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Dorothy McAuliffe, wife of Terry McAuliffe, speaks at the 2008 graduation of the Potomac School in McLean before handing out diplomas.

Costs at Local Schools

Local School Tuition

SOURCE: school Web sites and the Catholic Diocese of Arlington.

NAME	LOCATION	TUITION (GRADES)
Alexandria County Day School	Alexandria	\$19,830 (K-3)
		\$21,430 (4-8)
Bishop Ireton High School*	Alexandria	\$10,400 (parishioner)
		\$11,800 (Catholic non-parishioner)
		\$14,950 (non-Catholic)
Bishop O'Connell High School*	Arlington	\$9,200 (parishioner)
		\$10,630 (Catholic non-parishioner)
		\$13,245 (non-Catholic)
Browne Academy	Alexandria	\$12,975 (preschool)
		\$21,505 (K-8)
Burgundy Farm Country Day	Alexandria	\$20,575 (jr. K/K)
		\$21,520 (1-5)
		\$22,675 (6-8)
Commonwealth Academy	Alexandria	\$28,336
The Congressional Schools of Virginia	Falls Church	\$17,770 (K) to
		\$20,500 (8)
Episcopal High School	Alexandria	\$40,875 (boarding)
Flint Hill School	Oakton	\$21,370 (jr. K)
		\$24,050 (K-4)
		\$26,460 (5-8)
		\$27,510 (9-12)
Gesher Jewish Day School	Fairfax	\$15,950
Green Hedges School	Vienna	\$11,754 (pre-K) to
		\$20,924 (8)
The Langley School	McLean	\$12,600 (pre-K)
		\$24,140 (K-5)
		\$25,410 (6-8)
The Madeira School	McLean	\$35,050 (day student)
		\$46,160 (boarding student)
Oakcrest School	McLean	\$14,721 (6-8)
		\$15,696 (9-12)
Oakwood School	Annandale	\$26,400
Paul VI High School*	Fairfax	\$9,270 (parishioner)
		\$12,140 (non-Catholic)
The Potomac School	McLean	\$24,340 (K-3)
		\$25,930 (4-6)
		\$27,445 (7-12)
St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School	Alexandria	\$20,400 (jr.K)
		\$22,840 (K-5)
		\$24,710 (6-8)
		\$26,925 (9-12)
Westminster School	Annandale	\$16,856



PHOTO GALLERY!

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To honor dad on Father's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your dad and The Connection will publish them in our Father's Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail digital photos, send to:

PhotoAR@connectionnewspapers.com

Or to mail photo prints, send to:

The Arlington Connection, "Me and My Dad Photo Gallery,"
1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314

Photo prints will be returned to you if you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, but please don't send us anything irreplaceable.

On the Cover:

The annual homecoming parade at Yorktown High School.

Private Schools Feel The Economy's Pinch

Local schools report increase in requests for financial aid.

By JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Robert McIntyre will say goodbye to all his students when they head off for summer break June 12. He knows a handful of them won't be returning next fall because their families cannot afford the \$26,400 price tag for a year of education at Oakwood School.

"I am focusing on the kids who can't come because of the money. That is heartbreak," said McIntyre, Oakwood's founder and head of school.

The 38-years old private institution in Fairfax County caters to students with special learning needs. Only about 110 children attend the kindergarten-through-eighth-grade program and there is one staff member for every three students.

McIntyre expects anywhere from eight to 12 of his current students will not be able to enroll next year for financial reasons.

Though Oakwood will be able fill the vacant attendance slots, McIntyre still worries about what will happen to the students who cannot afford to come back.

