



Tuesday November 2, 2010

**School Notes**

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Lanier Middle Eco-Action team recognized

Lanier Middle School's Eco-Action team has achieved silver award status from the Eco-Schools USA program for introducing and encouraging sustainability among the students and staff members at the Fairfax school.

The Lanier team is composed of students, teachers, parents, administrators and members of the custodial staff who have been meeting for about a year to encourage environmental stewardship and reduce waste at the school.

Members of the school's team worked on energy saving projects, including taking lux (a measure of light intensity) meter readings in classrooms with a goal of reducing the lighting load in the school by 15 to 20 percent.

They also studied the unused central courtyard leading to a proposal to convert it into a model ecosystem using native species of plants so the courtyard can be used as an outdoor classroom.

The team also expanded the school's recycling program and establishment of a compost site.

Initiatives by the Eco Action Team were linked to the school's science curriculum.

The Eco-Schools program is sponsored by the Foundation for Environmental Education, a nonprofit organization that promotes sustainability through environmental education via classroom study and community action.

Lanier's Eco-Action team was recognized by the Fairfax City School Board on Monday.

Chantilly Academy helps visually impaired

Chantilly Academy has joined with Quality of Life Plus and the Purdue University EPIC High program in a joint venture to create working prototypes of a radar-sensor feedback system to aid visually-impaired military veterans. Chantilly Academy is one of six high school academies in Fairfax County Public Schools.

Chantilly Academy engineering students will work in design teams to create the prototypes, enabling them to serve their community while building problem-solving skills and engineering knowledge. Working with the QL+ program, a nonprofit organization that fosters and generates innovations to aid and improve the quality of life for those injured in the line of duty, the students will have an opportunity to engage in civic responsibility, directly benefiting the veterans.

Purdue University's Engineering Projects in Community Service-Learning High program is designed to enable high school students to connect engineering and computer design with local community needs.

Marshall Academy heads to Mason Extreme

On Thursday, students from Marshall Academy's entrepreneurship class will participated in the Extreme Entrepreneurship Tour at George Mason University. Marshall Academy is one of six high school academies in Fairfax County Public Schools.

This national entrepreneurship tour features the country's top young entrepreneurs and successful local entrepreneurs from the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. Speakers, all of whom are younger than 30, will share their personal success stories and hope to inspire audiences to outline plans of action that will define their entrepreneurial paths. Among the speakers are entrepreneurs who established businesses specializing in technology, media, education, finance, real estate, telecommunications, nonprofit organizations, health care, entertainment, sports, retail and microfinance lending. For more information, go to [www.extremetour.org](http://www.extremetour.org)

The FCPS entrepreneurship course provides students with the skills to develop, finance and market a new product or service while learning small business ownership skills. The class also is offered at Chantilly Academy.



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