

## Breakfast, Anyone?



During the summer enrichment period, the Post Dispositional students attended basic cooking classes. The classes were taken at the Young Chef's Academy. Before attending the classes, each student earned their Serv Safe Food Handler's Certification. While attending the classes, they learned how to make homemade pasta, marinate chicken, prepared breakfast foods and learned to incorporate fresh herbs into their dishes. The classes were an interactive culinary experience culminating in a tasty finish!

Teacher week is always full of surprises. Who would have



thought, teachers and students cooking in the same kitchen? Well, it happened. The students were able to showcase what they learned

at Young Chef's Academy. It was a group effort of cooking breakfast sausages, chocolate chip pancakes, hash brown potatoes, scrambled eggs with cheese and the best tasting fruit smoothies you could ever sip from a straw.

The family style breakfast was an opportunity to bring a sense of home to both the students and staff. What a great way to jump start the school year! It was a wonderful time of FUN, FOOD, FELLOWSHIP, and FRIENDLY interaction with students and staff.

Submitted By : Renita Davis-Kelley

Chesterfield Juvenile Detention Center



## Merilee's Message

### SOP Conference Afterthoughts

What an exciting SOP State Conference! The opening provided a great opportunity for us all to hear how the various facilities define themselves. Dr. Michelle Borba's presentation was a great springboard, set the positive tone for our short time together, and provided a theme that was woven throughout the conference. Several presenters and one of the vendors sought

me out to specifically comment on the professionalism and enthusiasm of our group. When outside people remark, quite a positive impression has been made. I am very proud to lead this highly competent group of educators and support staff.

As you travel through the year, I hope you are able to recall the specific parts of the conference

that will assist you with taking care of yourself. I also hope that you will be able to better utilize the skills that were reviewed in the various presentations. If you *renew* yourself over time and keep *reviewing* best practices, each of us will better be able to keep our students in *focus*.

## Good Enough to Eat

Art students at Blue Ridge Juvenile Detention learned about American sculptor Claes Oldenburg, who is famous for creating larger than life replicas of everyday objects. The students chose their favorite food and created clay replicas. They had tons of fun with this project and created works of art that looked good enough to eat.

Marcelle Van Yahres, Art Teacher  
Blue Ridge Juvenile Detention



## Sagittarius A\*

Students at Piedmont Juvenile Detention Center spent some of their summer enrichment hours studying the scientific phenomena known as Black Holes. They learned that the one at the center of our own galaxy, the Milky Way, is known as Sagittarius A\*. Astronomers are watching Sagittarius A\* very closely as a giant gas cloud approaches the black hole. Some scientists believe the black hole will devour the gas cloud; others think strong jets will push the gas cloud away from the black hole. Students read

about the various telescopes that astronomers are using to learn more about the galactic center of our universe. They also read an article, watched a video, and offered their own opinions on some of the theories scientists have proposed about black holes. As a culminating activity, students depicted their vision of a black hole in art.

Submitted by: Nancy Walker,  
Piedmont JDC



# Students Finding Success at SVJC!!

In preparation for the state-wide education conference in August, our facility identified three adjectives that describe our educational program. **Diverse, innovative** and **supportive** won top honors. These were definitely exemplified this past year, as teachers and students experienced a multitude of accomplishments. Together, we celebrated a high school graduation, a GED diploma and numerous high school credits earned by students while at SVJC. In addition, seventeen passing SOL scores were recorded, including an Algebra II and Chemistry SOL. Since statistics indicate that the majority of students detained in a juvenile detention center are reading and writing well below grade level, this was quite a feat, especially when you factor in teach-

ing multi-grade and multi-level content in the same class. This success was a gentle reminder that team work and perseverance can make a difference, one student at a time.

Mary Ann Plogger,  
Alternative Education Teacher



Created by art therapist, Michal Emmert-Hart and teacher, Kristen Zimmer.

## Chesterfield “Unlocks” Words

The Chesterfield Literacy Team has enhanced communicative arts through innovation in the classroom and reaching beyond the classroom to compete with other incarcerated youth.

For the past three years the Center for Educational Excellence in Alternative Settings (CEEAS) has offered an extensive month-long poetry initiative. The initiative, *Words Unlocked*, is an effort to encourage incarcerated youth to express themselves through poetry.

This year there were over 1,300 entries from across the country. Five of those poems were selected to represent Virginia in a nationally published anthology. We are so proud that Chesterfield students wrote two of those poems. For us, this is a national recognition for our school of which we are most proud.