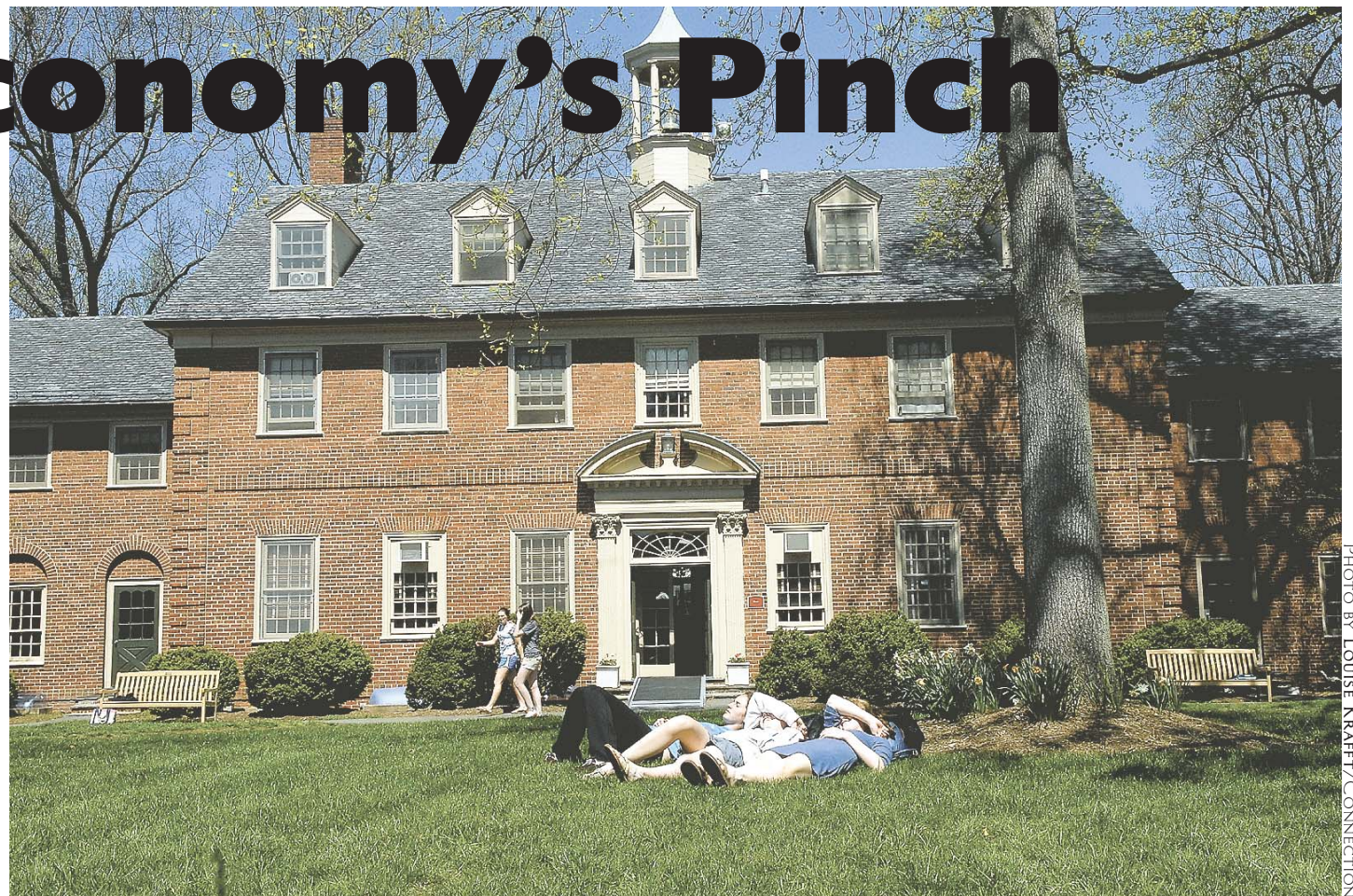
"These kids are not coming and they desperately need a special education program like ours. Our kids are all college material but they need a chance to get the help they need when they are younger," he said.

This past school year, about 10 percent of Oakwood students received some financial assistance, with most of the grants covering somewhere between a third and half of a student's tuition.

"This is the most aid we have ever given in the history of the school. We typically go into the school year with some extra funds but we spent every nickel we have on children who needed assistance," said McIntyre.

Many private and parochial schools in Northern Virginia report that requests for financial aid surged this year, both in terms of the number of families asking and the total dollar amount sought.

"Given the economy, it is obviously not surprising that among new families and returning families, there might be an increase in requests for financial aid," said Rachel Faulkner, chief operating officer of the Association of Independent Schools of Greater Washington, which includes 21



On the Madiera campus earlier this year, students enjoy a bit of sun and spring air between classes.

schools in Northern Virginia.

Faulkner's association has heard from several members who saw a jump in requests for financial help from last year, she said.

In response to additional requests for help this year, the Catholic Diocese of Arlington added \$250,000 to the \$1.7 million it normally uses for tuition assistance. The Northern Virginia diocese runs 52 schools – including five in Alexandria, seven in Arlington, and 20 in Fairfax.

