



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

NEWS

October 31, 2014 – Staunton City Schools Tip Sheet

Contact: Brenda Lovekamp
School Board Clerk
332-3920

Lee High Enjoys Visit by Delegate Bell

In recognition of VSBA's Take Your Legislator to School campaign, Staunton City Schools extended an invitation to Delegate Richard Bell to visit one of our schools. Robert E. Lee High School students and staff were quick to request that the delegate's visit time be spent at their school. Upon his morning arrival, a group of students treated Delegate Bell to a tour of the building, including a brief stop in the Coalter Street Coffee Shop at Lee, operated by the students in Mrs. Eanes' class. Over coffee and pastries prepared by the students, Delegate Bell listened as the students, Abby Kincheloe, Gabby Lake and Marcus Warren, shared their thoughts and ideas about the many successes at Lee High School. They also shared how the student body is continuously working to improve Lee High and to contribute to the school and local community through a variety of community service projects and activities. They spoke with pride about the education they are receiving and how they believe their time at Lee is preparing them well for graduation and beyond.

Another topic the students discussed with Delegate Bell was the need for a new high school in Staunton. They noted that Robert E. Lee High School has enjoyed a long-standing position of pride in the Staunton community and how they feel the age of the current building is negatively impacting the public's perception of the overall quality of the school. They added that the current building makes it more difficult for teachers to prepare the students as they are striving to excel in this very competitive 21st century world. The students thoroughly enjoyed the interactive hour of conversation and appreciated the opportunity to be heard by our local delegate, with the hope that their thoughts would be shared with others at the General Assembly.

After meeting with the students, Delegate Bell participated in a round table discussion with several teachers who shared their thoughts and ideas about education and their perceptions of the many proposed changes and current issues facing educators across the state. The teachers, David Woolston,

Jackie Kurtz, Jennifer Goss, Chris Davis and Katie Avoli-Miller, shared concerns regarding legislation coming from Richmond and how that legislation is being perceived by teachers. It was an informative discussion and the teachers left Delegate Bell with a great deal of information to share with other delegates when the next session of the General Assembly convenes. “It was a great visit and we are looking forward to seeing the direction our General Assembly goes when legislating education issues in Virginia. We appreciate Delegate Bell taking time out of his busy schedule to visit and sit down with students and staff for such meaningful conversations.” said Dr. Rowicki, Principal.



Marcus Warren, Abby Kincheloe and Gabby Lake pose with Delegate Richard Bell during his visit to Robert E. Lee High School.

Walmart Honors Commitment of Teachers

The efforts and commitment of McSwain Elementary School’s teachers were honored recently by a local business. Manager of the Staunton Walmart, Jim Miller, along with several employees of the store, visited McSwain. The group came bearing gifts and messages of appreciation for teachers as a part of their mission to give back to the local community and make a positive impact on the communities in which their associates live and work.

Mr. Miller shared that research indicates classroom teachers spend more than \$400 per year out of their personal pockets on classroom supplies. He added that his employees are proud to support the needs of their communities by providing grants to local organizations. As their way of saying “Thanks!” and showing their support, the Walmart representatives presented McSwain’s teachers with gift cards or gift bags full of school and classroom supplies.

“It is so validating to our teachers to be remembered and honored in this way. We certainly appreciate Walmart and their associates for these contributions,” said Ms. Crocker, Principal of McSwain Elementary School.



During an assembly at McSwain, students drew names of teachers at random to be the recipients of Walmart gift cards. Ms. Heather Smith-Reeps, math coach, accepts one of the gifts from Walmart.

Financial Literacy Recognized at Lee

Robert E. Lee High School was recognized as a Blue Star School for success in achieving at least a 75% passing rate on the WISE Financial Literacy Certification Test. Of the 284 schools on the national listing, 148 of those were from Virginia and Lee High is proud to be included. To earn the Blue Star School recognition, the school must have achieved a 75% pass rate on the WISE Financial Literacy Certification test and have either a majority of students in a particular grade level take the test or have the students who took the test earn an average score of at least 80%. Robert E. Lee High School had a pass rate of 84%.

In addition, Christy Sellers, Personal Finance and Economics teacher at Robert E. Lee High School was awarded the teacher's Gold Star Award for her class achieving a pass rate of 85% on the financial literacy certification test. She surpassed the requirement which was to earn at least a 90% pass rate on the test in at least one of her 2013-2014 classes.

Congratulations to Robert E. Lee High School and to Ms. Sellers for earning these distinctions. The Blue Star Schools will be honored at the annual MoneyPOWER Conference for Financial Literacy in New York City on November 4, 2014.



Christy Sellers, Personal Finance and Economics
teacher at Robert E. Lee High School

Shelburne Middle School Celebrates Red Ribbon Week

Shelburne Middle School celebrated a long-standing school tradition during the last week of October -- Red Ribbon Week. Red Ribbon Week is a national campaign through National Family Partnership, formerly the National Federation of Parents for Drug Free Youth. The original campaign began in 1980 with a mission to lead and support our nations' families and communities in nurturing the full potential of healthy, drug free youth.

Each year, the Shelburne staff provides activities and contests for Shelburne students to encourage them to lead drug and alcohol free lives. This year, each grade level has adopted a theme whereupon Success Blocks will engage in theme-related activities including role plays, goal setting, and a door decorating contest. The themes chosen for each grade level are as follows: 6th grade -- “Our School Rocks Bully and Drug Free;” 7th grade -- “One School. One Goal. Bully and Drug Free;” 8th grade -- “United We Stand Against Bullying and Drugs.”

Students also have the opportunity to dress up to encourage each other to be drug free and show school-wide support of Red Ribbon Week. For example, on Monday, October 27, students were encouraged to wear their favorite or craziest hats as it was “Hats Off to Being Drug Free” day. Shelburne Middle School counselor Katherine Funkhouser said, “At this age it is very important to share positive messages with our students—especially as these messages relate to healthy choices and a drug free lifestyle.”



Danielle Coffey and Taylor Redifer celebrate "Follow your Dreams, Don't do Drugs" day.



Wesley Siemers, Berk Hughes and Grayson Park display their craziest hats on "Hat's off to Being Drug Free" day.