

THE WIRE

WEST POTOMAC HIGH SCHOOL

Volume 31, Issue 3
May 2016



More Than A Nickname

The students who love the Arts building on campus speak about the stereotypes and what it really means to be a "Springbreaker"

On Page 13, Prison's Past Uncovered



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Letter from the Editors: Nina Raneses & Duncan Hoag

Welcome to the May issue of The Wire! First, we'd like to thank our readers, patrons and everyone involved in the production and ongoing support of our student-run publication. In this issue, we take a look at outstanding spring athletes, the lives of ESOL students at our school, the rich, local history of our area, and much more.

Without further ado, we hope you enjoy this edition of The Wire!

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Abandoned Prison

A local park covers a dark secret, an abandoned prison with a long dark history.

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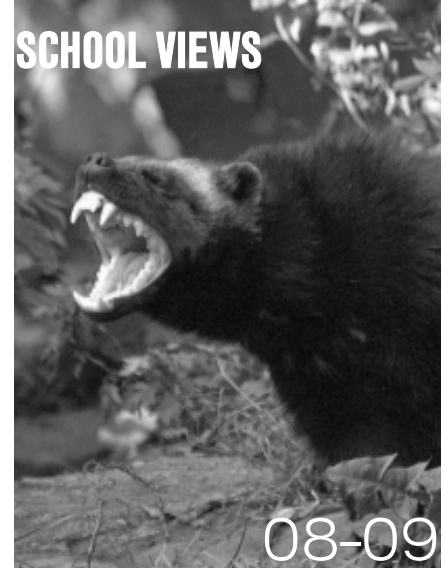


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Discover a program for disabled girls to dance sponsored by one of our students.

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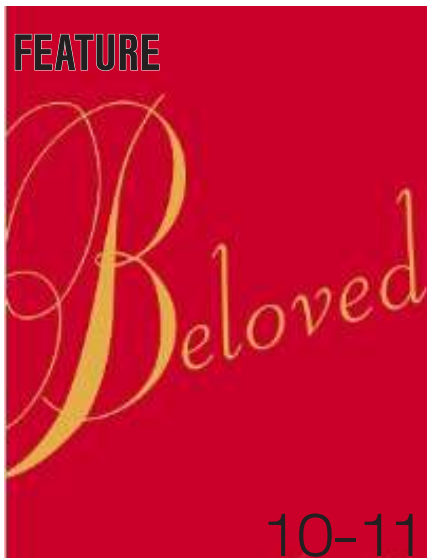


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Springbankers

How do the students who love the building feel about the stereotypes? 4 students spill the truth.

May Horoscopes



ARIES

May will bring tranquility into your daily life. Take the time to plan a vacation or a small get-together with family and friends and enjoy the less hectic changes in your life. Avoid cramping up your schedule with strenuous activities.



LEO

May might prove to be a tricky month for Leo's. Friendships will be broken and misunderstandings will result in confusion and despair. You may not agree with everything your peers have to say but make sure you're not too harsh with your words. Do not ruin an old friendship for something that is only temporary.



SAGITTARIUS

Many opportunities will present themselves over the next several weeks so don't be too surprised if your decisions turn impulsive. You should take advantage of such opportunities so that you can expand your future prospects instead of confining your life to daily routines.



TAURUS

The majority of May will be filled with good vibes—but it won't last. The Mercury retrograde will bring indecision and lack of concentration in the latter half of the month. Try not to stress too much but don't become completely careless at work and school.



VIRGO

Virgo's should tread carefully this month—there will be a lot of tense energy going around so try to keep a leveled head. Be especially careful with your words—don't say anything you'll come to regret later. Focus on yourself this month.



CAPRICORN

Capricorn's would best benefit from staying low. You won't be able to rely on your gut feelings because your mind will be sending you mixed signals. Your indecisiveness may foul your mood quicker so focus on one-on-one relationships instead of hanging out with larger groups.



GEMINI

With Summer fast approaching, you may have a hard time focusing and staying on task. Your motivation and enthusiasm will be at an all time high but you may become irritated with those who can't keep up. Try to remain active so you can blow off excessive energy.



LIBRA

Libra's will go through a few rough patches this month. Your irritability will be at it's highest levels and your patience will run short with your peers and siblings. You should try to use all the excessive mental energy on something more constructive and beneficial like studying for exams.



AQUARIUS

The social standing of an Aquarius will only improve this May. Don't be afraid to say things that don't reflect the unanimous opinions of others in your group. Speaking your mind will help you establish yourself as a unique individual because different is never boring.



CANCER

This year will be very beneficial to your career as you'll find success in ways that you didn't last year. May will prove to be a good month for singles as there will be many opportunities to build lasting relationships with others. The more you improve your communication with others, the more fulfilling your relationships will become.



SCORPIO

Enthusiasm will set the stage for much of the days this month. Old topics will be broached and you may end up taking a walk down memory lane on several different occasions.. Emotions will run rampant around this time so try not to get too carried away with the smaller mishaps in your relationships.



PISCES

May might be a hard month for a Pisces. You may find yourself surrounded by the negativity of the other zodiac signs so try find a place with more happy vibes. Try to limit the amount of attention you give to others and focus on your own future instead.

by Huda Khan



Where are you from?

Rochester, New York.

What college did you attend?

St. John Fisher College.

What made you want to become a teacher?

I love helping others to learn about information that they did not know existed.

How long have you been a teacher?

20 years.

If you weren't a teacher, what would you be doing?

Probably working in [the] industry as a scientist for special projects.

What is your favorite memory at West Potomac?

My favorite memory thus far at West Potomac would have to be the visit from Congressman John Lewis.

When you're not at school, what can you be found doing?

Shopping or doing volunteer work with my sorority, (Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated).

What do you consider the most rewarding part of being a teacher?

The most rewarding part for me is for my students to understand what is being taught and for them to be excited about actually coming to my class.

WHO AM I?

Find out on thewire.org

Dixon Ticonderoga

Extremely well-made pencils forged with the highest quality Indonesian jelutong cedar wood. Each pencil is individually sanded to form a silky smooth satin finish along the outside of the pencil and is held above incense to give it that crisp smoky smell. The metal ferrule at the end is painted the iconic green color that signifies the eraser inside it is held to highest prestige in the world of erasers. If you find yourself wielding this blade you can be assured that what you are writing is being written by the apotheosis of pencils.



Palomino Blackwing and Blackwing Pearl

The two most expensive pencils on this list also come with their bonuses; both are created through beautiful craftsmanship, and both have more top of the line interiors and exteriors. The main noticeable feat of the exterior is the bright sheen that shines from both of the pencils, making this easily one of the best looking pencils you can find. The eraser has an odd square shape to it that is unique to these two pencils; the erasers also are impeccable at erasing the lead that the Blackwing and Blackpearl houses. The wood itself is top notch cedar and holds the fine graphite that was used by the creators of Looney Tunes to draw Bugs Bunny and many of their other characters. This pencil has prestige and you are sure to feel amazing when writing or drawing with what is basically the Excalibur of pencils.

PaperMate Mirado Black Warrior

Guaranteed to be the world's smoothest write, the Black Warrior uses a peculiar circular shape that breaks free of the hexagonal standard of pencils. Don't let this fact scare you away from the Black Warrior — it is crafted from California cedar wood, cut from some of the nicest wood farms in America. The ferrule — that holds a genuine pink pearl eraser—is constructed from red band brass, cooled and shaped after being heated to temperatures of around 600° Celsius (1112° Fahrenheit.) The Black Warrior is easily the best pencil made from PaperMate, and also is one of the nicest pencils that roams the planet in the hands of humans. If you happen upon a Black Warrior, you'll not only be impressed by the polished black paint finish on the main shaft of the blade, but you'll be utterly dumbfounded by just how nice writing feels with the Mirado Black Warrior.