"We were able to secure some additional money for families through a privately funded grant and some emergency funds," said Ken Balbuena, assistant to the diocese's school superintendent.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA is in better economic shape than most other parts of the country. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the region's unemployment rate is 5.2 percent in March 2009 compared to 8.5 nationwide at the same time.

But tens of thousands Northern Virginia residents still lost their jobs over the last year. The government reports that 39,023 Northern Virginia residents were unemployed in March 2008. A year later, that number had jumped to 74,183 people.

At the 21 Virginia schools that belong to Faulkner's private school association, the average tuition is \$20,144 for a third grader, \$21,819 for a sixth grader and \$26,479 for a 12th grader.

The Arlington's diocese parochial schools are cheaper, costing an average of \$4,445 per elementary school student and \$9,348 per high school student.

In the 2008-2009 school year, the inde-

pendent school association's 21 Virginia schools doled out \$21.5 million in financial aid to approximately 16 percent of their population. The median endowment was \$1.3 million. Approximately 35.5 percent of students at the diocese's schools also received aid last year, according to Balbuena.

FOR SOME SCHOOLS, the increase in financial aid requests is coming from current families who never had to ask for help but are now struggling to cover tuition.

"We don't normally see that at all. But now, we are seeing it a little bit because people have lost jobs in this economy," said Stacey Ahner, director of institutional advancement at Flint Hill School in Oakton.

Depending on the grade level, Flint Hill tuition ranges from approximately \$24,000 to \$27,500. Ahner said the school normally allocates about \$2 million in financial aid to 15 percent of its student body each year.

"We give priority to the students who are already here. ... We don't have sufficient aid to meet everyone's needs," said Ahner.

The Potomac School in McLean has never had to turn a student away for financial reasons, even though they saw a significant increase in requests for assistance this year.

"Once the students are accepted, they are part of the Potomac family. We do everything that we can to make it possible for those students to attend Potomac," said Sheila O'Marah, assistant head of school and director of financial aid.

Depending on the grade level, tuition ranges from \$24,000 to \$27,500 at Potomac and approximately 15 percent of the student body receives assistance.

O'Marah said about eight families with a total of 11 or 12 students currently enrolled in the school sought financial help for the first time this year but the school was able to ensure that the students could stay.

A few schools said they are looking at grants or doing more fundraising to help meet new demands for financial aid.

"We have extended ourselves further than we ever have before and it impinges on us to get a new source of support for next year but we are committed to do so," said Zvi Schoenberg, head of school at Geshar Jewish Day School in Fairfax.

THOUGH SCHOOLS saw an increase in requests for financial aid, most said they have not seen a drop off in applications or their enrollment numbers.

"Our applications were down slightly but not significantly enough to cause concern," said Kerry Moody, director of admissions and financial aid at The Langley School in McLean.

Paul VI High School had been apprehensive about a drop in applications and enrollment earlier in the year but has seen both remain steady, according to Eileen Hanley, who works in admissions.

The increase in class size at Fairfax County Public Schools may have contributed to interest remaining high, she said. Tuition at the Catholic high school in Fairfax is about \$9,200 for members of the Arlington diocese and \$12,100 for non-Catholics.

"People are looking for value and, as long as they are getting a good value and education, they are willing to sacrifice the money," said Hanley.

Camp Offerings Expand in Arlington

By MARK GIANNOTTO
THE CONNECTION

In the past, the traditional summer camp followed a tried and true format and it rarely made concessions for the future forensic biologists or rock stars of the world. There were arts and crafts, nature exploration, and always a visit to a local pool. About the only specialization occurred in sports camps, if children knew exactly what sport they wanted to focus on.

But take a look around the area's current camp landscape and those days appear to be a thing of the past.

Rather than a potpourri of activities that may or may not be what children want to participate in, camps have taken the step of breaking down into concentrated programs to give children a more specific experience.

So if it's the traditional, well-rounded experience with sing-a-longs and dodgeball that piques the interest or you want to figure out how to create a video game from scratch, chances are there's a camp out there to satisfy.

IN ARLINGTON, the popular Arlington County Parks & Recreation Department Camps have seen most of their



Learning about history and taking aim with wooden muskets were all part of the fun for these campers at a camp focused on the civil war.



