



# STUART TIMES

Issue I - September 2005 - A publication of the JEB Stuart PTSA - [www.StuartPTSA.com](http://www.StuartPTSA.com)

## President's Message

Welcome to JEB Stuart High School, one of the best high schools in our country. We are fortunate to have the terrific team of teachers who your students are in the classroom with each day. We have an experienced administration. Our principal Mel Riddle was named the 2005 outstanding principal of the year for Virginia. We have an accessible guidance office and a number of programs to support your student so that high school will be a successful academic experience.

-Please become part of Stuart. Come cheer at the games, applaud at the concerts and plays --even if your student tells you not to bother.

-Sign up for Keep in Touch on the Fairfax County Web Site <https://fcps.medianext.com/fcps/signup.html> – this is the main way notices from Stuart will be coming to families, rather than counting on your students to bring home announcements.

-Join the parent organizations including the PTSA, athletic boosters and music and drama boosters. Let us know your concerns. PTSA meetings are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month – next one is October 18<sup>th</sup> in the Little Theater at 7:30 pm.

-Hispanic PTSA meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month – co chaired by Nellie Samaniego and Mercedes Bustillo. – first meeting is Tuesday, September 27, here in the little theater at 7:00 pm.

-Support our schools also by voting for the bond referendum in November – Stuart has benefited from past bond referendums, Glasgow's replacement building will be starting in May – 2006. In this referendum is funding for Sleepy Hollow's renovation.

-Help out with our hospitality committee serving foods at various school functions or by volunteering at the concession stands for sporting events.

-Attend educational programs supported by Guidance, the PTSA academic committee [first Thursday of each month – next one October 6<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm in room 150]. Topics range from college and career decisions to drug and alcohol awareness to academic issues. **Kathleen McBride**

## Letter from the Principal

Welcome to J.E.B. Stuart High School and the 2005-06 school year. Over the past several years our school has risen to national and international prominence, in large part, through the efforts of our entire community - our parents, teachers, staff, and students.

It's one thing to look at our Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL), International Baccalaureate, and SAT test scores and experience the sense of pride and accomplishment that we all feel in being a part of J.E.B. Stuart High School. It is quite another thing when outsiders recognize the special nature of our school. What we have come to take for granted at Stuart, others around the country view as miraculous.

J.E.B. Stuart has been recognized by National Geographic Magazine, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Alliance for Excellent Education, the National Association of Secondary School Principals, The Education Trust, and the International Baccalaureate of North America. Stuart is featured in Breaking Ranks II, a blueprint for high school reform, and in a new publication Creating a Culture of Literacy.

Recently, we had officials representing ten Pennsylvania school districts on a Study Tour sponsored by the International Center for Leadership in Education, which named Stuart one of thirty model schools. Panels of students and teachers met with the visitors during their two-day stay. I thought that you would like to hear what our students said to our guests about their teachers:

*"When the bell rings at the end of the day, our teachers aren't running to their cars. They are in their classrooms ready to help us. They want us to succeed.*

*"Our teachers really care about us."*

*"They are more than teachers. They are like our friends."*

*"The way teachers are here makes me really want to be a teacher. They make it like teaching is the greatest job in the whole world."*

*"I love this one teacher's class, because he makes every day in that class a great day."*

*"I was behind in my Physics class and I had a test coming up. I went to the teacher and told him that I wanted to come after school, but I just had too many commitments. The teacher came to my play practice and tutored me between scenes of our rehearsal. I can't believe that he did that."*

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What our students feel about our teachers and our school is much more important than all the awards and recognition. I hope that you had an opportunity to visit your child's classes at back-to-school-night and meet some real heroes, our teachers.

Now more than ever, Stuart needs your full support. We need your active involvement and interest in your child's education. I urge you to join our outstanding PTSA and send a positive message to your child. Working together we can help your child realize his or her dreams. *Mel Riddile, Principal*

## Mel Riddile Named Outstanding High School Principal

Stuart's principal, Dr. Mel Riddile, was named the "Outstanding High School Principal of the Year" by the Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals. This is a wonderful tribute and reflects so well on Stuart and its entire staff. Congratulations to Dr. Riddile.