Classic Dixon No.2 Pencil

The less premier version of the Ticonderoga, this classic yellow Dixon itself is still a substantial pencil. For a payment of about 7 cents per pencil on Amazon, it's hard to find a better pencil for the price. However, the classic Dixon has some pretty major problems that come along with the cheap build. The main problem is the eraser. The eraser on the classic Dixon is for lack of a better term, some absolute cut. This eraser is going to destroy your paper if you erase anything with it. I have no idea what they made this god forsaken eraser with. Whether it be the tears of the students who's paper have been destroyed by it, or hair from a horse's mane, this eraser is the epitome of what you don't want on the back end of your pencil. Other than the eraser, this pencil is a decent budget pencil that you'll find yourself using often.



ALEXANDRIA
8746 Cooper Road
Alexandria VA 22309
703.619.5123





DAILY LUNCH SPECIALS

\$6.99
*Ends at 4:30 p.m.

MON	Super Burritos (chicken, steak or carnitas)
TUE	Roasted Chicken Burrito
WED	Lunch Fajitas (Chicken or Steak)
THU	GrinGo Tacos w/lettuce, tomatoes & cheese. Served with RICE * BEANS
FRI	Super Carnitas Quesadilla
SAT & SUN	Military Discount 15% OFF (Excludes alcohol) *Ends at 4:30 p.m.

Park Protects Prison's Past

**Jonathan Milam &
Daniel Rayder**
Reporters

It's a bright and sunny day in Lorton. There are children enjoying a game of little league baseball. However, they are oblivious to the agents of destruction that once lay mere meters beneath their feet. Abandoned buildings line the pathway to home plate, a reminder of an era long past, when quiet Laurel Hill Park was the Lorton Reformatory, a maximum security prison and youth correctional facility, and prior to that, a Nike missile launch site designed to strike at targets around the globe during the Cold War with deadly nuclear warheads. This area's rich history accurately reflects the characteristics of United States throughout its use.



In the year 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt sanctioned a Penal Commission task force, with the ultimate goal of determining whether or not the District of Columbia's current prison and workhouse was suitable for inmates. The Commission discovered that D.C.'s prison was suffering from major overcrowding, so they persuaded Congress to authorize the building of a new facility for the District's worst.

Construction of the prison, which was built entirely by the inmates who were soon to inhabit it, began in 1910 after the federal government purchased a 1,155 acre plot of land north of the Occoquan River, and it was finished and ready to house prisoners by 1916. The prison's design was unique; instead of a layout of cell blocks it utilized a dormitory style format, in which much larger groups of inmates, sometimes dozens of prisoners, lived together in large rooms.

In 1917, over 150 female protestors representing the National Women's Party were detained after picketing for women's suffrage in D.C. These women were held in the medium security section of the Lorton Prison from June through December, where they faced constant abuse from both the guards and their fellow inmates. When some of the women tried to organize a hunger strike as a protest to their captors, prison guards force fed them rotten food.

Due to the competition between Russia and the United States in nuclear technology during the cold war in the 50s, the United States ordered for the creation of a nationwide Surface to Air Missile (SAM) system. One of the first sites created was located down the road from the primary prison building. This site was dubbed the Nike W-64 missile site. Although the site was never used for any attacks, it remained heavily guarded and well maintained.

The site eventually closed as missiles were moved and personnel were reassigned. One section known as Nike Site W-64 would eventually close and become part of the infamous Lorton Reformatory. The empty missile silos are now plugged with concrete and are inaccessible to the public, although they can still be seen from the surface of the abandoned Lorton Youth Correctional facility.



One last remnant of the Cold War hysteria on the grounds of Lorton Correctional is the abandoned nuclear fallout shelter. This last resort for

any nuclear attack was conveniently located far enough outside Washington D.C. to withstand a direct strike on the nation's capital.

After the missile silos were sealed off, the Lorton reformatory started to take a turn for the worse. The facility was plagued by the same overcrowding problems that had made its creation necessary in the first place, and it was notoriously unsafe for both guards and inmates alike.

In 1997, the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act went into effect, and the federal government began transferring inmates from Lorton to Federal Bureau of Prison jails. By 2001, the Lorton Reformatory was empty, and by 2002 the Fairfax County government purchased the land under the condition that they would establish a park there.



The abandoned Lorton Reformatory stands as a strong reminder of not only the darker side of America's history, but also the leaps and bounds we've made since we overcame these hurdles. The baseball field located next to the youth reformatory serves as a form of beauty amongst the ugliness and dark history of the building it is located next to.

A Hidden Meaning in Purple Tutus

Ballet classes bring the artistry of dance to children with Down Syndrome in Belle Haven community

Bela Starinchek *Student Life Editor*

Down Syndrome affects 1 in every 651 babies in the United States. That's about 4,000 people a year. Since a large number of people are affected by Down Syndrome, hundreds of programs and organizations have been developed to give adults and children with Down Syndrome opportunities that they might not normally get. One of these opportunities is dancing. To provide children with down syndrome the opportunity to dance, Madison Harden, a junior at West Potomac, has started up a chapter of the organization The Purple Tutu here in Alexandria.

The Purple Tutu is a nonprofit organization that provides free ballet classes to children with Down Syndrome. Its mission statement is to "bring the artistry of ballet to dancers with Down Syndrome." The original organization started in Charleston, South Carolina and Harden is the first person to start a new branch of it.



"I decided to start The Purple Tutu here [in Virginia], because my friend actually started up the original organization in Charleston and I helped volunteer and teach classes with her. When I moved to VA, I knew [The Purple Tutu] was something really important to me and it was heartbreaking to leave it behind," said Harden.

Harden chose to do a ballet class versus

a different style of dance because of the importance that ballet has to the community and the movements in it itself.

"Ballet is both a very precise and free-moving form of dance, so it teaches the dancers control and discipline along with the importance of expression and moving to your own beat," explained Harden.

In preparation for the class, Harden is going to use a local dance studio at Just Dance in Belle View. She has received purple tutus for the students to wear in class. The class will be advertised over Facebook, Twitter, and other social media. Harden also reached out to the Down Syndrome Association of North Virginia as in hopes to expand her students.

"I really want as many kids to be involved as possible, every child should get the opportunity to dance." said Harden. "Every time I teach the classes, the kids are so sweet, and we all have so much fun laughing and dancing around."

Once the classes are up and running, there will be a dance routine for the participants to follow. The kids will be able to learn different, simple ballet moves while also having fun with their friends and the teachers.

"We usually teach more simple steps to keep the classes upbeat and fun, and the smiles I see on their faces whenever we leap across the floor makes it all worth it," said Harden.

As for the future of this organization once



Harden graduates, she wants the program to continue both here and in South Carolina, where it was originally founded.

"I'm thinking about passing it down to one of the teacher volunteers here. I think that would be awesome to continue the program," said Harden.

"But, in the end, I really just want The Purple Tutu to continue to be a positive organization that reached the lives of multiple students and volunteers," Harden said.

Photos courtesy of The Purple Tutu Ballet Facebook Page



Lame Duck, No SCOTUS

Hugh Moffitt

Online Editor

When Antonin Scalia died in February, the political world was thrown into disarray. The jurist's passing left a vacancy on the Supreme Court, meaning that unless a new justice is nominated and confirmed, the Supreme Court will have eight justices, opening the door for tied rulings and deferral to lower courts. President Obama nominated Merrick Garland to replace Scalia on the bench, but witnessed pushback from the Republican Party when Mitch McConnell, Senate Majority Leader, pledged not to even start the hearing process due to the upcoming election. McConnell is justified--in November, Americans will go to the ballot box and choose the next president. Why not let the people--not a lame duck president--decide the ideological makeup of the Supreme Court?