Young people enjoy painting at an Arlington art center, one of many camp opportunities.

campers filled despite the less than booming economy. To satisfy even more campers, though, the county has several partnerships with private camps that ends up tripling the amount of available county-sponsored camps, giving area youths close to 100 different programs to choose from.

According to Susan Kalish, of Arlington County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources, the county looks for programs that share a similar mission of providing affordable summer fun for area children. That means agreeing to a pricing structure and reductions consistent with the county's guidelines as a way of helping

the many families with two working parents that use camp as childcare during the summer.

"We can't get enough camps," said Kalish. "And we don't want a fee to be a barrier to get to camp."

It gives children the chance to choose from an array of specific programs. There's 21st Century camps like the "noodle Go Green!" camp through Left Noodle-Right Noodle at the Fairlington Center, which puts a child's "imagination into high gear inventing and creating wild, wacky and wonderful ways to respect, protect and enhance our environment." Or for those interested in history and the

military, there's the Civil War Soldier Camp at Fort CF Smith, where kids will "learn to march and drill like a well trained infantry unit," while playing Civil War-era games and designing forts.

There's even a camp for teens trying to become the next "American Idol." At the Langston-Brown Community Center, the Arlington Youth Street Theater is sponsoring an eight-week program where participants develop a production piece for a two-week performance tour.

In addition, the county also sponsors a litany of sports camps, both public and private. To check out a full listing of everything the county has to offer, go to <http://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/ParksRecreation/scripts/camps/ParksRecreationScriptsCampsMain.aspx> for their summer catalog.

BISHOP O'CONNELL High School is also offering its own middle-school themed camp program, "A Knight Day Camp." Those with adventurous minds can choose from course offerings like learning the methods of a professional spy, how to make a commercial or short film with video production



O'Connell boys' basketball coach Joe Wootten will be running "Coach Wootten's Basketball Camp."

equipment, or just discovering some new and improved study habits for the coming school year. There are two sessions of camps, with all day or half day programs available. Go to <http://www.bishopoconnell.org/pages/sitepage.cfm?page=329707> to learn more or download the registration packet.

Also at O'Connell, boys' basketball coach Joe Wootten will be running "Coach Wootten's Basketball Camp,"



Campers line up with wooden muskets at a "civil war" camp.



Figuring out the puzzle at an event at Potomac Overlook Park.



Fun with bubbles at Potomac Overlook Park.

are four weeks of overnight camps for boys and one week of overnight camps for girls.

There is also a day camp for boys for two weeks. The day camp is held at

Bishop O'Connell in Arlington and the overnight camp is held at Frostburg State University in Frostburg, Md. See www.coachwootten.com or call 703-279-1554 for more information.

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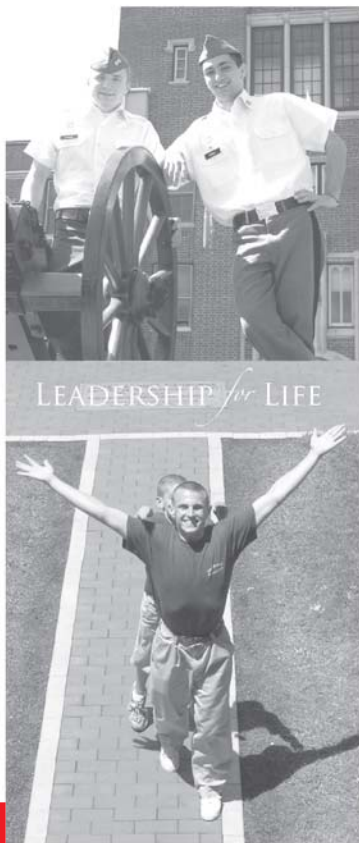
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Choosing the Right School

Adapted from the *National Association of Independent Schools*. For more, visit the *Parents' Guide from the National Association of Independent Schools* at www.nais.org/go/parents.

Start Early

Public schools take in new children all year round. But not independent schools. Most schools' admissions and financial aid timelines are like colleges; applicants start the process almost a year before they plan to attend.

Learn the deadlines — for both admission and financial aid — by checking Web sites. Call individual schools if you have questions. The entire process will be easier on your family if you know the deadlines, keep track of them carefully, and give yourself plenty of time to meet them.

