

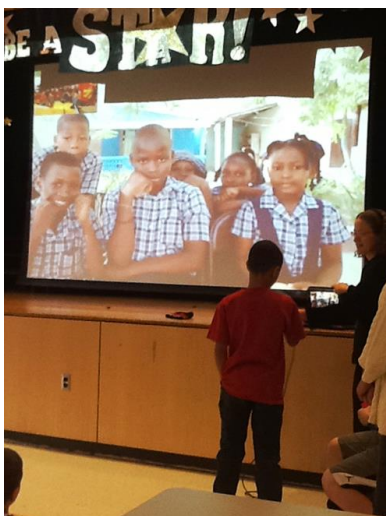
November 8, 2013 – Staunton City Schools Tip Sheet

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MCSWAIN TALKS WITH HAITIAN STUDENTS

McSwain's fifth grade students recently had an opportunity to talk with students from St. Bernadette School in Haiti. Staunton resident David Fritz travels twice each year to the island of La Gonave and works with the school as a member of a mission group based in Harrisonburg. While he was in Haiti, he arranged for St. Bernadette's students and McSwain's students to be connected using Apple's FaceTime technology. The students asked and answered questions of each other to learn and compare life experiences. Questions covered a large range of topics, such as class size, weather, family size, garden produce, and government. The students noticed the difference in dress code, with the Haitian students dressed in uniforms. The students learned that if a St. Bernadette student were to come to school without their uniform, they would be sent home.

Prior to his trip, Mr. Fritz visited each of McSwain's fifth grade classes to discuss Haiti and La Gonave. He spoke to them about Haiti's history, as Haiti is the first and only republic in the world created by a slave revolution. He also shared with the students about America's long and complicated history with Haiti and the current conditions there as a result of the earthquake in 2010. This is the third year Mr. Fritz has done this exercise in the schools. The students learned a great deal about Haiti and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



McSwain 5th graders chat with Haitian students via FaceTime.

LEE CLUBS SPONSOR BLOOD DRIVE

Robert E. Lee High School recently held its annual Virginia Blood Services blood drive, sponsored by the National Honor Society (NHS), the Interact Club and the Key Club. Students and staff were asked to donate blood to support life. Students who were at least 16 years old and had parent permission were permitted to participate.

Lee blood drive organizers set a goal of having at least 50 donors. If they were able to meet the goal, Robert E. Lee High School would be qualified for scholarships awarded by the Virginia Blood service. Mrs. Kurtz, CTE teacher and Key Club sponsor at Lee High stated “We needed 50 donors and we got 51 -- way to go Lee!”

The Robert E. Lee High School Key Club is a junior organization of Kiwanis International and a sister organization to both Circle K at Mary Baldwin College and the Builders Club at Shelburne Middle School. The mission statement of the Key Club is the following: “Key Club is fun and service...we are an international student-led organization which provides its members opportunities to provide service, build character, and develop leadership.” The Robert E. Lee High School Key Club will participate in numerous activities throughout the year, including working at Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, participating in the Staunton Christmas Parade, Nursing Home Care Night, and Community Dodgeball at Shelburne to benefit Stop Hunger Now.

The Robert E. Lee High School Interact Club is sponsored by Mr. Brett Peters, Career Coach at Lee High. The community service group carries out two projects each year, including one that furthers international understanding and goodwill. The Interact Club provides the following services throughout the year: Mission meals, tutoring elementary students at Ferrier Court, and the annual blood drive.

The Robert E. Lee High School National Honor Society (NHS) is sponsored by Ms. Jennifer Knoxville, a Social Studies teacher at Lee High. The nationally-recognized scholarly organization participates in numerous activities throughout the school year. A focus this year is the tutoring program.

Mrs. Kurtz added “It is so go to see these three clubs come together and work to make this blood drive happen.”



Lee student, Selena Tarullo, participates in Lee’s annual blood drive.