## Stuart Named Best High School

Stuart was identified as one of the ten best high schools in the nation serving underserved students for a study commissioned by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The School was named an NASSP Breakthrough High School in 2003.

## The J.E.B. Stuart Educational Foundation is Operational

This 501 (c) (3) corporation has been established to further enhance the community's contribution to Stuart students in need of scholarships, tutoring and school related expenses. If you wish to make a contribution, please contact Treasurer Bill Fetsch at 703 532-8818.

## News from the Career Center

For the most recent information check the Career Center website <http://www.fcps.edu/StuartHS/Guidance/quicc.htm> I also send out periodic emails through the FCPS Keep in touch service, sign –up now at <https://fcps.medianext.com/fcps/signup.html>. Here are some important dates and events scheduled for the upcoming weeks:

- October 12:** Late registration for November SAT
- October 1:** Early decision transcript requests due in Guidance
- October 2:** Performing and Visual Arts College Fair 1:00-3:00pm, Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, D.C.
- October 8:** SAT Test -Not at Stuart

**October 15: PSAT TEST at JEB Stuart:** Registration will be the week before in school. Cost is \$15.00; FCPS will pay the cost of all sophomores who register.

**October 15:** South Lakes High School 10:00-12:00 First annual Portfolio Review for FCPS Seniors interested in pursuing art in college Registration Required, see Mrs. Kelley in the Career Center for details.

### SAT Prep Classes at JEB Stuart HS:

Tentative Schedule: Registration forms will be available in September. Students will be required to take a practice test. Classes will continue for approximately three weeks prior to the November test administration date.

**Sunday October 16, 2005: New York University**, Admissions Reception Tyson's Corner Marriott, Programs begin at 10:00am and 2:00pm.

**Sunday, October 16, 2005:** 7:30-9:30pm. **College Fair at Fair Oaks Mall** see website <http://www.fcps.edu/ss/collegefairnight/>

**Monday, October 17, 2005:** 7:00-9:00 pm. **College Fair at Hayfield High School**

**November 1, 2005:** Most early decision applications due at schools

**November 1, 2005** Junior Parent Night

**November 5, 2005:** SAT Administration at Stuart

**November 15:** Transcript requests for December 15, and January 1, application deadline schools due in the guidance Department.

**December 1:** All transcript requests due in Guidance

**December 3:** Financing College program sponsored by Sallie Mae, JEB Stuart High School. 9-Noon

### Local Information Sessions

**October 1:** The **Georgetown University School of Nursing & Health Studies** Undergraduate Information Session 9:30 am 12:00 pm. For a copy of the invitation to the Undergraduate Information Session please click here:

<http://snhs.georgetown.edu/files/Undergrad%20OH%20PC%207-26.pdf>. **RSVP by calling 202-687-2781 or e-mailing**

[snhsadmissions@georgetown.edu](mailto:snhsadmissions@georgetown.edu)

**October 9, 2005** "Discover Duke" 3:00-4:30pm, George Marshall High School, Falls Church VA

**October 20, 2005** National Christian College Fair, 7:00-9:00 pm, McLean Bible Church, 8925 Leesburg Pike, McLean VA

**October 25, 2005** - Washington University in St. Louis, Information Session, 7:30- 9:00 pm Doubletree Hotel, Tyson's Corner VA

### Career Center College Visits

Below is a list of colleges scheduled for visits to the Career Center. Juniors and seniors are invited to meet with the representatives. To make the visit more meaningful, check out the college web site before attending.

Students must obtain passes from the Career Center at least

one day in advance of the visit and must have classroom teacher approval to attend.