Do Your Homework

Start by working with your family to determine your ideal educational community. Ask yourself whether the school would be: small or large; day school or boarding school; coeducational or single-sex; traditional or progressive; source of special programs; representing a diverse community; and/or sensitive to your child's special needs.

Consider the Possibilities

Call potential schools to request admissions literature, and examine their Web sites. Then compare what you read there with what you're looking for in your ideal school. Among the questions you should ask yourself about each school:

Basic Facts: How many students does the school have? Where is it, and how does the location affect your transportation needs? For high schools, what are the graduation requirements? What percentage of students enter college, and what kinds of colleges do they attend? Is the school accredited, and if so, by whom?

Educational Quality: What is the school's mission, and does its philosophy appeal to you? Does it have a particular educational focus? Is the atmosphere competitive? Nurturing? Or what?

Beyond the Basics: What types of learning experiences are available — in class, on the playing field, in extracurricular activities, and in community service? Do the school materials discuss parental involvement?

Costs: What is the tuition? Are there extra charges, such as for books, lab fees, transportation, and so on? What are the school's financing options? What is the financial aid application process? When are the deadlines?

Six Considerations

Location. Size, both (a) average class size and (b) overall number of students in the school. **Educational philosophy;** ask questions such as, how are classes actually taught? How are expectations conveyed? **Curriculum:** core courses as math, the humanities, and science are taught, and is there a strong interdisciplinary emphasis? **Faculty:** see where the teachers went to college, whether their degrees match with what they teach, and whether they have advanced degrees in the subjects they teach. **Facilities.**

The Open House: Although the majority of open houses occur in the fall, some schools have one right after the first of the year. Most schools list open houses in the admissions section of their Web sites; if you can't find the information there, call the admissions office. Check to see if you need to register or if you can just drop in. Also find out if there will be a formal welcome at the open house and what time it will occur. This brief presentation is an ideal opportunity to hear how the school head and admissions director speak of the school.

● School Search Timeline

AUGUST: Finalize schools that you plan to inquire about.

SEPTEMBER

- Request admissions and financial aid material by phone or online.

- Review admissions materials to determine which schools to visit.

- Keep a calendar of pertinent deadlines for admission and financial aid and procedures, such as when schools start taking reservations for individual tours and interviews.

- Register for standardized tests—the SSAT or ISEE (for middle school and high school).

- Review the test Web sites to learn procedures and see sample questions; consider whether you want to buy a test-preparation book.

- Call to schedule individual tours, interviews, class visits, and "shadow days." Ask elementary schools about their test schedules and how to make an appointment.

OCTOBER

- Visit open houses.

- Call to schedule tours, interviews, class visits, and school-based tests if you haven't already.

- Attend information sessions and take tours.

- Finalize school(s) to which you will make application.

- Take standardized test.

NOVEMBER

- Follow through on activities you may not have completed, such as scheduling tours, interviews, class visits, and standardized or school-based tests.

- Continue to watch for open houses you may want to attend.

- Start lining up teacher recommendations.

- Start working on applications, financial aid forms, student questionnaires, essays, etc.

DECEMBER Complete any remaining applications, questionnaires, etc. Most application materials are due in January or early February.

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Arlington Career Center early childhood teachers **Ruth Bilodeau and Carol Show** received one of three Virginia Governor's Career and Technical Education Exemplary Standards Awards. The award was established this year through Virginia's National Governors' Association (NGA) grant. Bilodeau and Show will receive a banner to display at their school and a \$5,000 cash award for continued program improvement. Awards will be presented during the CTE Summer Professional Institute on Aug. 4.

Marianne Mckinnon Moore of Arlington graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in English with the Class of 2009 during Commencement ceremonies in Ithaca, N.Y., May 24.

Emily Johnston of Arlington received a Bachelor of Science in Graphic & Visual Communication from Lynn University in the commencement ceremony Saturday, May 9.

Nora Kelleher of Arlington will graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Hotel and Restaurant Administration with the Class of 2009 during Commencement ceremonies in Ithaca, N.Y., May 24.

Yorktown High School competed at the statewide Technosphere competition of the Technology Student Association (TSA) at the Sheraton Premiere in Vienna on May 1-3. The following students placed in the following competitions: Matt Gallager, Alex Matta, and Chris Edwards placed 1st in Engineering Design, Emily Mitchell placed 2nd in Technical Sketching and Application, and Ross Sylvestri placed in the top 10

finalists of both Career Comparisons and Future Technology Teacher.

