



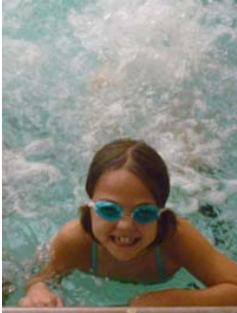
# Radford Reflections

Excellence in Education.....Every Student.....Every Day

Winter Edition

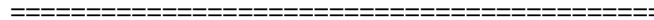
2011-2012 School Year

## Swim School



The new pilot swimming program in Radford City Public Schools is wildly popular among students, staff and parents...The program includes all second graders getting a six-week swimming course at the Dedmon Center Pool through a partnership between RCPS and Radford University. By the end of the school year, all second graders will be getting six, one-hour swimming lessons through the program.

~Excerpt from the Radford News Journal, Heather Bell / Photo by Dana DeHart



## *Superintendent's Message*

With mild winter weather to start the New Year and the anticipation of great things in 2012, our students started the second semester of the school year. Radford High School Senior Bobcats can already see the graduation finish line. As this newsletter goes to press, we are on track for "No Bobcat Left Behind" with no Senior drop-outs. Please share encouraging comments with every Senior that you know or lend a helping hand when you can. Our goal is to graduate all our Seniors. Graduation Day is May 31st and it's just a short distance up the road.

In other news, we recently launched several facility project reviews. In January, the School Board invited public input on the future of the McHarg Elementary School building. Approximately 80 people attended the meeting. Ten individuals addressed the Board and shared their opinions on the facility. The building was assessed by structural engineers in 2003 and again in 2011. Both assessments concluded that the existing building is structurally sound. The Board will be considering all options during the next few months.

During the months of November and December, we worked diligently to complete a "Review of Athletic and Activity Facilities" in the School Division. To assist with the Review, we brought in two out-of-state, unbiased consultants. One consultant, Mr. Gary Strickland, is the second generation President of Hugh G. Strickland Construction Company specializing in athletic facilities. The second consultant is the retired Athletic Director of one of the largest high schools in the United States and has 166 athletic teams, Mr. Ray Korn.

We will seek private and corporate donations for the athletic and activity facility improvements and remind all potential donors that many corporations match charitable donations made by their employees to 501 (c) 3 non-profit organizations. "Naming opportunities" are available to honor or memorialize family members, friends or colleagues. Estate planning consultation is also available. You can access "The Facility Review" on our school division website at [www.rcps.org](http://www.rcps.org) and click on "Athletic/Activity Facility Donations". For more information, please call us at the School Administration Office...540-731-3647.

Students, staff and faculty in the school division are investing time and energy in going "greener" in all our school division facilities. At the beginning of the school year, we started a recycling program with Valley Recycling. We now recycle all paper, aluminum, plastic, and glass products. Over 300 of our students joined the "Green Team" and provide leadership to guarantee that the recycling project is successful. The Virginia School Board Association recognized the Radford City Public Schools at the state-wide conference for achieving the "silver" level in the Virginia "Go Green Challenge".

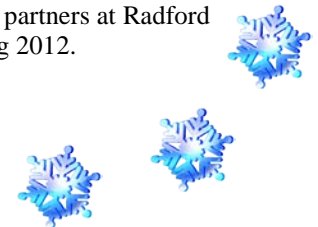
I would like to express appreciation to all our parents, community members, City Council and education partners at Radford University for your continued support of our schools. Best wishes for great happiness and good health during 2012.

Sincerely,

*Becky H. Greer*

Becky H. Greer, Ed. D.

Division Superintendent



## Congratulations on an Outstanding Season

RHS Band received a Superior Rating at The Cavalier Classic Festival & USSBA National Championships

RHS Drama won District and Regional VHSL One Act Play competitions

DIS and RHS Choir students were selected for the District Choir

RHS Scholastic Bowl won the Three Rivers District Championship

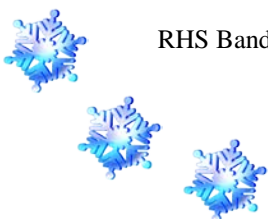




Photo by Wendy Phillips – Girls Basketball Team

## Santa Breakfast at McHarg

By Ellen Denny

The McHarg PSA held its first *Santa Breakfast* on Saturday, December 3, 2011. Many students and their families came out for breakfast, a book, crafts and songs, and a visit with Santa. Pancakes and sausage were served to close to 600 people and everyone looked happy, festive and full! Santa was thrilled with how nice the boys and girls have been at school and promised to stop by their houses on Christmas Eve. The event was a huge success and plans are in the making for the Second Annual Santa Breakfast during Christmas, 2012.

## Dalton Intermediate Food Drive

By Sandi Curd / photo by Mack Williams

The Student Council of Dalton Intermediate School sponsored a Canned Food and Diaper Drive for the Salvation Army. During the month of December, Dalton students collected thousands of items to help needy families from the Radford community. Students donated a variety of canned items, all sizes of diapers, and even Kleenex to help make someone's holiday special. We are proud of the generosity displayed by all of the faculty and students at Dalton.



Pictured:  
 Front Row: Hannah Harrell, Tessa Shaffer, Aaron Miller  
 2nd Row: Mikey Coalson, Emily Jenkins,  
 3rd Row: Shannon Mitchell, Sara Lester  
 4th Row: Ellie Woods, Ben Watson  
 5th Row: Ola Rector, Mahmoud Mohamed, Marcus Finley  
 6th Row: Mrs. Sandi Curd, Wes Parcell, Lucas Tuosto



## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Field Trip to Wildwood Park

By Mary Brown and Emily Stone

Half of the sixth grade walked down to Wildwood as a science field trip. They walked down and observed things like swamps and erosion. The classes split up and the first place our class went was Adam's Cave. Some scientists think it was an Indian burial ground.