Submitted by: Sigrid Bomba

Chesterfield JDH



## CCCA Teachers Awarded Classroom Grants



**Shelley Garrison (Science teacher) and Sandy Powell (English Teacher) were awarded grants to assist in their collaborative classrooms.**

Shelley Garrison and Sandy Powell, both teachers at CCCA, were awarded Creative Classroom Grants from the Valley Alliance for Education. This is the second consecutive year that this dynamic duo has received grant funding for their collaborative co-teaching efforts across the Science and English curriculum. This year was a very competitive grant cycle as there were 45 grant request and only 25 that were award-

ed. Ms. Garrison and Ms. Powell were awarded not one grant, but two. Students, along with Ms. Garrison and Ms. Powell, are frequently dressed in lab coats and neon-colored goggles as they conduct investigations in their "Rhyme-Crime-Slime Lab" or act as Forensic Scientists in an episode of "NCSI - Non-Fiction Comprehensive Science Inquiry". These teachers are true role models for how effective co-teaching across

curriculum can be implemented effectively, while also being engaging and fun. Way to represent CCCA and SOPs!

Submitted By  
Jen Matheny



## Hilltop Café at CCCA

The Independent Living class at CCCA has instituted a once per month coffee shop to the delight of school and hospital staff alike. In September, homemade muffins and sweet breads were sold along with strong coffee and hot tea. Very little was left at the end of the morning.

- Debra Combs



# Frisbee Free Style



Gary Auerbach, known as the Frisbee Guy, came to CCCA in September to talk about perseverance and being a world champion Frisbee free stylist. The Frisbee Guy delighted the students and staff with his colorful display of Frisbee throwing and Frisbee tricks with his eclectic collection of Frisbees. The students volunteered to help with the catching and retrieval of the flying saucers throughout the Frisbee Guy's in-

teractive presentation. Auerbach talked about the persistence needed to practice and improve to be able to do neat tricks and free style. There was a lot of laughter and encouragement as everyone enjoyed the performance.

-Submitted by Jennifer Whorrall, Staunton



# Parent Conference Day at W.W. Moore

On Saturday, September 19, 2015, the Education Program of W. W. Moore, Jr. Juvenile Detention Home held its first Parent Conference Day of the new school year. A flyer was sent to each parent to promote the event. Interim Report Cards had already been sent to the parents on September 14,

2015; therefore, this was an excellent time to meet with parents to discuss individual student grades and progress. Teachers also offered helpful tips and suggestions that parents will be able to use when students return back to their home schools. Also during this time, a free wellness screening

was made available for parents to have blood pressure checks and blood glucose level testing done.

Submitted by: Patricia A. Davis, Principal, W.W. Moore



***"This was the FIRST parent conference day!!"***

# CCCA International



International Literacy Day was September 8, 2015 and the International Literacy Association (ILA) spotlighted the Philippines as the country of focus this year. Students at CCCA spent the day learning about the Philippines through reading and writing activities in various classes. All students took part in a reading

about traditional Filipino foods, culture, and customs and then created a mango dessert. The dessert was served to the entire school so that everyone could sample a typical Filipino mango dessert. Students also spent time researching and reading about the country and created a travel brochure or travel poster. Students from kindergarten through twelfth grade were able to participate in and enjoy International Literacy

Day helping to spread awareness of the importance of literacy.

Submitted by Jennifer Whorrall, CCCA

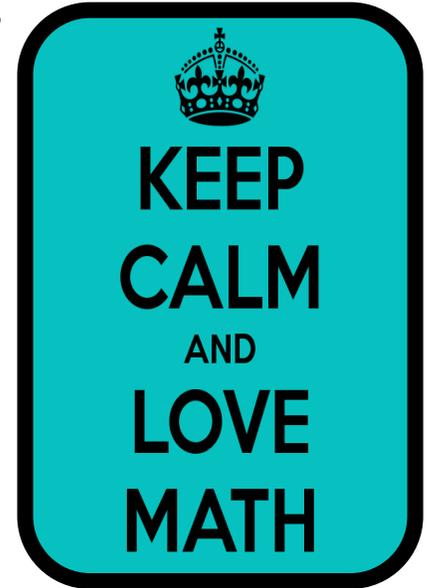
## Math Matters in Our SOP's

During the 2015-2016 school year, SOP's will focus on math instruction. We'll continue to share what works, best practices, and analyzing student assessment data. Areas of focus will include: Questioning strategies, vocabulary, written expression, problem solving and curriculum study.