Date	Time	College
September 26	12:00	Marymount University
September 29	1:30 pm	Amherst College
September 30	8:30 am	Radford University
October 3	1:15 pm	Boston College
October 4	9:00 am	Virginia Tech
October 4	12:15	University of Mary Washington
October 6	10:30	Old Dominion University
October 6	12:00 pm.	Christopher Newport University
October 7	9:00 am	Virginia Commonwealth University
October 7	TBA	Princeton University
October 7	11:30	Stratford University
October 11	9:30	Salem College Winston Salem NC
October 11	1:30 pm	Roanoke College
October 12	10:30 am	West VA University Tech
October 13	9:00 am	Marietta College
October 13	10:30 am	Barton College
October 17	10:30	U Mass- Amherst
October 17	12:00 pm	Randolph Macon Women's College
October 18	8:00 am	Elon University
October 18	11:00 am	St. Mary's College of Maryland
October 19	8:30am	Boston University
October 20	10:30 am	Indiana University of PA
October 20	1:45 pm	George Mason School of Engineering & IT
October 21	8:30 am	Alfred University
October 21	10:30 am	James Madison University
October 21	12:00 pm	Emerson College
October 24	8:00 am	Randolph Macon College
October 24	9:00 am	Washington University in St. Louis
October 25	9:00 am	Mary Baldwin College
October 25	10:15 am	Davidson College
October 25	12:00	American University
October 26	8:00 am	College of William and Mary
October 26	10:00	Bridgewater College
October 28	9:00 am	University of Virginia
November 3	10:00 am	Washington College, Chestertown MD
November 10	10:00 am	Smith College

If you have any questions or concerns about testing, careers or colleges, or to make an appointment, please contact Kari Kelley at 703-824-3988 or [Carol.Kelley@fcps.edu](mailto:Carol.Kelley@fcps.edu)

## News From Your Special Education Section

Here is the question and response for this month's column.

**QUESTION:** My teen has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), and a case manager assigned, but I am not sure what my role ought to be in this process, who the case manager is and what the case manager is supposed to be doing. Could you please clarify?

**RESPONSE:** An Individualized Education Program is the procedure by which parents and school staff members develop a written plan (IEP) describing a student's special learning needs and the special education services to be provided to meet those needs. It consists of goals and objectives based on the student's present level of educational performance, specifies the educational placement and setting and describes the related services and supports necessary to reach the goals and objectives.

The IEP team certainly consists of parents, the student as appropriate, the student's teacher(s), a general education teacher(s) if the student participates in general education classes, and a representative of the school who is qualified to provide or supervise special education services and others as requested. That representative is often times the case manager who is tasked with oversight for implementing the IEP. It should be designated at the start of the school year who that person is, since a collaboration between teachers, parents, case manager and student is an essential component of the IEP process. The case manager ought to be coordinating with all of the teachers of subjects listed on the IEP to assure goal attainment. Regular quarterly progress reports which are sent to you also monitor this process. If you need additional subject specific information between quarters, your teen's case manager is the person to contact.

I would suggest you converse with the Chair of the Special Education Department to identify who your student's case manager is, and arrange to meet with that person to review educational goals, and other issues. Agree on a communication system as soon as possible that will be used throughout the school year between you and the case manager, and your teen's other teachers to facilitate equal participation and a strong alliance.

As your special education representative, I welcome your questions and comments in the space allocated for this column which is meant to provide a forum for information exchange on topics of interest identified by us all. We will use a question and answer format to do this. Please send them to me at [amrussell1@aol.com](mailto:amrussell1@aol.com).

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## Athletic Boosters Looking for Parent Volunteers

The JEB.Stuart Athletic Boosters is an organization of Parents and supporters of Stuart HS athletics. We encourage fan attendance at Stuart HS sports events, student participation in those events, and Fairfax County Schools contribution to student athletic programs. The Athletic boosters also does fund-raising to support Stuart athletic programs. We do this through our "Raider Challenge" on-line fundraising program, sales at concessions stands (snack bars) at school sports events, ticket sales, and direct solicitation. If you wish to support Stuart High School athletic teams we welcome you joining the athletic boosters. Just call Mark Edmondson, President of the JEB Stuart High School Athletic Boosters at 703-536-6201 or email Mark at [buckhil@aol.com](mailto:buckhil@aol.com).

