

# Phillips Community Newsletter

Phillips School ~ Annandale

January 2009

## *Special Interest Articles:*

- **Bingo is Coming**
- **Family Service  
Corner**
- **Student Recognition  
Program**
- **Transition  
Information**
- **Classroom News**
- **Students of the  
Month**

## **FAREWELL TO THE PHILLIPS COMMUNITY**

Our children are at PHILLIPS for many varied reasons, but among the challenges they face, certainly one of the most important is to learn to accept and even embrace the inevitable changes that come with life. Our family is currently experiencing such a change with our decision to transition our son from PHILLIPS to another school. Given that Alexander has been at PHILLIPS for eight years, the decision has not been an easy one, particularly given the relationships we've built with other parents and staff of PHILLIPS.

We are deeply indebted to everyone at PHILLIPS for all that they have done for Alexander over the years. It's impossible to name each and every person who has touched Alexander's life, but they include not only his teachers, but all of the staff. I can't tell you how many times, when visiting at school, even staff we hadn't yet had the opportunity to meet would greet Alexander as we walked through the halls, a sign of their involvement in and support for his academic and social development.

I have spoken often of the need to promote PHILLIPS as a community, all of us engaged in supporting our children in whatever way possible. Parent involvement has been and will continue to be a crucial element in helping make PHILLIPS an even better school. How can we expect our children's future to be shaped by PHILLIPS unless we're all actively involved? After all, of the 168 hours in each week, our children are only at PHILLIPS for about 35 of those hours. Parents need to do their part during the remaining 133 hours, working with PHILLIPS and helping to make sure that our

children accomplish whatever goals we've set for them or that they've set for themselves.

With our family moving to a new chapter in our lives, I am stepping down as Chairman of the PAG and relinquishing my role as editor of the newsletter. I hope that my departure will be seen by other parents as an opportunity to step up to support PHILLIPS in whatever way they can (and I will be available to assist anyone who's willing to take on the challenge). There are many ways to participate, whether by taking over leadership of the PAG, assisting with the publication of this newsletter, or helping in a myriad of other ways such as providing assistance with the organization of Staff Appreciation Day in May.

Even though our family's time at PHILLIPS has come to an end, we will be with you in spirit, and will look forward to cheering on PHILLIPS' ongoing success. We hope you'll stay in touch.

*Paul Fekete and Carol Grigsby*

## **BINGO IS COMING!!!!**

Please save the date of March 8th 3:00-4:30pm for our annual bingo event. All students and their families are invited to come and play for free. We have many wonderful prizes, and everyone has a great time. Mark your calendars now!!! Flyers will be sent home toward the end of February to remind everyone.



## **FAMILY SERVICES CORNER**

We want to take this opportunity to say good-bye to a parent who has given so much of himself and his time to the PHILLIPS community. Paul Fekete has served as the PAG Chairman for many years

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and has been the Editor of our parent newsletter. His son is moving on, and so we bid Paul farewell. We are so thankful for all that he and his family have contributed in so many ways and wish them all well in the future.

This opens an opportunity for another parent to become our newsletter editor. If this is something that interests you, please let Randi Bane (703 941-8810) know. The newsletter is something that many parents have greatly enjoyed, so please give it some thought.

## **NEW STUDENT RECOGNITION PROGRAM STARTED AT PHILLIPS**

In December, PHILLIPS School-Annandale unveiled a brand new student recognition program called The Citizenship Award. Each month a group of students will be recognized for displaying traits of good citizenship. This time, the following students were selected:

Nathaniel C. (room 113) for tutoring in room 201 Ashley G. (room 104) for peer mentoring Iman S. (102) peer mentoring, leadership Diamond C. (room 113) for tutoring in room 114 Jemel B. (room 106) for tutoring in room 114 Alex B. (room 112) for tutoring in room 114 Austin R. (room 103) for mentoring in room 202

These students were rewarded with a delicious group breakfast, a certificate of recognition and their names will be added to the new student recognition bulletin board in the north hallway. We'd like to congratulate these students and we look forward to adding many more students to this list of good citizens.

