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## NEWS

### May 6, 2014 - Staunton City Schools Tip Sheet

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#### SCHOOL BOARD HOSTS REGIONAL FORUM

The Staunton City School Board recently hosted the VSBA Valley Regional Forum at McSwain Elementary School. This annual dinner event provides an opportunity for school board members and superintendents from the 16 school divisions in the Valley Region to come together for an evening of informational presentations, conversation, and a student art show consisting of elementary, middle, and high school submissions from the participating school divisions.

This year's presentation, "Partnering for a Strong Workforce," focused on the tremendous value of career and technical education for students, schools, and industries. The program included comments from Dr. Linda Reviea, Superintendent of Staunton City Schools; Sharon Johnson, Chief Executive Officer of the Shenandoah Valley Workforce Investment Board; and Jennifer Rexrode, Assistant Principal of Valley Vocational Technical Center. Mrs. Rexrode brought current and former students of VVTC with her, who spoke of their experiences at Valley Vocational Technical Center and the role that career and technical education has played in meeting their individual education and career goals. As an added display of the excellent works of VVTC, the evening meal was provided by the Culinary Arts Program, and blooming potted plants were provided as table decorations by the Horticulture Department.

The student artwork submissions were judged by three local experts: Robert Stuart, nationally-recognized artist; Jim Sconyers, Jr., Assistant Professor of Art at Mary Baldwin College; and Hannah Scott, Curator of the Staunton-Augusta Art Center. Staunton City Schools was pleased to have two students receive ribbons for their artwork submissions: Cody Comisford, 3<sup>rd</sup> grader at McSwain, placed third in the elementary category for his submission entitled, "Peeping In" and, in the high school category, the submission by Robert E. Lee High School junior, Jake Riddle, "Open Me to Reality," received a second place ribbon.

First place winners were: Madison Coslett of Waddell Elementary School, Lexington City Public Schools; Ella Kearny, Thomas Harrison Middle School, Harrisonburg City Public Schools; and Tristan Turner, Waynesboro High School, Waynesboro City Schools. The first place winning art pieces will be displayed on a rotation basis in the offices of the Secretary of Education/State Superintendent and the Virginia School Boards Association throughout the year.

***FUEL UP TO PLAY 60 AT LEE HIGH SCHOOL***

Robert E. Lee High School physical education teacher, Ms. Virginia Hocker, recently received 100 pedometers through the *Fuel Up to Play 60* program. The national program was founded three years ago by the National Dairy Council and the NFL, in collaboration with USDA, with the intent of empowering students to take charge in making small, everyday changes at their school. *Fuel Up to Play 60* promotes eating breakfast, making healthy food choices, and daily participation in physical activity with an overall goal of creating big changes in health and physical education awareness.

Ms. Hocker and her physical education students have pledged to be active for 60 minutes each day, in whatever way they choose, such as playing sports or participating in various activities. Through weekly announcements at school, they are creating awareness and motivating others to participate as well. Ms. Hocker was excited to receive many additional items to use as incentives and prizes for students who pledge to participate or act as an advisor in the program. Ms. Hocker said, “The pedometers are amazing! I will be able to use them daily to set goals and collect data on my students.” Congratulations to Ms. Hocker and her students in their efforts to make a difference!



Ms. Hocker is surrounded by pedometers and prizes Lee High received for student participation in the *Fuel Up to Play 60* program.