## Stuart Hosts Model High School Study Tour

Stuart hosted educators from ten school districts across the country as part of a Model High School Study Tour on Thursday, September 22, and Friday, September 23.

Stuart was named as one of 30 model schools in the country by the International Center for Leadership in Education (ICLE) in February 2004. ICLE's Successful Practices Network, in cooperation with a cross-section of model high schools from the 2004 Bringing Best Practices to Scale initiative, is conducting the two-day tours to explore in depth the characteristics of successful high schools and engage in conversations with district and school leadership. The tours are designed for teams of school leaders who are restructuring high schools or creating and sustaining small learning communities.

## FCPS Announces College Fair, College Night Programs

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) will hold its 30th annual College Fair on Sunday, October 16, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Fair Oaks Mall. The FCPS College Night program is scheduled for Monday, October 17, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Hayfield Secondary School. High school students and their families are encouraged to attend these two events to explore postsecondary educational opportunities.

Over 400 colleges and universities in the United States and Canada will be represented at the College Fair, including two-year and four-year colleges as well as business, technical, and nursing schools.

College Night, scheduled for the following evening, will offer workshops related to college admissions and:

- Attending and affording private colleges.
- College athletics and the NCAA.
- Considerations for students with disabilities in the college admissions process.
- Financial aid.
- Successful strategies for college-bound minority students.
- Writing the college application essay.
- The admissions process for students pursuing the arts.

More information about the FCPS College Fair and College Night can be found at <http://www.fcps.edu/ss/collegefairnight/> or by contacting Beth Westbrook at 703-876-5248 or [elizabeth.westbrook@fcps.edu](mailto:elizabeth.westbrook@fcps.edu).

## Stuart High to Open Student-Run Branch of Apple Federal Credit Union

Stuart High School opened a student-run branch of Apple Federal Credit Union (Apple FCU) on Friday, September 16. Students can access the credit union during lunch periods beginning at 10:52a.m. With the formal opening of the Raider Branch, Stuart High becomes the newest Fairfax County public school to open an Apple FCU branch. Branches at Centreville and West Potomac High Schools, South County Secondary School, and Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology will also open during the 2005-06 school year.

With a \$5 deposit, a student can open a savings account and become a member of Apple FCU. Products and services offered by Apple FCU are available to all students and their parents at schools with student-run branches.

For ten years, high schools in Northern Virginia have partnered with Apple FCU to help students gain real-world financial experience. Fairfax County schools currently participating in the program include Annandale, Chantilly, Edison, Fairfax, Falls Church, Herndon, Langley, Lee, Marshall, Mount Vernon, Oakton, and Westfield High Schools and Robinson Secondary School.

The student-run branches are fully functional financial institutions within the walls of the schools. Students in accounting classes will staff the Stuart branch as managers and tellers. Daily operations such as deposits, withdrawals, and new member processing can take place at the student branch, giving students ease of access to financial products. The students are responsible for the day-to-day operations of their school branches.

Apple FCU is a not-for-profit member-owned cooperative delivering low-cost high-quality financial services and has one of the largest student-run credit union programs in the country. For more information about Apple FCU, go to [www.applefcu.org](http://www.applefcu.org).

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## Choral News

The 2005-2006 school year finds Stuart High School with four fabulous choirs -- Women's Intermediate Choir, Men's Choir, Treble Choir and the Madrigal Choir. All choirs are presently busy learning Rutter's *Requiem* for the Fall Concert to be held on Wednesday, November 2 at Schlesinger Hall on the Alexandria campus of the Northern Virginia Community College. The Stuart Choirs will be joined by the NVCC Combined Choirs, and choirs from Annandale, Edison and Falls Church High Schools at this event. Additionally, the Treble Choir and Men's Choir are preparing for the Stuart Pyramid Choral Concert to be held in the Stuart gym on November 10 at 7:30.