## **BOOK OLYMPICS**

PHILLIPS Programs is participating in Book Olympics, a school-wide reading

competition. Students read books in order to increase the reading minutes their class earns. They read books of their choice and submit a summary to the library, which documents the time they read. The number of minutes read are tallied and posted on the library bulletin board every Friday. The class with the most minutes read within the session receives 2 tickets to a Washington Wizards game and 2<sup>nd</sup> place winners receive a pizza party. Last sessions winners were:

### **Combo program**

1st place-109  
2nd place-104

### **CIL program**

1st place-105  
2nd place-110

### **Lower School program**

1st place-204  
2nd place-206

Second round winners will be announced shortly.

## **SNOW DAY PROCEDURES**

Despite our warm weather of late, winter weather could be around the corner, so please review PHILLIPS' snow day procedures! This is copied from the Parent Handbook:



From time to time school may either open late, close early, or be canceled for the day due to snow, ice or other extreme weather conditions. Although PHILLIPS will not be specifically mentioned, announcements of late openings, early closings and cancellations will be made on you local TV stations. Guidelines for the decisions are as follows:

1. If Fairfax County Public Schools open late, close early or cancel school for the day, PHILLIPS will do the same.

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2. PHILLIPS or other jurisdictions transporting students to PHILLIPS may consider specific bus routes to be hazardous enough to delay, leave early, or cancel on a particular day. When these decisions are made, they will supersede whatever decisions have been made by Fairfax County Public Schools. Other school jurisdictions transporting students to PHILLIPS will transport students according to the worst case scenario of the counties in which the students will travel (e.g., Fairfax County Public Schools open on time but Montgomery County Public Schools close, then Montgomery County Public Schools will not run their buses).

3. If it begins to snow during the day, please try to be available at home or work for staff members to call parents to notify you of any early closing.

4. If necessary, snow days will be made up at the end of the school year.

## PAG YAHOO GROUP

Everyone in the PHILLIPS Community is invited to join the Yahoo Group called **PhillipsPAG**. group which will be utilized to supplement the distribution of information related to PHILLIPS. It can also be used to post messages, ask questions, share files and photos, create group polls, and more. Anyone can access the group by using the links below or from the Yahoo! Groups "My Groups" page.

Just go to the group home page now:  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PhillipsPAG>

## CLASSROOM NEWS

Starting Fresh With No More Excuses  
Room 104



At the beginning of our school year, many of the students were interested in learning what their disabilities really meant. During our group counseling time, they have talked about how their disabilities impact their lives and have realized that everyone is different. The students have worked really hard to understand and have begun to accept that they all have problems. This is such a big step in the maturing process for the room 104 students. The class made a big banner for the classroom that says "Starting Fresh." Any time a member of our room becomes discouraged, they remind each other of the classroom slogan about starting fresh and not making excuses for their behavior because of their disabilities. The group has become more supportive of each other and has started to point out their individual strengths when a class member becomes upset. They also help each other refocus on their positives attributes. We are a work in progress, and sometimes we struggle. As a team we can do anything!

## TRANSITION INFORMATION

If you live in Virginia and have a graduating senior, the following information may be helpful to you. If you have questions, please feel free to contact your family specialist. (*see next page*)

The Phillips Community Newsletter is sponsored by the Parent Advisory Group (PAG) which welcomes submissions from everyone in the PHILLIPS Community (staff, students, parents, etc.) Please give your submissions to Randi Bane or email them to [randi.bane@phillipsprograms.org](mailto:randi.bane@phillipsprograms.org) The newsletter is also available on the PHILLIPS web site at: <http://www.phillipsprograms.org/schools.htm>



## CRITICAL MEETING FOR JUNE 2009 GRADUATES

January 22

7:00 - 8:30pm

Marshall High School  
in the Cafeteria

Please use entrance #11 or #12

Parents of 2009 graduates from Davis, Pulley, Key, and Kilmer Centers and parents of other students with ID/DD who are exiting from Fairfax County Public Schools in 2009 are strongly encouraged to attend a meeting to discuss the lack of funding in the county. Your child may not have access to any programs once they leave the Fairfax County Public School system. Your participation and input can help to ensure services for your child.

Representatives from The Arc of Northern Virginia and the Fairfax County Community Services Board will be on hand to explain what is happening to funding for adult services in the community and how this will affect your child and family.

- Services in jeopardy include:
  - \* vocational
  - \* day support
  - \* transportation

### OTHER FACTS YOU NEED TO KNOW:

- Adults services are not entitled once your child leaves school.
- More than half of the June 2009 graduates have not gone through intake for services with the Fairfax County Community Services Board.
- Most services have waiting lists.

