



116 W. Beverley Street
Staunton, Virginia 24401
Phone 540-332-3920 • Fax 540-332-3924
www.staunton.k12.va.us

NEWS

June 13, 2014 - Staunton City Schools Tip Sheet

Contact: Brenda Lovekamp
School Board Clerk
332-3920

MCSWAIN STUDENTS DEVELOPING COMPASSION

Compassion is the emotion of caring for people and other living things, creating an emotional bond with others in the world. As a way of developing compassion, character and citizenship, students at McSwain were offered the opportunity to participate in two service projects on June 2nd – Jump Rope for Heart and Splash for Cash.

Physical Education teacher Barb Maclam spearheaded the McSwain Jump Rope for Heart program. Student raising donations for the American Heart Association (AHA) were invited to participate in a morning jumping assembly. Students jumped rope and also played jumping games. The mission of the AHA is to build healthier lives, free of cardiovascular disease and stroke. Funds also are used to support families of the thousands of children born with hearts that don't work properly. Participation in Jump Rope for Heart helps students develop compassion for those with heart disease and promotes healthy living.

Splash for Cash, organized by kindergarten teacher Vanessa Smith, raises money for the Vickie S. Honeycutt Foundation. In memory of a 40-year veteran in the field of education who succumbed to cancer in 2010, the Foundation raises money to help educators with cancer cover their medical expenses. Two teachers within Staunton City Schools have recently benefited from the work of this foundation. The "splash" refers to the dunking booth activities held during the afternoon at McSwain. Teachers of various grade levels volunteered to spend time in the dunking booth. All students got a chance to dunk a teacher, and those making donations to the Honeycutt Foundation were allowed extra tosses.

The students enjoyed a fun day while raising awareness for these worthy causes. Involving students in efforts such as these help students to develop their own personal character traits and encourages them to become more civic-minded.

LEE PARTICIPATES IN FOOTBALL CAMP

Robert E. Lee High School's football team recently participated in a week-long High School Player Development (HSPD) camp held in the evenings at Wilson Memorial High School in Fishersville. The camp, sponsored by the National Football League and the National Guard, was free of charge to the coaches and the players. The program emphasizes safety and concussion awareness, character development and life skills, and football fundamentals.

Sixty-four players from the Robert E. Lee High School Leemen football squad attended the camp. Each participant was awarded a leather planner for the 2014-15 school year, containing NCAA information and places to list daily goals and tasks. Coach Tibbs expressed his appreciation for the camp opportunity and also for the camp jersey given to each participant. He added that the players will be able to wear the camp jerseys as team practice jerseys, providing the additional benefit of those cost savings.



Lee's football team attends HSPD camp in Fishersville.

SCHOOL BOARD RECEIVES AWARD FROM VML

Pete Strickler, Safety Consultant for the Virginia Municipal League (VML) was on hand at the June 9 Staunton City School Board meeting to recognize the school division for achieving the first year goal in VML's *Where the Rubber Meets the Road* campaign. Staunton City Schools is one of 46 entities participating in the program started by VML in 2010 to address safety concerns among its members.

The program acknowledges that defensive driving courses are key toward providing strategies to reduce collision-related injuries, fatalities and costs. Utilizing the program's materials and assistance in providing approved defensive driving training to its vehicle drivers, Staunton City Schools has met the goals of the program's first year. Mr. Earl McCray, Director of Operations and Mrs. Lisa Kisamore of the Transportation Department provided defensive driver training to more than 90% of the division's drivers during the 2014-2015 school year. The school division also conducts annual DMV record checks, has a driver selection and retention program in place, and enforces a vehicle use policy. By meeting the goals of the program, Staunton City Schools has been able to not only reduce the division's insurance risk, but will also receive a five percent credit on auto coverage.

As the program continues, the school division will provide training to any new drivers hired and refresher courses to its current drivers.



Pete Strickler of VML presents a plaque to Mr. Ronald Ramsey, School Board Chair, in recognition of SCS achieving the first year goal in VML's *Where the Rubber Meets the Road* campaign.