After that we walked up to the wetland area. The wetlands appearance is deceiving. This is because the water is deeper than it appears to the naked eye. Lastly we went to the meandering creek. When we walked to different areas we read from Geo-Caches. Geo-Cache is a little box you can find in Wildwood that tells you a little bit about the area.

A sixth grader, Jonathan Davis, had this to say about the field trip, "I had a fun time with my friends and it was a good learning experience." Everyone really had a good time. I know I did.

Mrs. Edwards was one of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers that helped make this happen. She had this to say about the field trip, "We got to experience things first hand. When you go outside you usually don't look for things like this in nature, but because of this we got the chance to."

### Dates to Remember:

February 20, 2012 ...	Schools Closed: Presidents' Day
March 2, 2012 .....	End of fourth six weeks
March 16, 2012 .....	Teacher workday/staff development day or snow make-up day
April 5, 2012 .....	Teacher workday or snow make-up day
April 6 & 9, 2012 ..	Schools Closed: Spring Break
April 10, 2012 .....	Spring Break or Snow make-up day
April 19, 2012 .....	End of fifth six weeks



## Martin Luther King Poster Contest

By Kristy Bryant

Recently, art students from John Dalton Intermediate School participated in Virginia Tech’s annual Martin Luther King Jr. poster contest. This contest encourages students to think critically about Dr. King’s important legacy, and develop goals that promote non-violent social change to address problems they may witness in their own communities.



This year’s theme was based on a sermon Dr. King delivered in which he challenged people to reflect on how they lived their lives. “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?” The theme challenged students to create posters that expressed how they have or would like to help others in their community.

The following students received honors at the annual community

brunch at The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center on January 16, 2012... Breann Flynn and Caleb Crisley- 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Lauren Lomoscolo- 3<sup>rd</sup> place, and Emily Jenkins- Honorable Mention. Clockwise from the back row are Breann Flynn, Caleb Chrisley, Lauren Lomoscolo and Emily Jenkins.

## Visit from Brazilian Principals

By Grayson McKinley & Ben Cox

Three Brazilian principals and a translator came to Belle Heth. They got here on October 17 and left on November 2. They came so they could tell us about their school system and learn about ours too.

When they got here, we sang them a Brazilian folk song called Sambelele. A few days later, they visited classes and told us [the students] lots of cool facts. All 6<sup>th</sup> grade students were invited to come to a PSA meeting to sing songs and play instruments. There was a video that showed the Brazilian principals and their families.

Also Mr. McKinley gave them gifts to go in classrooms at their school. On the last day the Brazilian principals were in the cafeteria at lunchtime to say good-bye to the students. They learned from us and we learned from them.

## One School One Book

By Ellen Denny / Photo by Blenna Patterson

The World According to Humphrey was the book McHarg Elementary chose for their all-school book club called **One School, One Book**. Every family received a copy of the same



book, Betty G. Birney’s The World According to Humphrey, to read at home over the month of January. With the One School, One Book program, McHarg became a “book club” community. Book discussions and daily trivia questions were the main focus of our morning news show and everyone was trying to find Humphrey in and around the building. Students, parents, teachers, and administrative

staff participated and promoted a love of reading. Several organizations helped purchase the 400 books needed! The Women’s Club of Radford, the RHS Foundation, and Radford City Public Schools are greatly appreciated as they made this project possible.

## RHS Winter Festive Sweaters



## Superintendent's Winter Art Contest and Reception

The School Administration Office was crowded as students, teachers, parents and community members turned out to view the 80 pieces of elementary artwork on exhibit. Grayson Hurst, 5th grader at Belle Heth Elementary School was the winner of the Superintendent's Winter Art Contest. Grayson won a \$50 cash prize from the Superintendent. The holiday card for the Radford City Schools was printed using his artwork. His work has been professionally framed and will remain on exhibit in the School Administration Office for one year.



Photo by Heather Bell

The second place winner was Abby Ridpath, 4<sup>th</sup> grader at Belle Heth. Abby won a \$25 cash prize. Third graders Emma Calfee and Mercy Turner tied for 3<sup>rd</sup> place and received \$15 each.

A second student art contest and reception has been added for this year. The second exhibit will feature the work of middle and high school students.

We wish to express our most sincere appreciation to Art Teachers, Michelle Saunders and Kris Graham for their assistance on this art contest. We also appreciate the help of Dr. Richard Bay, Chairman of the Art Department at Radford University, for serving as our judge for the second consecutive year.

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### RHS Food Drive

In December the Radford High School National Honor Society collected canned food and nonperishable items for the Salvation Army Canned Food Drive. Mrs. Shifflett's class won the school contest by collecting 101 items, and they will receive breakfast on January 24<sup>th</sup> in the Bobcat Bistro. Over 300 items were collected and donated to the Salvation Army to help area families.

The National Honor Society also collected toys for the Elf Shelf. Members volunteered to sort toys and decorate.

**National Honor Society Members 2011-2012:** Luke Bland, Ethan Brown, Moriah Carper, Anisha Choubey ( **president**), Hannah Cooley, Grace DeVries, Sean Donnelly,

Jason Feng (**treasurer**), Allison Fisher, Nishant Grover, Morgan Harvey (**secretary**), Savannah Hill, Sarah Irby, Niki Johnston, Ben Khandan-Barani, Hughston Kirby, Andrew Mitchell, Willa Piro, Joelle Riding, Zeke Shaffer (**vice-president**), Madi Shepherd, Amanda Williams, Travis Wood, MiMi Zheng



# Radford Reflections

## Radford City Schools / Newsletter

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