caitlin Sheppard, heading for Virginia Tech to study environmental science. The Roy and Mayme Epperly Scholarship of \$1750 a year for four years went to Matt Jordan, who will attend University of Virginia as a pre-med student in biology.

The Howell Scholarship for achievement in athletics and academics, \$5000, was awarded to Cathie Collier, who will study economics at Washington and Lee.

The King Award to the outstanding boy and girl in the senior class is presented each year by Dr. James P. King, and consists of \$750 and a sterling julep cup. This year's recipients were James Rogers and Nikki Greco.

Just before the time for presentation of the diplomas, the late evening sun shone through the cloud cover, lighting the field of graduates and the stage where they would make their last walk before parents, family and friends, sending the class into a world where Valedictorian Rogers told them to "be determined, give your all, and all the time." "The sun came out just in time," announced Rex Gearhart, assistant principal.

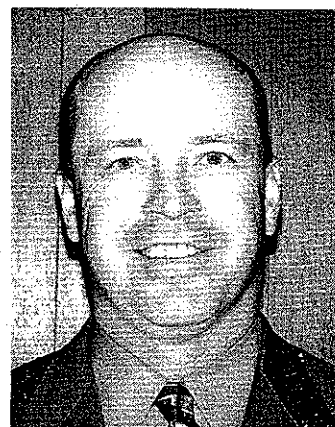
As the grads crossed the stage with flashing cameras capturing the event, those waiting in the audience for their rows to be called suddenly tossed a couple of inflatable balls into the air in celebration – an activity abruptly halted when two faculty members gathered in the balls to the goodhearted "boos" of the class and the grandstand crowd.

When the final diploma was awarded, Principal Lineburg declared the group "graduates of Radford High School" as cheers, silly string, confetti and caps sailed around and on them.

Earlier, Coach Lineburg had reminded them to plan for their tenth reunion. "You will be 28, I will be 81. The game is not over, it is just starting."



## THE PAST AND FUTURE OF RADFORD'S SCHOOLS



### SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER (continued from page one)

Although I am very excited about the new instructional programming that will be in place this year, the planning of the new Belle Heth Elementary School will take an inordinate amount of time. Since the last update in *School Days*, we have continued to work with our architect to plan for the new facility. Throughout the spring, a group of central office personnel, teachers, and school based administrators met with the architect and his consultants to make sure that our new building is designed to meet the needs of today's educational environment. These meetings led to the completion of the schematic design phase of the project with more detailed work to come in the next several months.

That design phase has led us to a school of approximately 73,000 square feet to accommodate students in grades 3-6. The new building will have four self-contained grade level pods, a gymnasium, cafeteria, media center, computer labs, resource spaces, teacher workrooms, as well as art and music rooms. The planned outside spaces include a multi-purpose field, a baseball/softball field, a walking path and age appropriate playgrounds.

With construction scheduled to begin in the spring of 2008, there remains a great deal of work in order to finance a project of this magnitude. Over the next several months, the School Board will work with City Council to arrange financing through the Literary Loan program, Virginia Public School Authority Bonds and/or bridge loans.

There is much in store for Radford City Schools in 2007-08. As always, I invite you to be involved in our schools. Parents and interested community members play a vital role in the education of our students. Our booster clubs and parent organizations are constantly seeking additional volunteers who are willing to participate in making our schools even better places to teach and learn.

Best wishes for a great 2007-08 school year!

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