



Radford Reflections

Preserve the Past.....Invest in the Future.....Enjoy the Present

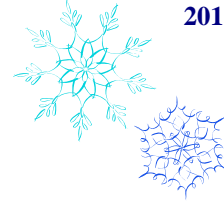
Winter Edition

2010-2011 School Year



Holiday Bus!

For the first time, Radford City Public Schools entered a decorated school bus in the Radford Christmas parade. Enjoying the opportunity are School Board Chair Karen Gerlach, Superintendent Dr. Becky Greer, Assistant Superintendent Robert Graham and his two daughters, Clerk of the Board Kerri Long and her family, Kaylea Eller and Director of Transportation Pat Harrison.



Superintendent's Message

This is a very special time of the year when we all experience a “flurry” of mixed emotions. We take this opportunity to “look in the rear view mirror” and reflect on the accomplishments of our students, faculty, staff, and community supporters to express our most sincere appreciation. At the same time, we’re looking to the future in the New Year where we plan to create exciting learning opportunities for students supporting the basics of the curriculum and insuring relevance in their 21st century lives with advanced technologies. We also plan to explore new conservation and “Farm 2 Table” initiatives and enhance student health and wellness programs.

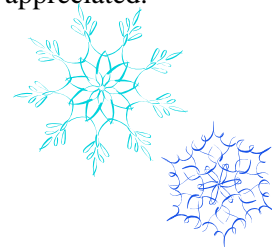
During all the hustle and bustle of reflecting on the past and projecting into the future, this is also a very special time to take a deep breath and be sure we really enjoy our students, friends, families, colleagues, and community in the present. As we appreciate our blessings in the present, it is incumbent on all of us to offer assistance wherever possible to those who are struggling with financial, emotional, or educational issues. Contrary to the current thinking of “Don’t Sweat the Small Stuff”, sometimes a seemingly small thing can make a real impact on an individual’s life. We are encouraging our faculty, staff, community, and especially our students, to find ways of offering supportive and kind words to others. That may be all it takes to assist another person in over-coming a personal obstacle in life. So many people in Radford are already immersed in this welcoming and inviting response to others and it is so greatly appreciated.

Best wishes for a happy winter season in Radford!

Sincerely,

Becky H. Greer

Becky H. Greer, Ed. D.
Division Superintendent



Congratulations on an Outstanding Season

Cross Country - 1st in district and region - Boys and Girls
Head Coach Mike Carrow

Cheer - 1st in region - Head Coach Michelle Saunders

Varsity Football - 1st in region - Head Coach Matthew Saunders

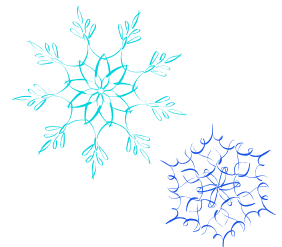
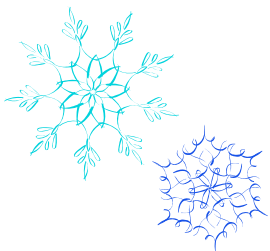
Intermediate and High School Choir - 60 students in District Choir

Choral Director - Lois Castonguay

Band - USSBA Central Virginia Regional - 1st Place in Class 2 open

USSBA National Championship - Superior Rating

Band Director - Daniel Frankenberger





Belle Heth students were recently treated to a visit from Channel 7's meteorologist, Robin Reed. He entertained and educated children with demonstrations of precipitation and tornadoes. He also involved Assistant Superintendent, Rob Graham in a hands-on lesson about recycling. Mr. Reed makes himself available to schools to teach about weather and caring for the environment. His enthusiastic audience was delighted with his presentation.

RU Mentoring Program – Helping in the Schools (HITS)

By Anna Mallory
Roanoke Times Current

Members of Radford University's Baseball team have been meeting with seventh-graders at Dalton Intermediate School.

The program, called HITS – Helping in the Schools – brings together the baseball players and select seventh-graders for about 30 minutes each week. Then, the younger students will begin working with youngsters at Radford's primary school, McHarg Elementary.

The program gives the student-athlete pairs time to read about current events, but more importantly, the athletes said, it gives the students someone with whom to talk.

If the young students have homework questions, the athletes also will assist with those, said Superintendent Becky Greer. Greer initiated the program with head Coach Joe Raccuia. Toward the end of the program, the baseball players will teach their students how to read a book to a first-grader. Then, those seventh-graders will read to students at McHarg.



Language Arts at McHarg

McHarg students are immersed in a print-rich environment beginning the first day of school. Our teachers utilize shared reading, guided reading, and independent reading. Running records are conducted and the students' varied instructional needs are met through daily large and small group reading and writing. The small groups are flexible in nature and focus on a specific reading strategy and/or reading level. Teachers employ research-based strategies to help students process a variety of increasingly challenging texts with understanding and fluency.

Word Study is also incorporated into the language arts program. Large group lessons focus on examining rules of phonics and discussing how to apply these rules to new words in writing and reading. Small group instruction focuses on spelling patterns, word families, and phonics at each child's point of need. Thus spelling instruction is developmentally appropriate.