Planned activities include: collaboration with literacy coaches, book studies, peer observations, and cross referencing SOL's. The 2015-2016 Title I Grant application included goals for improved math instruction and math outcomes, so we'll continue to track teacher and student progress throughout the year. Additionally, experts from higher education

will partner with us to create ways to help our students who tend to lack basic skills and are sometimes only enrolled with us for few days. This is an exciting journey with a great number of fun activities planned.

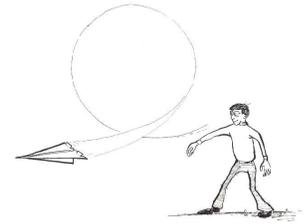
Submitted by: Laurie Cooper



## Flights of Imagination

During enrichment at Blue Ridge Juvenile Detention Center, imagination took flight. Working with Ms. Donahue and Ms. Crouch, students designed their own paper airplanes, which then competed for the furthest flight (56 feet) and the best average flight (44 feet). After completing this activity, students were introduced to the Space Race and Sputnik.

Many of the students were surprised to learn that the United States were not first in the Space Race. After watching the movie *October Sky*, the reasons for discontinuing the Space Program were discussed and



bumper stickers were created to campaign for the return of the Space Program.

Students were still bragging about their paper airplanes, so another opportunity was given for students to create gliders using straws, tape, and index cards. The students were not allowed to test these planes before the competition, and were very surprised at the difference in results. The longest flight was only 20 feet and the average was 13 feet. Great fun was had by all, even though Ms. Donahue and Ms. Crouch were not allowed to compete!

# Multi-Cultural Fair



During the August enrichment, Chesterfield Juvenile Detention Center embarked upon its first Multi-Cultural Fair. Its main objective was to embrace cultural differences and to promote awareness of the center's diverse population. Teachers became promoters of their selected country or countries which ranged from Central/South America to the Caribbean to Africa. Students created flags, made past ports, tourist brochures, soccer balls, food out of clay, lion sketches, etc. The fair also created student, teacher, and staff awareness of the similarities and differences found in each cul-

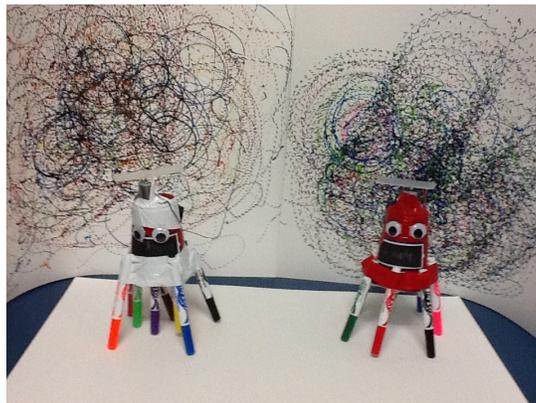
ture. Students rotated through stations that consisted of a speaker, Caribbean line dancing, arts and crafts, drumming; they also viewed exhibits. In the library area, cultural flags were displayed from Meadowbrook High School, and the culminating activity was a food tasting from various countries. During this event we were able to formulate community partnerships with local restaurants. The community was elated to see a focus on the Center's diverse population. Guests consisted of SOP leaders, Chesterfield County Central Office, and the Juvenile Courts System. The Fair was very successful, and we are encouraged that it will be an annual event.

Michelle S. Cunningham, English Teacher  
Chesterfield Juvenile Detention Center



## The ARTBOT.....

After attending a session presented during the STEM Conference this past summer, co-teachers (science and reading) shared the information with students at HJDC. The students worked in pairs to create an ArtBot. The students engaged in problem solving and made adjustments to their creations as needed in order to create different designs. Virginia Bioinformatics Institute at Virginia Tech loaned the small motors and battery packs needed for assembling the ArtBots.



Students worked in pairs to create ARTBOTS!



Submitted by:

Jewell Cardwell and Garland Honaker



## State Operated Programs

Thanks to everyone that has submitted articles for Sharing Our Progress this Fall! Please continue to submit articles for the next newsletter this upcoming winter season.

Articles must be submitted the **15th day of the month before the publication.**

**Newsletters will be published on the 1st of October, December, March, and June.**

**Submit articles in MSWord format to:**

**sharingourprogress@gmail.com**

**A few guidelines for articles:**

1. Provide articles that are 75-200 words in length.
2. Provide author's name at the end of the article.
3. Submit graphics as JPGs or GIFs.
4. Submitted articles written by you or your staff.
5. Indicate the Title of your article
6. Proof your article.
7. Send articles any time.

**Thanks for all your support and contributions to our newsletter!!**