It must be acknowledged that this debate is thoroughly partisan. Republicans don't want a liberal justice today any more than Democrats wanted a conservative one in 1992, during George H.W. Bush's last year in office. In fact, then-senator Joe Biden urged Bush not to make a nomination if a justice retired, remarking that if he did, "the Senate Judiciary Committee should seriously consider not scheduling confirmation hearings on the nomination until after the political campaign season is over."

But regardless of its political expediency, McConnell and Biden's arguments make undeniable sense, especially in this unique election cycle. The political spectrum has largely shifted to authoritarian vs. libertarian terms, and with important issues like immigration, gun control and climate change on the docket, the stakes are too high to exclude the American people from

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the decision. Letting the next president make the nomination is fairer to everyone, as the coming years are sure to be an era of definitive rulings. While Obama has every right to use his executive authority and nominate a justice, the Republicans in the Senate have every right to stonewall him. Sometimes doing nothing is better than doing something, and this is one of those times. That's why the constitution doesn't bind the Senate to act on nominations, it just grants legislators the power to do so. Critics of the GOP's actions point to the fact that without nine justices, tied rulings would be sent to lower courts, and as a consequence, federal law may differ in meaning around the country. The Obama-funded PAC, "We Need Nine," has decried this popular sovereignty, vaguely citing danger resulting from local rule. But which is more of a threat to personal liberties: federal or state governments? History would point to the former, whether in Lincoln's suspension of habeas corpus during the Civil War, or the NSA's mass surveillance of American citizens today. There's nothing wrong with temporarily ceding some powers of interpretation to smaller governing bodies--that way, people have more direct input in their governance.

In the same vein, the Republicans would be betraying their constituents if they took action. Antonin Scalia was the most conservative member of the Supreme Court, and to consider replacing him with a liberal, especially with the Senate under GOP control, is symbolic surrender. Republicans were elected into majorities in both houses of congress because their base was energized, angry at the liberal status quo in Washington. For them to not put up a fight, to tacitly accept left-wing cultural dominance, would reveal them as convictionless, and take away the voice of their voters.

America is a representative democracy, but a democracy nonetheless. We vote for politicians whom we think will stand up for our beliefs in every duty of their job. For the president, one of those duties is nominating Supreme Court justices. Presidents on their way out of office should respect that, and give every citizen an opportunity to voice their opinion on the matter by leaving the decision to their elected successor. Obama, on the other hand, seems more inclined to grandstanding. The Republicans in the Senate are doing the right thing by treating his nomination as such.



Do Your Job, GOP

Shahtaj Ali

Copy Editor

There's no doubting that the recent death of Supreme Court justice Antonin Scalia has completely shaken up the United States' highest court in a way no one could've imagined. On the day of Justice Scalia's death Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell saying he would refuse to consider any nomination by President Obama. He and other Republicans justified their refusal by claiming Obama was near the end of his term, and therefore didn't have the right to nominate a Supreme Court nominee.

The loss of one justice from the Supreme Court has left it as a body that is unable to function, if it can't function, the ruling of the lower court will be deferred to. This is denying any American the basic right to contest any decision made by a lower court in an attempt to a higher court. If our lawmakers are refusing to begin the nomination process, they're showing the people that not only are they refusing to do their jobs, but they're politicizing a process that is meant to remain neutral.

When two-thirds of Americans believe that President Obama's nominee to the Supreme Court Merrick Garland deserves a hearing and a vote, then it's not a matter of a "sitting duck" president overstepping his term. It becomes an issue of senators pushing their own politics, at the expense of the American people.

Some claim that what Republicans are doing is no different from what Democrats have done in the past to block a Republican president's Supreme Court nominee. They quote Joe Biden from when he was a senator and the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee in 1992. Biden was asking then President George H.W.

Bush if a justice retired to, "not name a nominee until after the November election is completed," and, if he did, "the Senate Judiciary Committee should seriously consider not scheduling confirmation hearings on the nomination..."



There are many differences between the floor of the Senate where Biden delivered this speech in 1992 and now. This speech was given in July of '92, much closer to the end of Bush's term. But the most prominent difference would be the Supreme Court wasn't missing a justice. At this point all nine justices were accounted for; Biden was taking a precautionary measure by urging the President to not nominate anyone. However, Biden has come to realize that pressuring the President to push his own politics is wrong, and has come to regret what he had said. His words serve as a gross reminder of his own inability to perform the work he had sworn to do, in favor of his own political leanings. The senators we've elected into office need to work for us, not for their own politics. So when our Supreme Court is missing a justice, it should become the Senate's first priority to find a replacement, regardless of their ideological leanings.

House Republicans may be so adamantly against holding hearings because they fear Obama's nomination could tip the

scales and make the Supreme Court predominately liberal. This comes in contrast to the past 45 years of having a conservative court.

What must be realized is that a liberal court probably wouldn't be the sort of "liberal" many Republicans are imagining. A liberal court is highly unlikely to repeal any major court decisions. The current liberal justices take stare decisis, or past precedent, very seriously. The biggest difference between the a conservative court and a liberal one would be in their interpretation of the constitution. Justices aren't supposed to bring personal ideologies into effect when ruling, their decision should be based solely on what the U.S. Constitution says.

Scalia, a conservative, believed the Constitution existed as a "dead" document. All decisions made by the Court were to be based on the words written, nothing else. His liberal colleague Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, however, sees the constitution as a "living" document, meaning that the constitution should be adapted for modern times. It's not the meaning of the term that matters, that can stay the same. Rather, it's the application of terms to modern society. These views highlight how the court can operate in vastly different ways.

It's time politics are removed from the Supreme Court, in order for it to truly remain fair. If the operations of the court can be so strongly affected by the politics of whatever party happens to control the House, then what is the point of having a running court? This issue is truly bipartisan, both sides need to work together to make sure that our courts continue to run and fulfill the jobs they swore to complete to the best of their ability. If justice is blind, then it certainly wouldn't recognize the difference between Republican and Democrat.

B E L O V E D

Backtracking the “Beloved” Bill

Nina Raneses

Editor-In-Chief

In a review from the New York Times, Toni Morrison’s “Beloved,” is described as a novel showcasing the author’s “versatility and technical and emotional range,” which “appear to know no bounds.” The book, published in 1987, won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction the following year, and was ranked the best work of American fiction from 1981 to 2006 in a survey by the New York Times.

Though “Beloved,” is widely considered a great piece of American fiction, the book has sparked controversy in the decades following its release. The novel was banned and pulled from high school curricula across the country, from reading lists to Advanced Placement English classes.

The concern comes from parents, who stand by their right as to whether or not their children should be exposed to the mature themes showcased in the Pulitzer Prize winning novel and similar works of fiction, most notably “The Catcher in the Rye,” “Fahrenheit 451”; recognizable pieces of American literature.

In one such case, Fairfax County mother Laura Murphy pushed for legislation that would require Virginia schools to notify parents if their children are assigned to read books that contain “sexually explicit content,” a term in which would be determined at the Board of Education’s discretion. Additionally, the bill would allow students to opt out of reading, and instead complete an alternate assignment, sans sexually explicit content.