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## **PHILLIPS ON PHILLIPS SPORTS** Scott Phillips

### **Volleyball Finish In Second Place**

The volleyball team had an outstanding, memorable season. Only Accotink stood in the way of a Youth Athletic League championship trophy.

After a heartbreaking 1 point loss in the championship in 2007- the Cougars were eager to call 2008 their own! Both Phillips and Accotink fought their way to the finals and ended up just where they left off in 2007....in the finals....in the final set....with one point left for the championship!

Well, unfortunately, history repeats itself in volleyball too! Accotink scored and left us looking towards next Fall for a rematch. We would have to be the best second place team again!

Each player played an important role on the team this year. Damany, Travis, Lance, Brandon, Jack, Sean, Edgar and our Manager Chris!

### **Basketball Leaps towards Success**

With our tallest and quickest Varsity team in years- the Cougars will only have one thing to figure out- how to play as a team. Travis 102 is the only returning starter- with new students and JV players filling the the guard and forward spots. Marcus, Brian and Rob will fill the guard positions and Brandon, Sean, Damany and Tyrell will rotate at the forward spot.

We are looking forward to a fast paced, exciting season!  
This year's team has the ability to full court press and fast break. A style that the Cougars have stayed away from the past two seasons.

This year's Varsity will play Accotink, Ridge, Foundation PG and our JV will play Accotink, Foundation MC and Rock Terrace. Regional Championship Tournaments will follow both seasons.

## **STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS**

(A Rap by the Newspaper Committee in Room 101)

We're here to rap about the PHILLIPS review we're room 101 and we do what we do.  
We need your ideas, we'll give you a hint so give us your stories and we'll put it in print. Give us your stories poems and pix, we'll work together and put it in the mix.

## **I LOVE SCHOOL**

By Karina  
Room 202

I like to move up the level system.  
I like reading and break.  
My favorite interesting thing is to participate all the time and follow directions.



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## STUDENTS OF THE MONTH (December)



Please congratulate December's Students of the Month.

101 Damany S.  
102 Brandon C.  
103 Graham N.  
104 Sarah M.  
105 Josh M.  
108 Kenny C.  
109 Chris M.  
110 Jasmine S.  
111 Dawan T.  
113 David J.  
114 Warren J.  
201 Travis F.  
202 Dana T.  
203 Alexis J.  
204 Maurice B.  
205 Chris Y.  
206 Donavin H.  
207 Michael H.  
208 Joshua G.

## STUDENTS OF THE MONTH (NOVEMBER)



Please congratulate November's Students of the Month.

101 Montell B.  
102 Iman S.  
103 Austin R.  
104 Basma G.  
105 Felicia T.  
106 Marquis F.  
107 Donnie N.  
108 Jon W.  
109 Juan T.  
110 Simone D.  
112 Marcus J.  
113 Gregory S.  
114 Jasmine L.  
201 Lindsay K.  
202 Michael W.  
203 Connor C.  
204 Tyler D.  
206 Star S.  
207 James S.

## PHILLIPS Community Newsletter

Published by the Annandale Parents Advisory Group (PAG)

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The PHILLIPS Parent Advisory Group (PAG) consists of parents and school staff who are interested in providing parent leadership to support the school by advising on problems and concerns, sharing ideas and coordinating activities that are beneficial to both parents and children.

Please become a part of this group! If you have any questions, ideas, or concerns, please give us a call or send us an email.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 19	Holiday - Martin Luther King Birthday - School Closed
January 20	Staff work day--no students (Inauguration Day)
January 23	End of Second Quarter
January 26	Staff work day--no students
February 11	Early dismissal of students 1:04pm
February 16	Holiday - President's Day - School Closed
February 25	Staff work day--no students
March 5	Early dismissal of students 1:04pm
March 19	Staff work day--no students
April 3	End of Third Quarter
April 6-10	Holiday - Spring Break - School Closed
April 27	Staff work day--no students
May 19	Early dismissal of students 1:04pm
May 25	Holiday - Memorial Day - School Closed
June 4	Staff work day--no students
June 19	Last Day of School - Early dismissal of students 1:04 pm

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The Phillips School~Annandale  
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