

Principal's Letter

Dear TJ parents/guardians, teachers, and students,

As the end of the school year draws near with anticipation of final school activities and events, we have much to celebrate and remember. After my first year at Jefferson, I have learned our school is far more than an institution that strives for academic accolades; it is much more a community that constantly strives to support and nurture each other towards success. I have witnessed peers tutoring in the hallways to take advantage of every opportunity to learn; teachers working collaboratively to inspire new opportunities for student learning in the curriculum; parents volunteering to provide extra resources to the school; Colonials cheering on the sidelines and seats of school events to encourage students to do their best; and students mentoring younger students, helping elderly people, sharing cultural activities, and cleaning the environment to make our community a better place through 8th period activities.

The will and passion to support the success of others at TJ is a commitment we wish our graduates to pass forward in their further studies and careers. I want to congratulate our seniors for completing a full Jefferson experience. They persevered through a rigorous curriculum, pursuing their passions in academics and activities, and learning the importance of character, social responsibility, and contributions to a community with shared values.

The success of our graduates resides in the dedication of our faculty and staff. Similar to

our student body, a portion of our faculty completes their Jefferson experience. Please take a moment this month to thank our retirees who collectively have given over 100 years of service to TJ and 200 years in FCPS:

- Rick Buxton, Science and Technology
- Vicki Doff, Student Services
- Ken Domina, Science and Technology
- Ron Maney, Social Studies
- Pat McCarthy, Social Studies
- Michele Morris, Special Education
- Barbara Nelson, English
- Nina Pitkin, Student Services (Director)
- Rich Slivoskey, 8th Period Activities

We have learned from them as role models who have shared their wisdom to shape the direction of our school. We wish them a fulfilling retirement, and look forward to hearing about their continued adventures.

This school year, with the help of our dedicated community, we outlined the future direction of the school programs. In the fall, we polled the TJ community and found research and inquiry, problem solving, intellectual curiosity, and social responsibility were dominant skills and values that should be emphasized in the experiences of TJ students. We must be mindful of these values and skills as we design program improvements and talk about future facility changes. As a community, we devised goals for the next five years in our SACS accreditation process, including items such as more flexibility to students in their curricular choices, increased attention to interdisciplinary learning, alternatives in the school calendar and course offerings, and expanding research experiences to more grade levels.

symposium, please contact me if you are able to donate some light refreshments: [ESRanard at aol.com](mailto:ESRanard@aol.com)

The ANGP committee is still looking for volunteers for the All Night Grad Party for seniors on June 16. Please let me know if you can help at TJ on Saturday morning, June 16, inflating helium balloons. In addition, volunteers are needed in all shifts, but especially during the 8–11:30 pm shift when parents of seniors will be attending graduation (the party starts about 10:30, immediately following graduation).

Looking ahead to next year, Sheryl and I will continue as the Class of 2010 PTSA liaisons. The big event for the TJ sophomore class is the Silent Auction held in the spring. This is the biggest class fundraiser -- the funds are used to support senior prom and graduation events. If anyone has experience with silent auctions and would like to help with this event, please let us know. It isn't too soon to start planning.

We look forward to working with you all next year. Have a wonderful and safe summer.

Ellen Ranard and Sheryl Markham,
2010 Class Liaisons

News Round-Up and Awards

STUDENTS

DuPont Challenge National Science Essay Program Winners! In the Junior Division, freshman **Masooma Raza** won first place, receiving a \$3,000 educational grant and an all-expense paid trip to Walt Disney World and the Kennedy Space Center, accompanied by a parent and sponsoring teacher. Masooma researched and wrote about medical mysteries and discoveries.

Honorable Mentions were awarded to freshmen **Keturah James, Amelia Friedman,** and

Sarah Watson, as well as to sophomore **Katie Zettler.** Sophomore **Eva Syzmanski** was a Senior Division Finalist.

National Scholastic Press Association's 2007 Wikoff Scholarship for Editorial Leadership: This important national award, presented to only one student a year with a \$1,000 scholarship, was awarded to senior **Heather Burrell.** She completed all four journalism courses offered by TJ and rose to the title of opinion editor at *tjToday.* In addition to writing articles for the monthly publication, Heather was responsible for layout and design.

AAA Travel High School Challenge 2007 State Championship Winner/Fourth Place National Champion: Sophomore **Naren Tallapragada** won the AAA Travel High School Challenge 2007 State championship. After being selected as one of the five top scorers from Virginia in the preliminary round, he was then selected as the finalist and the top scorer in Virginia, in a proctored written test. He attended the national championship in Orlando, FL, and was awarded a \$2,000 U.S. Savings Bond Scholarship on May 22 after placing 4th in the nation.

American Foreign Service Association National Essay Contest/DNA Day National Essay Contest Winner: Sophomore **Sumit Malik** won first place in the American Foreign Service Association national essay contest. He received a \$2,500 individual award and a \$500 award for TJ. His teacher/sponsor was Mr. Michael Miller. **Sumit also won second place in the DNA Day national essay contest sponsored by The American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG), the Genetics Society of America (GSA), and Applied Biosystems.** He received a \$250 individual award and a \$175 for TJ. His teacher sponsor was Dr. Paul Cammer.

Council for the Arts of Herndon Scholarship Winner: On May 22 during the Herndon Town Council Meeting, sophomore