Known as HB516 (more commonly referred to as the “Beloved” bill), the legislation stems May 2016 | The Wire | 10

from Murphy’s discontent with how her child’s English class dealt with assigning the novel in question. Her initial concern grew from discovering her son, a senior at Lake Braddock Secondary School at the time, was assigned to read “Beloved” for his AP English class, and he complained of nightmares. Her son’s response to the book, coupled with her reaction to discovering that her son was assigned to read it without her knowledge, prompted Murphy to take her concerns to higher authority.

“[The line was drawn when] graphic descriptions of bestiality, gang rape, incest and pedophilia in numerous books beginning in the tenth grade caused many individuals to bring this matter to local school boards, the state board of education and lawmakers,”

“[The line was drawn when] graphic descriptions of bestiality, gang rape, incest and pedophilia in numerous books beginning in the tenth grade caused many individuals to bring this matter to local school boards, the state board of education and lawmakers,” Murphy said.

She argued that if excerpts from the book could not even be read allowed by members of the local and state government, “Beloved” had no place in an English classroom setting.

“The lines were drawn when verbatim quotations from an assigned book could not reach the desks of members of the Virginia Board of Education because the quotations

could not pass through their firewall,” she continued. “The lines were drawn when verbatim quotations were considered ‘obscene’ by the Virginia Department of Planning and Budget and were removed from public view from a Virginia Public Town Hall web site. The lines were drawn when a Virginia senator read verbatim quotations on the floor of the Virginia State Capitol and was asked to cease reading due to the graphic content and the fact that student pages were present.”

However, since its introduction to the Virginia General Assembly, HB516 was met with strong opposition by those who argued that the bill could be interpreted in such a way that would eventually allow for some form of censorship. The National Coalition Against Censorship (NCAC) wrote a letter to Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe (D) asking the governor to veto the bill, in which they express their concern that the Board of Education could decide what was “sexually explicit,” on top of censorship and educational value issues.

“Singling out material with a certain type of content inevitably creates a biased perspective and casts a negative light on the material regardless of its educational value.”

“We believe that such legislation would prejudice educationally valuable content, undermine the quality of public education in Virginia, and contravene important First Amendment principles,” the letter reads. “Singling out material with a certain type of content inevitably creates a biased perspective and casts a negative light on the material

regardless of its educational value.”

Additionally, the letter cites an excerpt from *Monteiro v. Tempe Union School District*, which says that due to practicality issues, schools would be more likely to toss out educationally valuable yet to some extent controversial books instead of going through the process of individually teaching “opt-out” students alternative material.

“HB516 will inevitably impact the education of all students,” added the letter.

However, Murphy believes that the NCAC’s citation of *Monteiro* is used incorrectly.

“In a letter to Governor McAuliffe, the NCAC was concerned that HB516 could potentially expose school districts to First Amendment violations and cited *Monteiro v. Tempe Union High School District*, 158 F. 3d at 1028, where works like ‘Huckleberry Finn’ and ‘A Rose for Emily’ were assigned,” said Murphy. “The NCAC’s reliance on *Monteiro* is misplaced. In *Monteiro*, individuals requested that the school remove these literary works from a mandatory assignment list.”

She explained the difference between what effect the “Beloved” bill would have on Virginia schools versus *Monteiro*’s request to remove controversial material altogether.

“Unlike *Monteiro*, HB516 does not call on the school to approve or remove any assigned literary works,” Murphy said. “Quite the contrary, HB516 allows teachers to retain the ultimate authority and discretion in assigning literature. HB516 gives students and parents a choice, which is already the policy in the Health (FLE) and Biology (dissection) classrooms.”

However, after much back and forth and media coverage, HB516 was vetoed by Governor McAuliffe on April 4, 2016, explaining in his official veto statement that the Virginia Board of Education has already begun to discuss the possibility of changing state policy to accommodate raising concerns from parents.

Furthermore, the statement noted that the state has always left the task of curriculum management to local school boards, and intends to keep it that way. In conclusion, the governor reiterated his point that the bill was not necessary considering plans were

already in place to address the issue in a more complete manner, which could not be left to individual interpretation—in which he cites the use of “sexually explicit content” in doing so for HB516.

While McAuliffe’s veto is a setback in Murphy’s plans, she applauded the effort of all those who have pledged their support for her cause and backing the legislation.

“When sexually explicit topics are assigned in the Health (FLE) classroom, parents are notified and given the opportunity for an alternative assignment. If these same topics, or worse, are assigned in the English classroom, then consistency dictates that the same set of rules should apply.”

“I was grateful for the bipartisan support of our legislators, the Virginia Board of Education, and the thousands of parents, students and teachers throughout Virginia,” she said. “Virginia has a long history of upholding parental rights as two Democrat Governors signed almost identical legislation into law affecting both the health (FLE) and science (biology dissection) classrooms. While the Governor did veto this legislation, he made it clear that his signature was unnecessary because the Board of Education is already considering the issue.”

Moving forward, Murphy said that she will back the decisions made by the Chief Patron of HB516 after his statements regarding McAuliffe’s veto.

“I support the position of Delegate Steve Landes (R), the Chief Patron of the bill, when stating that he ‘hopes that the Governor will push for these changes to be made through the regulatory process. If he does not, I will introduce this legislation again next year.’”

In his full statement regarding the veto, Landes expressed his disappointment in McAuliffe’s decision, saying that “Parents make decisions every day about what video games kids play, what movies they watch, and what material they consume online. They should have the

same opportunity within the classroom.” He also explained that the parent-first ideology is already expressed in similar policies for sexual education and science curriculum and that McAuliffe’s Board of Education has put the issue aside for years. He said that if changes are not made, that is when he will reintroduce this legislation.

In a similar statement, Murphy demanded consistency in curriculum policies already in place to match those of the English curriculum as well.

“When sexually explicit topics are assigned in the Health (FLE) classroom, parents are notified and given the opportunity for an alternative assignment. If these same topics, or worse, are assigned in the English classroom, then consistency dictates that the same set of rules should apply,” she said.

She also cites the FCPS movie policy, Regulation 3007.2, as a rule in place concerning a before-hand notice for watching R-rated movies at school.

“[Regulation 3007.2] provides that if even excerpts of an R-rated movie like ‘Beloved’ are shown in class, then a notice must go home two weeks in advance, a signature is required by the parent or guardian and the teacher must provide rationale for use of the excerpt,” Murphy said. “Moreover, psychologists following this bill have cited numerous studies and data that warn of the detrimental effects that graphic sexually explicit material has on individuals and our culture.”

The central theme in the argument, however, is rooted in the debate on how much authority parents have over their children’s education.

“According to the current law in Virginia, parents have a fundamental right,” said Murphy, and cited Virginia law concerning the rights of parents.

The law, § 1-240.1, states that “A parent has a fundamental right to make decisions concerning the upbringing, education, and care of the parent’s child. 2013, cc. 668, 678.”

Murphy will continue to support the possible reintroduction of the legislation from Delegate Steve Landes.

Where Languages Spoken in FCPS are Spoken in the World



Creating Community Through Language

Shahtaj Ali
Copy Editor

The largest increase in the student population, in terms of race, has been in Hispanic and white students, with the Hispanic student body increasing greatly in the past three years, up four percentage points. Now that “minority” students now representing the majority at West Potomac (60% of the student body is now a minority), the face of the student body has changed greatly.

The numbers for students enrolled in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes has been a steady rise for the past decade and a half. As more people immigrate to this country, particularly from Spanish speaking countries, the number of students enrolled has grown nationally, with over 36,000 students enrolled in ESOL in FCPS. Data shows that ESOL students are among the fastest growing student population in the nation.

What does it mean for the students, those in need of English instruction and those proficient alike? Because the ESOL population is so new

and constantly growing, until recently, there have been relatively few programs involving them. However as the number of students enrolled continued to grow, teachers and students at this school realized that more inclusive programs need to be created.