Dr. Linda McKenna Gulyn of Arlington, chair of Marymount University's Undergraduate Psychology Department, received the Robert A. Draghi Outstanding Faculty Award on May 9 at Marymount's Recognition Day, which precedes Commencement.

More than 200 Arlington Public Schools students took the National Latin Exam and 17 of those students earned summa cum laude and received gold medals. The National Latin Exam was established in 1977 to provide students with a national standard to measure their academic success. In the first year, approximately 6,000 students applied to take the exam. This year, more than 149,000 students from all 50 states and 13 foreign countries participated in the National Latin Exam.

The students who earned summa cum laude are:

Jefferson Middle School — Latin 2 – Robert Shepardson;

Kenmore Middle School — Latin 1 – David Soukup; Latin 2 – Robert Wharton;

Washington-Lee High School — Latin 3 – Andrew Leinbach;

Yorktown High School — Latin 2 – Jeffrey McAleer, Benjamin Barsky, William Addison; Latin 3 – Beatrix Haddon; Nevada Polite; John MacLaughlin; Adrienne Todela; Latin 4 – Ann Carpenter; Meredyth Gottschall; Claire Withycombe; Kelsey Coia; Ana O'Harrow; Latin 5 – Amanda Chan

Additionally, 21 students placed second this year and were recognized with silver

medals and received maxima cum laude recognition, 7 students placed third receiving magna cum laude and 13 students received cum laude certificates for achieving a fourth place ranking. Those students include: Silver Maxima Cum Laude

Gunston Middle School — Latin 1 – Caitlin Fitzsimmons; Latin 2 – Honora Walls; Sylvia Monet;

Jefferson Middle School — Latin 1 – Kevin Corneby; Williamsburg Middle School — Latin 1 – Spencer Cobb; James Patton; Nicholas Rudman; Maksym Aleksandrovych; Washington-Lee High School — Latin 3 – Sonia Phene;

Yorktown High School — Latin 1 – Cameron Hancock; Mei Lee; Latin 2 – James Krech; Glen Denning; Andrew Leach; James Reese; Latin 4 – Julia Meadows; Lydia Carpenter; Ellis Carpenter; Alice Jurkevics; Jenna Anders; Latin 5 – Lena Barsky;

Magna Cum Laude Williamsburg Middle School — Latin 1 – Matthew Deasy; Ryan Whitesides; Jessica Shen

Washington-Lee High School — Latin 3 – Meredith Randle; Carl Buegler; Latin 5 – Nathaniel Root; Valerie Dugie

Cum Laude Jefferson Middle School — Latin 2 – Naransukh Sukhee;

Kenmore Middle School — Latin 1 – Gracia Luoma-Overstreet; Charlie Phillips; Williamsburg Middle School — Latin 1 – Catherine Roddy; Arya Dahal; Bilgiindalai Saruul-Erdene; Nathan Fajfar; Latin 2 – David Reich;

Washington-Lee High School — Latin 3 – Madeleine Brehaut; Rachel Hooker; Mara Berkland; Latin 4 – Elizabeth Woolley;

Jennifer Berry.

The General Administration of the Sisters Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, in consultation with the Administration of Bishop O'Connell High School, has selected Sister Catherine Hill to serve as the next Assistant Principal for Academic Affairs at Bishop O'Connell High School. Sister Catherine will replace Sister Regina Joseph Ryan who has served in the position for the past nine years. Sister Catherine's appointment will take effect in August.

Gordon Michael Briggs of Arlington graduated from Cornell University with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science with the Class of 2009 during Commencement ceremonies in Ithaca, N.Y., May 24.

The winners of the 20th Annual Writing Competition at the Manassas Campus of Northern Virginia Community College were recognized recently during a ceremony that featured special guest Robert Lesman reading his poetry. Lesman retired from NVCC last year after teaching English for 38 years. His poetry has been published in several books.

The winners received cash prizes of \$100 for first place, \$75 for second place and \$50 for third place in four categories: essay, one-act play, poetry and short fiction.

In the one-act play category, Margaret Poethig of Arlington won first place for "The Flagger."

Jessica Brewster Oxley of Arlington earned a bachelor of arts degree in sociology and government from Wofford College on May 17.

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