Students are given daily opportunities to write and read their writing. Guided writing is used to focus on phonics skills, encoding strategies, spelling, mechanics, and/or editing skills with small groups or individuals according to the needs of the students. McHarg teachers provide students independent writing times with an abundance of opportunities to practice the skills, strategies, and conventions they have learned during shared and guided writing. Examples of writing include journal writing, letter writing, and story writing. Regularly, McHarg students experience the entire writing process including drafting, editing and producing a final product, concluding with an opportunity to share a student chosen piece with an audience.





Sam Mogen invented a *DBWH 2000* (Dog Bowl Water Heater) to garner first place in the Invention Fair

Invention Fair a Success at Dalton

Seventh grade Critical Thinking students at Dalton Intermediate School recently participated in an “invention fair” that was judged by several high school students. The Fair was the culminating activity in the 12-week exploratory class study of the invention process and inventive thinking. Each student identified a problem, created an invention to solve the problem, wrote the details of the process used to follow the invention process, and created a poster to showcase the finished work.

Lisa Swope, Gifted Coordinator for the Radford City Schools, announced the winners. First place was Sam Mogen who invented a *DBWH 2000* (Dog Bowl Water Heater). The second place winner was Cameron Shafer who invented a *Helping Hand*, which is a device to hold a book while she reads. Will Denny took third place with his *Canine Shine*, a dog shower.



VOICE OF DEMOCRACY awards were presented to Radford High School students recently by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 776. The annual program is designed to honor students who present speeches they have written on what their generation can do for America. Front Row (L to R) Harley Burton, Amanda Cook, Anthony Schrantz, 2nd Row (L to R) Greg Payne, Gary Harris, Dana Jackson, Mike Conklin 3rd Row (L to R) Nick Nicholson, Charlie Burton, Mike Brown 4th Row Dr. Don Cunningham

Dates to Remember:

January 3, 2011.....Students return from break
 January 14, 2011.....End of third 6 weeks
 January 17-19, 2011.....Student Holidays
 February 21, 2011..... Student Holiday or snow make-up day
 March 4, 2011.....End of fourth 6 weeks
 April 15, 2011.....End of fifth 6 weeks
 April 21,22, 25, 26, 2011.....Spring Break or Snow make-up days
 May 30, 2011.....Student Holiday or Snow make-up day
 June 3, 2011.....Last day of school for students unless there are snow make-up days

“Mix It Up at Lunch Day”

Dalton Intermediate students joined over 2 million students across the country as part of the ninth annual “Mix It Up at Lunch Day”, an event designed to foster respect and understanding in schools. Dalton has participated in this event since November 2004.

The day encourages student and adult participants to talk with new people. It fosters school spirit and unity, and also raises awareness about social boundaries. DIS incorporates the “Mix It Up Day” with a school-wide bullying prevention program.

DIS thanks Sonic franchises in the area for their partnership and for providing coupons for all the students participating in the special day.

Veteran’s Day at McHarg

Our students invited parents, grandparents, great grandparents, uncles, aunts, and other family members to join in honoring Veterans. The program began with the RU Corp of Cadets Color Guard. Students led the Pledge of Allegiance and then entertained with patriotic songs. The program ended with McHarg students recognizing their guests. Each veteran student sponsor attended a reception with cake and punch. The students concluded their day by writing letters to soldiers around the world.



State Report Card for Radford City Schools

Each year the Virginia Department of Education compiles information on all school divisions and all schools in the Commonwealth. This report includes information on results of state testing, state accreditation, percent of highly qualified teachers, attendance, and other information of interest. The Report Card for the Radford City Schools is excellent. For 2010-2011, we are among only seven school divisions in Virginia to achieve AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) at every school and for the entire school division. Additionally, all schools are accredited by the State of Virginia.

We invite you to access this information through our school division website by clicking the Educational Resources link then Parent Information from the drop down list. The link for SOL/NCLB Report Card is located on this page. You can also access the information by going directly to Virginia Department of Education website at <https://p1pe.doe.virginia.gov/reportcard/>

If you do not have access to the internet, hard copies are available at the School Board Office. We are happy to provide a copy for you.

VSBA Gold Design Award and Green School Award

At the annual conference, the Virginia School Board Association presented the "Gold Design Award" to the RRMM Architectural Firm and the Radford City Schools for the design of the new Belle Heth Elementary School.

The Radford City Schools also received the "VSBA Go Green" School Division Award. This award recognizes school divisions for their efforts to implement green initiatives.

Conservation Initiatives

The school division is partnering with the EduCon Company to expand energy conservation initiatives. Through this initiative, we will encourage all faculty and staff to utilize an Energy Conservation Checklist on a daily basis. Additionally, students will be encouraged to practice conservation initiatives at school and at home.



Superintendent's Winter Art Contest

Alexis Rader, 3rd grader at Belle Heth Elementary School is the winner of the Superintendent's Winter Art Contest. The holiday card for the Radford City Schools has been printed using her artwork. The work has been professionally framed and will be hung in the

School Board Office. After one year, she will take the work home and it will be replaced with next year's winner. Alexis won a \$50 cash prize from the Superintendent. The second place winner is Adri Newman, 5th grader at Belle Heth. Adri won a \$25 cash prize. Cordell McGruff, 3rd grader at Belle Heth and Kaylea Hopkins at McHarg tied for 3rd place.

We wish to express our most sincere appreciation to Michelle Saunders and Kris Graham for their work with students in the art contest and to Dr. Richard Bay and Alison Pack from Radford University for judging the work of the 50 finalists.

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Radford City Schools / Newsletter

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