ESOL was started in FCPS because of a large influx of Vietnamese refugees who came in 1975, the school system received 275 students who came from wealthier backgrounds and had already received an education in Vietnam. At this point the biggest challenge would be to teach them English and help them graduate. Major effort was not put into to help them assimilate to American culture. They needed an English education, and the school system attempted to provide for that.

Now the story has changed. As the department has grown educators nationally have realized the importance of learning the culture of a new area. As students learn social skills it helps them grow into their new lives and to grow more comfortable with speaking English.

Slowly but surely these programs and

“outreach” activities have been made; whether students are given an opportunity to attend an after school soccer tournament headed by Spanish teacher Brittany White, made more accessible by being held on a late bus day, or the World Beats Dance organized by Yamalie Colon, that included popular Spanish language songs. These are just some of the social outreach programs, created to give ESOL students– specifically Spanish speaking students– a chance to feel part of the broader community.

Efforts are continued by Andrea De Gatica’s newly formed clubs, the Hispanic Leadership Club and Hispanic Parents United which specifically targets the Hispanic community at the school. It provides Hispanic students and parents at West Potomac the opportunity to create a community for themselves, whether the meetings are held in Spanish or in English. The HLC isn’t specifically limited to Spanish speaking students either, as it’s open to any students who want to join.

These clubs were created to target a

community that might be on the “fringe”. For people who are very much a part of our school and its community, but may not have the ability to participate in typical PTSA meetings or other leadership clubs. The clubs work on issues within their own community, providing many marginalized parents and students the opportunity to speak out and become involved.

“I feel like I can do more classes, because I already broke the barrier of English. So, I might be trying out for all those clubs that I want to join. I’m doing JROTC already,” said junior Victoria Duran.

Duran is one of many ESOL students who has reached a higher level of ESOL and is now moving into mainstream classes. Though the transition has been difficult for her, she feels as if she adapted quickly. Being an assistant teacher in an ESOL classroom for Teachers for Tomorrow, and having joined JROTC has helped her with her English. The hardest hurdle to jump is the social

who do represent a majority, those programs aren’t exclusive.

Outreach can extend from anywhere, whether it’s the art department working with ESOL to have more ESOL students enrolled in art classes, or the JV and Varsity soccer teams offering spots to ESOL students. Any attempt to join with ESOL students in the wider community helps, and brings West Potomac’s community closer together.

“[It] helps a lot. You’re like not afraid to speak because they’re not going to laugh [at] you, because you don’t speak like them. So if you feel comfortable just speak.” said junior Diego Pinzon, who plays on the JV soccer team.

It’s not just the extracurriculars that make a difference with students, academics play a clearly dominant role. Junior Jeymi Lopez, who started at West Potomac in the beginning of this year has faced some unfortunate setbacks with her education. Lopez, who had attended a bilingual school in Honduras, is currently in ESOL 4, the second highest level.

When she came to America she had to take several placement tests before beginning school to determine what classes she should be enrolled in. Lopez had taken Algebra I in the eighth grade, so when she took her placement test in the subject several years later she failed. Now she’s in a class that she had already taken. Lopez’s story, though not uncommon, is not one she can’t overcome. A series of checks and balances are set in place to ensure that students who are meant to be in a higher level are moved up, typically by the teacher. She’s signed up for Geometry Honors next year and plans to take classes over the summer to catch up. Lopez isn’t going to let the hardships she has faced in both her personal and academic life affect the person she will become.

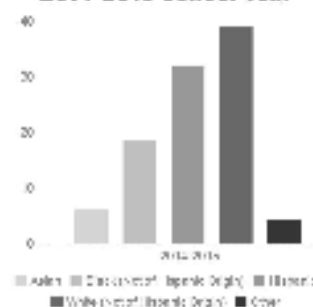
“I’m doing to be like a better person for me, to have a better job, to have a better education. To be someone better in my life. To like, in the future, be someone that I like to be.” said Lopez.

ESOL students are making their own mark on our school and its culture. Junior Angie Muguruza Sampén is President of the HLC, despite only having lived here for two years. Angie immigrated from Argentina with her mother to join her father. Sampén is one of

many ESOL students who come here and feel lost, unable to find any solid footing in a culture they don’t know.

“I still remember my first day,” said Sampén. “[I] was lost and I didn’t know how to say the words and I was looking for my first class and. Actually when I first came, I didn’t think there were Spanish people. I thought everyone was white. And then I saw many people from El Salvador and Honduras and they spoke Spanish!” De Gatica came to her and asked that she create a club here for Hispanic students, and

2014-2015 School Year

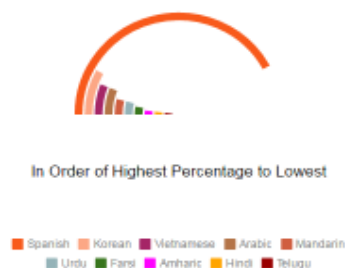


beyond, for those who feel lost, who need to find a community. Thus, the HLC was created, a club to provide a safe space to students who are desperately in need of one.

“They kind of started [when] I realized the community needed some sense of identity and unity,” said De Gatica.

The spirit of the HLC and other organizations like it should be what West Potomac’s greater community attempts to emulate. ESOL students and immigrant families are as valid a part of this school as others. As West Potomac, Fairfax County, and the entire nation continue to grow and become more diverse so must our thought. At a time when people are becoming increasingly split, our ESOL department stands out as a group vying for unity.

FCPS Languages Spoken at Home



one. Humans aren’t inclined to socialize in an environment that they’re unfamiliar with, particularly if the don’t even share a common language. This has been an obvious challenge for educators and students alike from the creation of the ESOL program.

ESOL educators then face a dilemma, how do you take such a diverse group, and provide social instruction to help them all? So many different nationalities, ethnicities, languages, and lives are represented, where do you begin?

This is where West Potomac has shown immense growth. The number of programs targeted at reaching and including ESOL students has been growing year by year. Though many of the programs are targeted at reaching Spanish speaking ESOL students,

Face to Religious Diversity

Claudia Santa Anna

Copy Editor

It's fourth period on a rainy Friday, and students are returning to their class after A lunch. History teacher George Coe is setting up a video camera as his World Religions students file in through the door. Though they won't ever leave their classroom, soon, his class will be interacting with teenagers from a very different, yet similar culture.

Face to Faith, a free program started by British politician Tony Blair in 2009 through the Tony Blair Faith Foundation, is a video conference program for middle and high school students that connects them with other schools around the world to discuss and better understand each other's personal and religious views. West Potomac's World Religions class usually takes part in several Face to Faiths each school year, and today, they are talking to students at Prepa Tec Campus Cumbres in Monterrey, Mexico.

Face to Faith's conference moderator asks the first question to get conversation going, and a connection is made.

"At first I thought we wouldn't have anything in common and we would sit in silence but once the camera turned on, and the questions were asked the conversions began to flow naturally," said junior Intisar Mohamed. She explains that she chose to take World Religions because she wanted to learn more about different religions and see what others believed in.

"So far, our class has done about

three [Face to Faiths]. Every Face to Faith [we've done] was better than the other, and my experience [today] was great," she added.

So what really goes on in the typical Face to Faith conversation? This time, the discussion started off with introductions from West Potomac students, followed by each side of the camera lens answering the icebreaker question, "What do you like or dislike about your community?" Later, the conversation took an in-depth turn when one student from Monterrey asked, "What is your opinion of the Mexican people?" From there, students on both sides worked on tearing down stereotypes from their respective countries.