We would like to remind Chorus students and their parents that Honors Choir Auditions will be held on Saturday, October 1 at Longwood College for interested seniors; and District Choir Auditions will be held at Mt. Vernon High School on Saturday, October 29. District Choir Auditions are required for juniors and seniors, Trebles and Madrigals. All other choral students are encouraged to audition as well.

Thanks to all students and parents who participated in our annual Tag Day fundraiser. The Music Department experienced record numbers, both in participation as well as funds donated. We raised about \$25,000 for the department as a result of a day's work.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our concerts. For more information, please go to [www.stuartchoir.org](http://www.stuartchoir.org).

## Hospitality News

The Hospitality Committee was off and running on August 15 serving breakfast to the teachers and staff as they returned from their Summer solstice. On Back to School Night we hosted a Pizza Party for teachers and staff and a reception for parents in the Little Theater. We are planning to host several fun celebrations throughout the year for our hard-working Stuart administration, teachers and staff. Our next event will be a Halloween Party for teachers and staff in October. A hearty thank you goes out to all parents/guardians who volunteered to help us throughout the year.

### Register For Keep in Touch

Register now for Keep in Touch, a service that allows employees, parents and others interested in emergency messages and other information about the school system to receive updates via e-mail. Participants set up individualized profiles and receive the most up-to-date information as soon as it is available. To sign up, visit the FCPS web site at [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu) and choose 'Keep in Touch' on the left hand side. Or, visit direct: <http://fcps.medianext.com/fcps/signup.html>

## PTSA Officers

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Recording Secretary  
Corresponding Secretary  
Vice President -- School Activities  
Vice President – Communications  
Vice President—Diversity Awareness and Liaison  
Vice President—Fundraising

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Peggy Veroneau  
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Donna Pica  
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# Stuart Times

## is Published Monthly by the JEB Stuart PTSA

All submissions to the newsletter can be sent to Gokalp Babaoglu, Publisher, at [jebnews@yahoo.com](mailto:jebnews@yahoo.com). Please format your entry as a **Microsoft Word** file attachment. Deadline for submissions is the Friday after each monthly PTSA meeting.

If you would like to have the newsletter sent by email and haven't advised us of this before, please send your email address to [mcwick@aol.com](mailto:mcwick@aol.com). For PTSA membership information, please see the Stuart PTSA website (click on Membership) or contact Amy Hammond, [dvh76@prodigy.net](mailto:dvh76@prodigy.net) or Beth Gilmore, [beth.gilmore@verizon.net](mailto:beth.gilmore@verizon.net).

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## JEB Stuart - Dates to Remember

October 6	Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration - 2:15pm
October 6	PTSA Academic meeting-7:30pm-Room 150
October 8	SAT Test – not at Stuart
October 10	Columbus Day Holiday
October 14	Homecoming Weekend-Pep Rally 1:20PM, Parade 3:30PM
October 15	PSAT Test at Stuart, Homecoming Dance
October 16	College Fair at Fair Oaks Mall 7:30PM
October 17	College Night at Hayfield Secondary School
October 18	PTSA Meeting 7:30 Little Theater
October 29	District Chorus Auditions
November 1	Junior Parent Night
November 1	Early Decision College Applications Due
November 4	First Grading Period Ends
November 5	SAT Test at Stuart
November 7-8	Teacher Workday – Students off
November 17-20	Fall Show – Arabian Nights
November 23	Students Released 2 Hours Early
November 24-25	Thanksgiving Holiday
November 30	Fall Sports Awards – 7PM
December 23	Winter Vacation

### ***J.E.B. Stuart High School***

3301 Peace Valley Lane  
Falls Church, VA 22044

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