Coe has been teaching World Religions for about five years, and first learned about Face to Faith at a religion workshop.

"[Face to Faith] conferences are interesting and allow students to see different cultures and different faiths," said Coe. "Some of the conferences revolve around important issues like equality before the law or human trafficking. Later, students compared diversity in the United States with the diversity of Mexico, and discussed the role of religion in daily life. "

Face to Faith video conferences serve greatly in the World Religions class as a way to educate not only about religion, but also about different cultures and beliefs. Students will often discuss cultural issues, problems facing each other's countries and explain what day-to-day life is like in another country. "I enjoy Face to Faith so much



World Religions Teacher George Coe organizes different Face to Faith events for students

because I get to learn about different cultures and different beliefs," said junior Mayra Osorio. "Face to Faith is probably my favorite part of world religion because we get to talk to people from different parts of the world and even if they're miles away they feel close when we have the conferences. What I learned from Face to Faith is that even though we live in different parts of the world, we still are human beings and share similar likes and dislikes."



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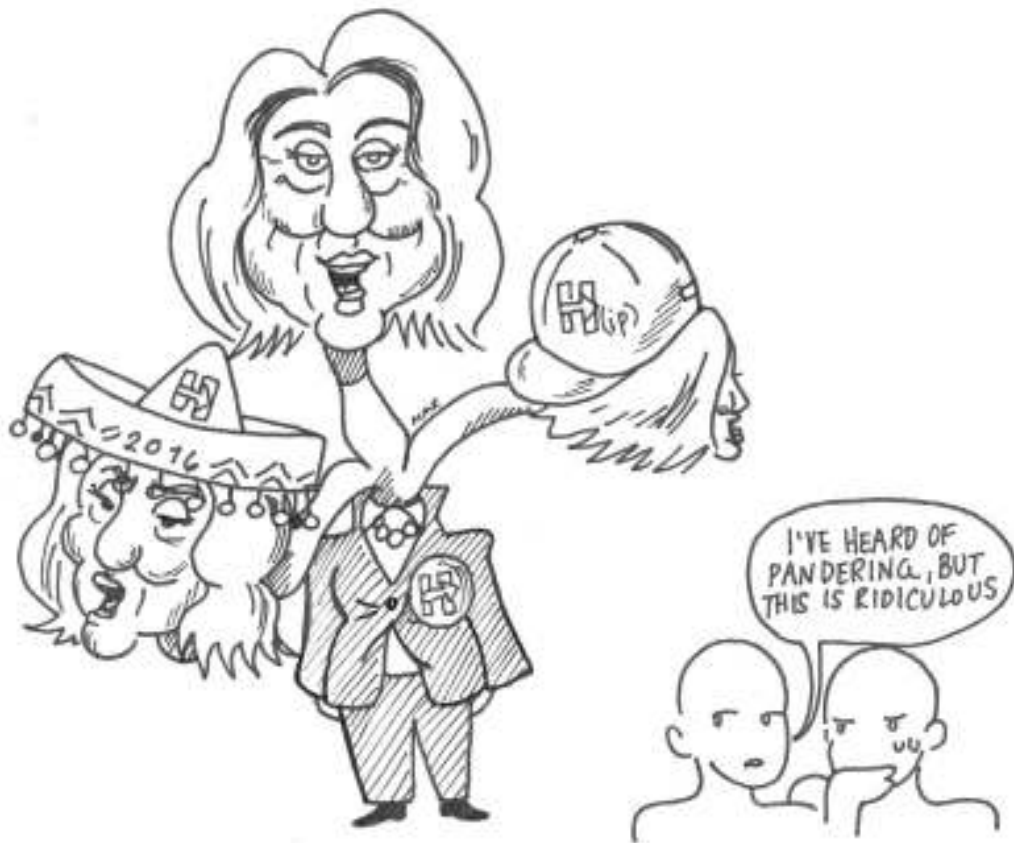
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What does it REALLY mean to be a “Springbanker”?



Being in the DC area, West Potomac students generally pride themselves in their unique and varied slang terms. Alexandria teenagers say things like “jaunt,” “hip,” and “sice” not only for their meaning, but to express where they are from. But of all such sayings, the only term truly specific to West Potomac is “Springbanker”- a term dating back to at least 2010 to describe the artsy occupants of West Potomac’s Springbank building. However, the word’s meaning isn’t as simple as that.

Claire Havranek

“Before the whole ‘no eating in Springbank’ thing happened I used to eat here everyday. I do theater, my locker’s in Springbank, I come here a lot, I’m here after school every single day for Starlight Express... I guess you could say I’m a Springbanker.

I guess [saying Springbanker] could be like, ‘oh, the pretentious kids who think they’re gonna be on Broadway some day, or think they’re going to be in movies’ or ‘the kids who don’t do anything with their life so they’re in arts.’ But there’s nothing wrong with being a Springbanker. I mean it has a negative connotation for when people say “oh, that’s a Springbanker” but I don’t take it as a negative thing.

[West Potomac students] would benefit from hanging out in Springbank. There’s not a lot of people here... it’s a quiet, peaceful place where you can work on your art, or work on your production, or work on your filmmaking, or your band.”



Lena Harmata

“Even though I spend a lot of time in Springbank, like I’m in the musicals and I’m also on dance team, I don’t qualify as a Springbanker because I think Springbankers are more the people that hang in the hallways after school, and have their skateboards and stuff.

I think [a Springbanker is] something you become after spending a lot of time in Springbank. I’m only there for certain activities, but I think Springbank Springbankers are people that spend time [there despite not taking] the actual classes, and that’s just like their place to hang out with their friends after school or during lunch or whatever... Like there is a group of them, you know what I mean? Whenever I go after school for practice, they’re always hanging out as a big group of people, and you have to be friends with them to be one I guess. They’re cool. I think they feel more welcomed in Springbank because in Springbank there is a lot of artsy people, and from my experience people in the arts are more welcoming and accepting than other buildings. Some people would feel more comfortable in Springbank than like, in the math hallway or something because that’s where they feel more accepted.”



Over time, “Springbanker” has developed many functions, sometimes expressed as a casual term of endearment, but other times being used condescendingly to dismiss all art students as their stereotypes. Among surveyed West Potomac students, 87 percent say “Springbanker” carries a negative connotation. In addition, only 29 percent say they would self-describe themselves as a “Springbanker” as an art student, which suggests an alternative definition of “Springbanker”- those who hang out in the Springbank hallways, but are not art students per se. To figure out the word’s true role in our community, *The Wire* set out to investigate what Springbank and “Springbanker” means to the art students of West Potomac themselves.

JP Havranek

“Yeah [I am a Springbanker]. I’m heavily involved in the activities here in Springbank, like I was in chorus in 9th grade and the rest of the time I’ve been in the theatre department, and that entails a lot, like coming in on weekends and helping with tech days. It’s a lot of work; you create a tightly-knit community in the area.

I don’t think any of us considers ourselves Springbankers, like it never really comes into our minds to describe ourselves in that way. But [saying] it is not wrong – like I spend a lot of time here in the building. Would calling anyone on the football team a Gunston-er be offensive? I don’t think so, it’s just kind of a word. I don’t think it’s necessarily offensive.

It’s just a building, it’s not necessarily – it’s just a place where things happen. It’s just a building! I’m just here because there’s less people- the other places are really crowded. I’m just here because this is where everyone I know is.”



Kylie McNulty

“Calling myself a ‘Springbanker’ or ‘Springbank Kid’ makes me feel like I have a place in this school.. I see Springbank as like a big family. I’m not a theater kid, but I always watch all of the theater performances and I support all the music programs and I’m really into art. So everything in Springbank is just what I’m into.

I’ve heard other friends of mine call themselves [Springbankers] and I’ve never heard of it being a bad thing. I’ve always thought it’s a good thing because it’s a place where we feel like we fit in together. There are specific kids who come straight to Springbank no matter where they come from, and they just hang out here because they know all their friends are here, or all of their favorite classes are here. I also love the way everything is laid out, like everything is a lot more open in my opinion than any other place in school. Especially like how the walls have paint on them and they are just decorated in art.

They’ll talk I guess badly of other people that they’re not associated in a group with because they don’t understand them. [When] someone from the outside refers to someone as a Springbanker, they might [say it because they] feel like [Springbankers] are like a clique or a big group of people who are snooty, or that they stay in one specific group that no one else is allowed into. But that’s not necessarily true. Springbank is for everyone else in this school.”





A Plan in Place To Keep Us Safe

Duncan Hoag & Huda Khan **Reporters**

There have been a few incidents in the past where suspicious people were spotted around the surrounding areas of West Potomac's school campus. These incidents were dealt with accordingly by school security staff to ensure that the school's inhabitants were safe in their environment.

Responding to reports about suspicious persons is the job of the security staff at WPHS and the county at large. The recently-installed school resource officer (SRO) at West Potomac, Officer Patrick Berling, discussed some of the procedures security personnel go through when they receive reports about suspicious behavior or persons.

"If I get the information--and it seems like in most cases I do because people are going to come to me because I'm here everyday-- I will interview the people that are bringing the complaint forward and I'll follow up on it," he explained. "What I mean by that is, for instance...I would go into the area, drive around, do what we call canvassing the area, talk to people who live nearby, knock on some doors, and try to go out and actively search for the [suspicious] vehicle."

Criminal Justice teacher and former Fairfax County detective Brian Colligan also talked about the motions the police go through when they receive a call.

"The police would come here and they're going to investigate in the sense that they're just going to talk to people and make sure they belong here. They're not going to tackle them or chase them down. That's a very normal and routine call for the police to investigate [a call about suspicious persons]," said Colligan.



Colligan also stressed the importance of people reporting what they see if they believe something suspicious is occurring.

"I think it goes towards everyone needs to be aware and report things that they see, because if we notify security, if we notify teachers, and we notify any other authorities...that way, we can identify if these people belong here on campus," said Colligan.

Colligan also discussed the routine nature of getting reports about suspicious persons.

"Routinely, police officers are called for suspicious people. Not just on school

campuses, but in businesses and residential areas, because that's [what makes] a good safe community where we're looking out for each other."

Berling stressed that the point is to get as much detailed information as possible so that the details could be compiled into a police report.

Additionally, Berling stressed the importance of detailed information when filing a police report.

"I'll try to get as much detailed information as I can, I'll put that information in the form of a police report, which then gets disseminated throughout our police department as well as our Public Information Office (PIO)."

The PIO, as the name implies, essentially acts as a place for information about criminal information to be stored, as well as a connection between the police and the public.

"The Public Information Office, their job is to be the liaison between the police department and the public. So if you ever wanted to any information about something that might be going on in the community, and you weren't sure who to go to, you would call the Public Information Office. The Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD) has one, and the school has one."

Finally, the officer handling the case would relay the information to the school, as well as the principal.

"Not only would I decimate that report to the PIO for our department, I would give the information to the school, and typically the principal would decimate that to their Public Information Office as well.

Berling stated that this system ultimately works for the betterment of the school and the community as a whole by way of making important information available to people.

"Bottom line is that the more people who know about these things that go on, the more people who will be educated about what's going on in the community."

Berling also added that criminal cases are not usually solved in one fell swoop. Instead, police often piece them together from a multitude of different sources.

"In a lot of these cases, we don't always have real detailed information. We might just get, you know, on the first day we hear it's a white van, and then someone else will call in and say 'I saw a white van

and got a partial tag [number]', and then maybe the next time someone will call and say 'I didn't get the tag number, but I know it's a Virginia tag.' Eventually, it all gets pieced together like a big puzzle and hopefully we catch the bad guy".

Berling also stated that although this is not an epidemic or a problem, community members should keep aware what is happening around them.

"To be completely honest with you, this isn't like an epidemic or a problem, that people should be worried about. Everybody should always be conscious of their surroundings when their walking to or from school or even in your neighborhood, and I'm not saying that neighborhoods aren't safe," said Berling.

Berling also discussed what role students and citizens can play in reporting suspicious behavior and people. He stressed the importance of cell phones as a tool of communicating with the authorities.

"On the good side of it, from the safety aspect, everybody has a cellphone nowadays, or they are with someone who has a cellphone. As I said, you should be aware of your surroundings, and if you see something that is suspicious to you, you can pick up your phone and call 911. If you're not comfortable that it is an actual emergency, you can our non-emergency number, and that number is 703-691-2131. I think everyone should have both those numbers [the emergency number and the non-emergency number] programmed into their phones," said Berling.



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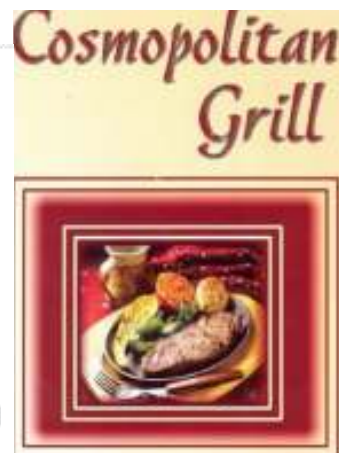
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5 Ways to Balance Your Work-School Responsibilities

Grant Benick
Reporter

Working. It is part of everyday life for those who are able to. You can start working in Virginia at the age of 16 and limited hours at the age of 14. Those who are lucky enough to acquire a job at this age need to balance their life and make it as stress free as possible. Here are 5 ways to balance school and your new job.

1 Keeping your grades up.
Keeping your grades up is not a problem if you're a prodigy child. For those who aren't, always remember to try your best. However, if push comes to shove, you should retake bad quizzes and tests and turn in homework that you haven't completed. If you only work over the summer, no need to worry about this unless you're enrolled in a summer school.

2 Manage your time wisely.
Managing your time plays a big role in balancing school and life in general. It is an essential skill that will help you concentrate your efforts on what is the most important. Plan your schedule and make a weekly list with priorities. Try to break up larger projects into multiple, smaller projects.

3 Have some fun!
Sometimes, you should get out of the house and go have fun. Go to the movies or just hang out. This is an easy way to relieve stress. Just do something that you enjoy.

4 Be a high achiever, but not a perfectionist
It's what every parent wants. They want their child to do well in school and come out of it with perfect grades. You should set achievable goals that you can reach by the end of each quarter so you can feel accomplished and be able to say "I did that!" There's nothing wrong with striving to do the best you can, but the key is to know your limitations.

5 Don't stress yourself out.
Stay calm. You shouldn't do anything that upsets you or anyone else and cause unnecessary drama. But when your stress level becomes more than a motivational tool, you may be in stress overload. Some easy ways to relieve stress are by laughing, practicing positive self-talk and by talking to a friend or a relative.



Hot Tips for Summer Jobs

Matavin Williams

Reporter

Summer is coming up, which means job season is as around the corner as well. Do you want to know what the pros and cons are of having a summer job? Or maybe some tips for searching the job scene, and even the interviewing process? Well, whether you think finding a summer job is easy or difficult, there's a technique and process that you can use to make your search successful.

First thing's first, you need to find a place where you want to apply. Starting during the summer is a bad idea, it's always best to begin the search early. If you start now, you have an even better chance of getting the job you want. Just search for some applications online, or even go to the store to ask if they're hiring this shows the people in charge you have initiative. The more applications you put in, the more stores will see your name, and the better chances you have of getting hired. Also, remember that you're not limited to only putting in one application for the

job(s) you really want. Showing you are willing to work is the best way to get noticed, and when you get the job all that hard work will be worth it.

When a business is interested in hiring you, they'll most likely want to talk to you face to face in an attempt to find out if you're as good in person as you are on paper. The interview is crucial to getting this job you've tried so hard to get, so naturally there are tips made for this portion of the job finding process

Always remember to keep your body language open. There are many cues you do by reflex which can show how you feel—for example, if your arms are crossed, many people take that as if you're hiding something, or you're annoyed/disinterested. One way to show positive body language is to sit or stand up straight, smile, look people in the eye, and don't let your arms cross your body like a barrier.

You should be prepared for any question and tell the truth clearly. For example the interviewer might ask you "What tree do you think represents you the most?". Telling the truth is best because bosses love

honesty, most do a background checks, and if you lied about something like your criminal record, you can kiss that job opportunity goodbye.

Lastly, speaking clearly will help you so much. If you feel you can't do this, set up a mock interview with someone so you can practice. Another option is using a mirror and just talking to your reflection. These few tricks can really help when the interview comes.

The last thing you should know are the pros and cons that come with having a summer job. You'll get paid, and we all need a little extra money in our pockets. The downside to this is you might not be able to relax as much as you want. Additionally, you'll get to meet different people at your job, which could also be a con if you're more of an introvert. Lastly, many employers help their workers through college with scholarships and grants.

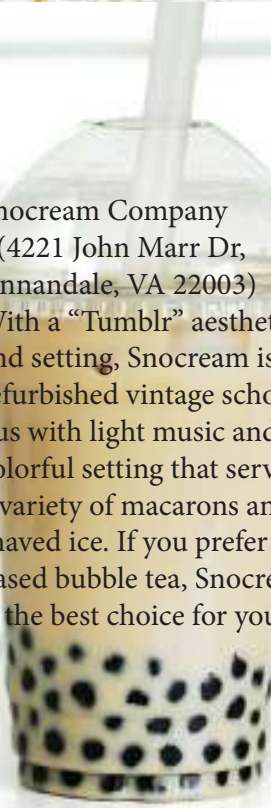
Summer jobs can be amazing and these tips can help you get your own.

Bubble Tea around Northern Virginia

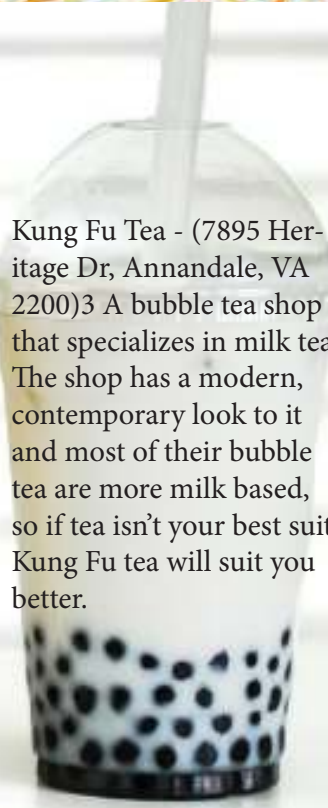
Snocream Company

- (4221 John Marr Dr, Annandale, VA 22003)

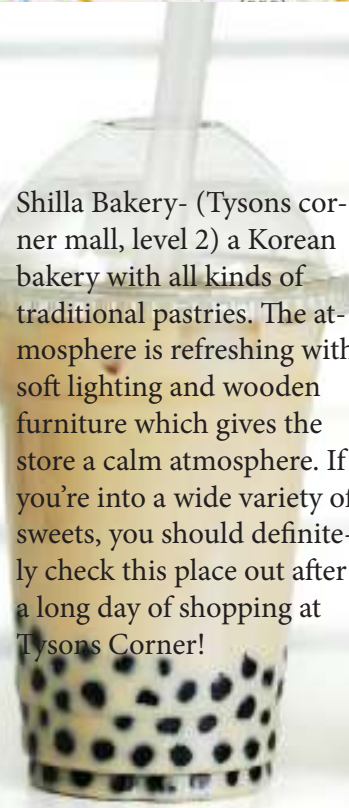
With a "Tumblr" aesthetic and setting, Snocream is a refurbished vintage school bus with light music and a colorful setting that serves a variety of macarons and shaved ice. If you prefer tea based bubble tea, Snocream is the best choice for you.



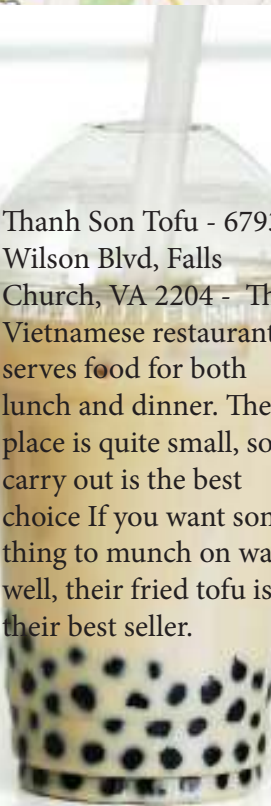
Kung Fu Tea - (7895 Heritage Dr, Annandale, VA 22003) A bubble tea shop that specializes in milk tea. The shop has a modern, contemporary look to it and most of their bubble tea are more milk based, so if tea isn't your best suit, Kung Fu tea will suit you better.



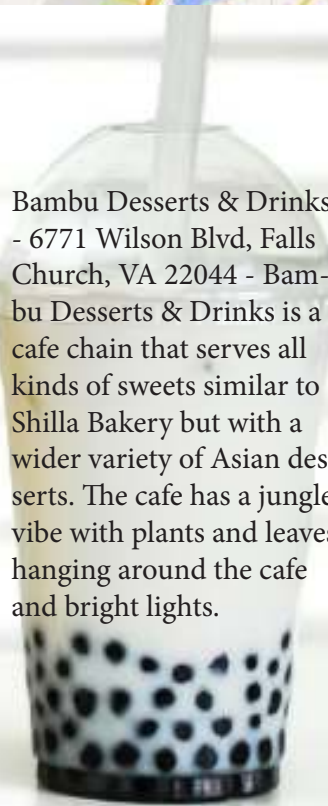
Shilla Bakery- (Tysons corner mall, level 2) a Korean bakery with all kinds of traditional pastries. The atmosphere is refreshing with soft lighting and wooden furniture which gives the store a calm atmosphere. If you're into a wide variety of sweets, you should definitely check this place out after a long day of shopping at Tysons Corner!



Thanh Son Tofu - 6793 Wilson Blvd, Falls Church, VA 2204 - This Vietnamese restaurant serves food for both lunch and dinner. The place is quite small, so carry out is the best choice. If you want something to munch on as well, their fried tofu is their best seller.



Bambu Desserts & Drinks - 6771 Wilson Blvd, Falls Church, VA 22044 - Bambu Desserts & Drinks is a cafe chain that serves all kinds of sweets similar to Shilla Bakery but with a wider variety of Asian desserts. The cafe has a jungle vibe with plants and leaves hanging around the cafe and bright lights.



Lily Bubble Tea and Smoothie - 1600 Crystal Dr, Arlington, VA 22202 - A short walk from Crystal City Metro Station, Lily Bubble Tea and Smoothie is an underground shop that serves all kinds of Asian drinks and has an adorable theme that is too hard to resist!

